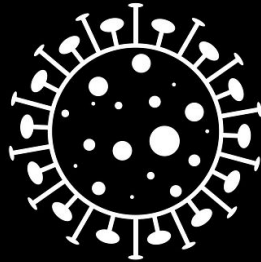


Syosset Central School District School Reopening Plans



Presentation to the Board of Education 2020

Introduction



Coronavirus
COVID-19



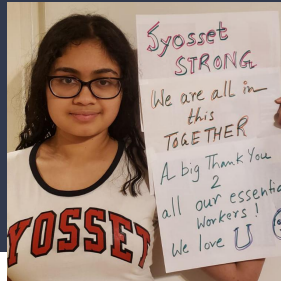
On July 13, 2020, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced new, data-driven guidance for reopening schools in New York State.

Schools in a region can reopen if that region is in Phase IV of reopening and if its daily infection rate remains below 5 percent, or lower, using a 14-day average since unPAUSE was lifted.

Schools will close if the regional infection rate rises above 9 percent, using a 7-day average, after August 1st

New York State will make the determination during the week of August 1-7

Extraordinary Accomplishments



- As a region, our discipline **“flattened the curve”** and now new infections are hovering [near 1 percent](#).
- Syosset’s teachers and building leaders moved our **entire learning platform** online to maintain continuity of instruction for students.
- Syosset hosted a **regional child care center** serving first responders, health care staff and other essential workers.
- Syosset’s **meal program** ensured no student went hungry during the pandemic.
- **“Make a Difference, Despite the Distance”** - student fundraising for PPE, art supplies, mental health initiatives, food pantries and more!

Timeline



Districts have received guidance from: CDC, NYS Department of Health, NYS Education Department

- June-July** Six Reopening Task Force Meetings
- July 13** NYS [Department of Health Guidance](#) given
NYS DOH [Checklist](#) Provided
- July 16** NYS [Education Department Guidance](#) given
Syosset staff survey released
- July 17** NYS Education Department Q&A Released
Syosset parent survey released
- July 23** Board of Education Workshop:
Reopening Plans and Survey Results
- July 24** ThoughtExchange community feedback
- July 29** Special BOE Meeting (live)
- July 31** Reopening Plans filed with NYS

August 1-7

Governor Cuomo announcement regarding schools reopening (anticipated)

Reopening Plans: 3 Plans Required



1. A plan to **maximize the number of students** who return to live, in-person, instruction;
2. A plan for **virtual learning** in the event that COVID-19 infection rates rise and school becomes too risky; and
3. A **“hybrid”** plan that reduces the number of students in school at any one time to both increase social distance, and reduce the number of potential “close contacts” should a positive case occur in the learning community.

Please note any plans put into place for the fall will be subject to change based on the status and severity of COVID-19 in our area, as well as state and public health requirements.

Reopening Task Force & Focus Group Meetings

- District Reopening Task Force: 97 teachers, nurses, administrators, PTA leadership, architects and safety consultants
- Building-level meetings held with Students and District Administrators
- Parent focus group convened by the Syosset Council of PTAs
- Meetings with regional authorities and agencies



Teaching and Learning



- Our mission is to maximize students' intellectual development.
- No socially distanced approach will rival the regular classroom experience.
- Syosset will deliver the best instructional program possible, whether live or virtual.

Mental Health



- We recognize that many students have experienced loss, financial instability, or the disruption of social isolation.
- Nurturing the social-emotional and mental well-being of students will be essential to resuming a “new normal” life in school.

Mental Health

- PPS staff development in trauma informed practices to enhance assistance to students, families, and staff
- Building level referral procedures to identify students, families, staff in need of support
- Counselors, social workers, psychologists consult with students, families, and staff in need
- Collaboration with community-based mental health support services, i.e., Office of Mental Health, North Shore Guidance, private providers

Community Input



Step 1: Parent Survey

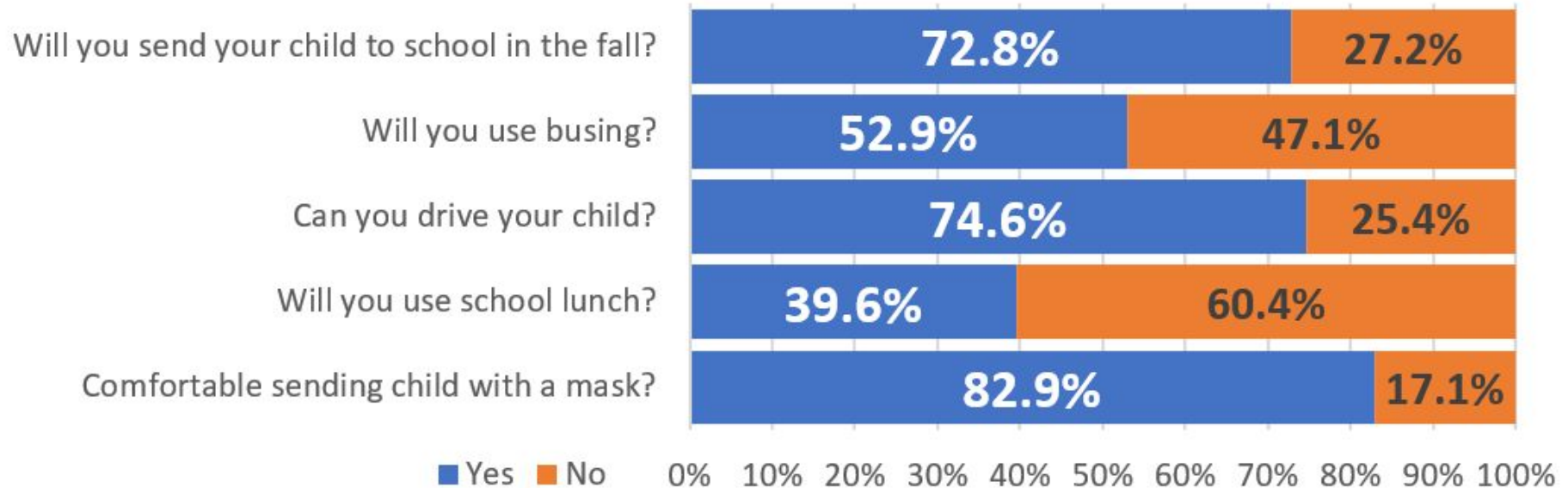
- Total responses: 3,945
- Total number of comments: 1,661

Step 2: ThoughtExchange

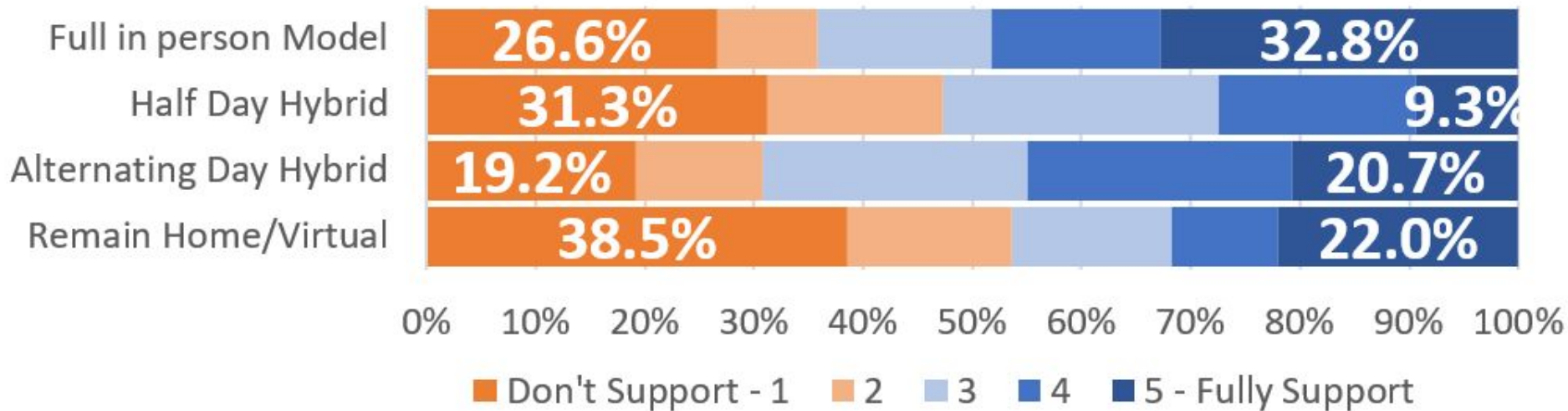
- Opens 7/24/20
- (Previously Used For Start Time Feedback)



Parent Survey – Main Points

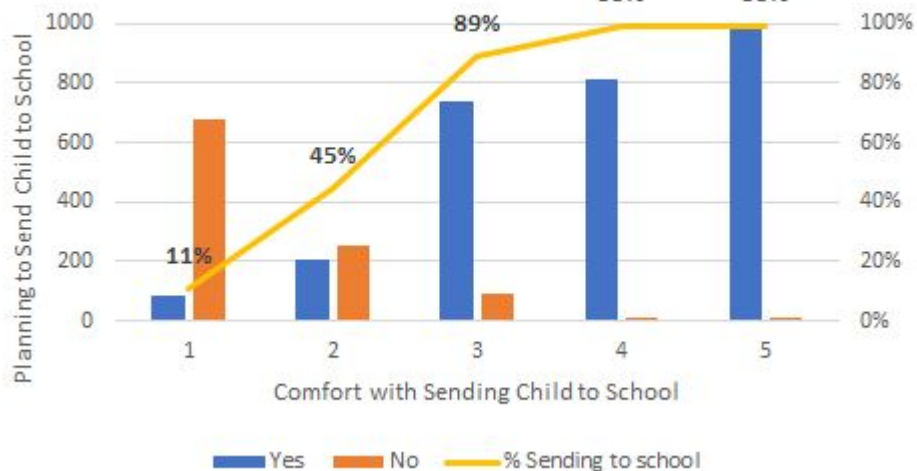


Parent Feedback on Instructional Models

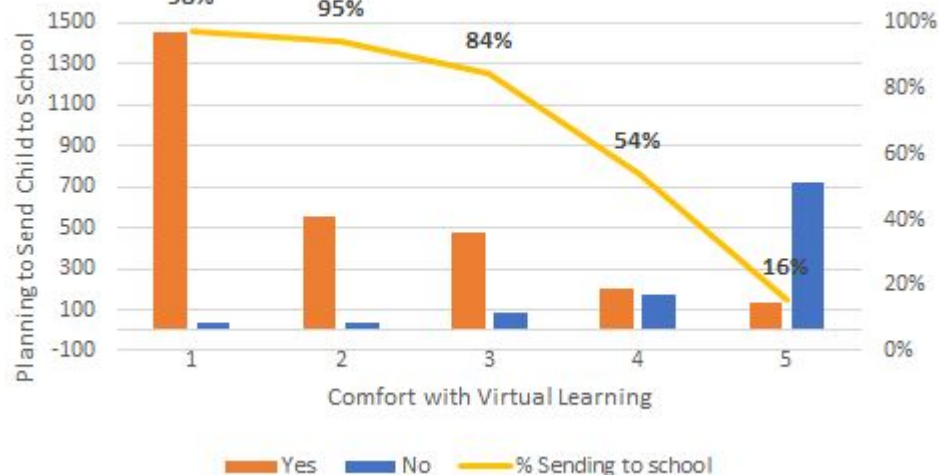


Parent Survey – Comfort with Safety/Virtual

Students Returning vs. Parent's Comfort w/Safety

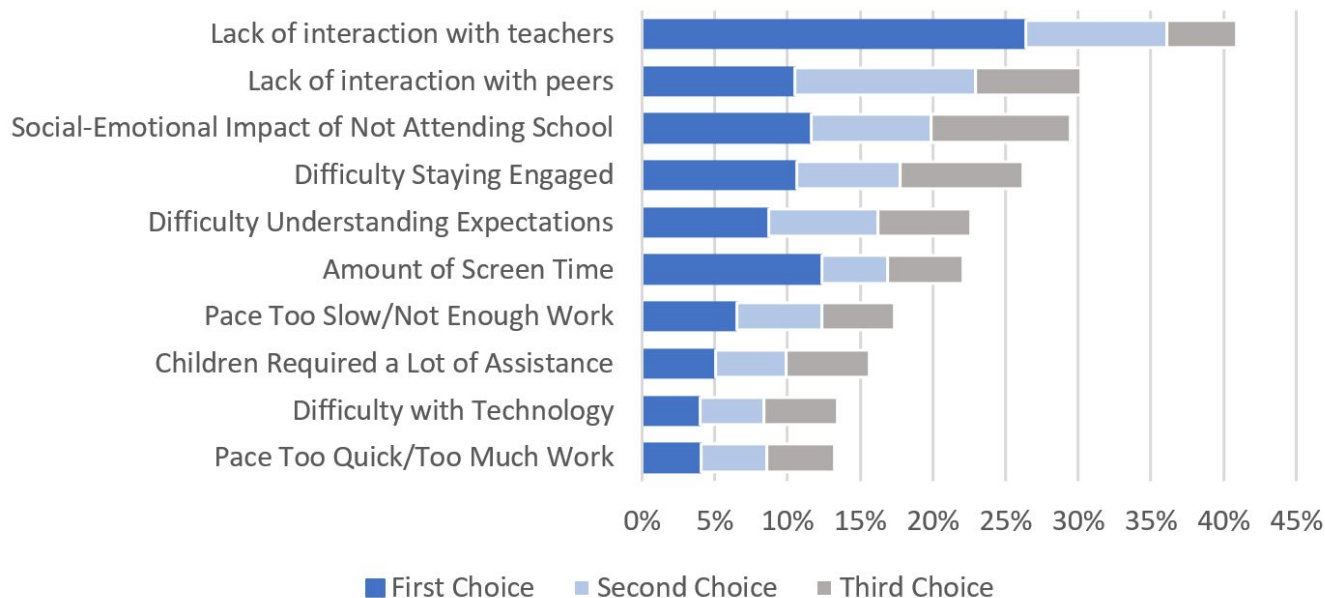


Students Returning vs. Parent's Comfort w/Virtual



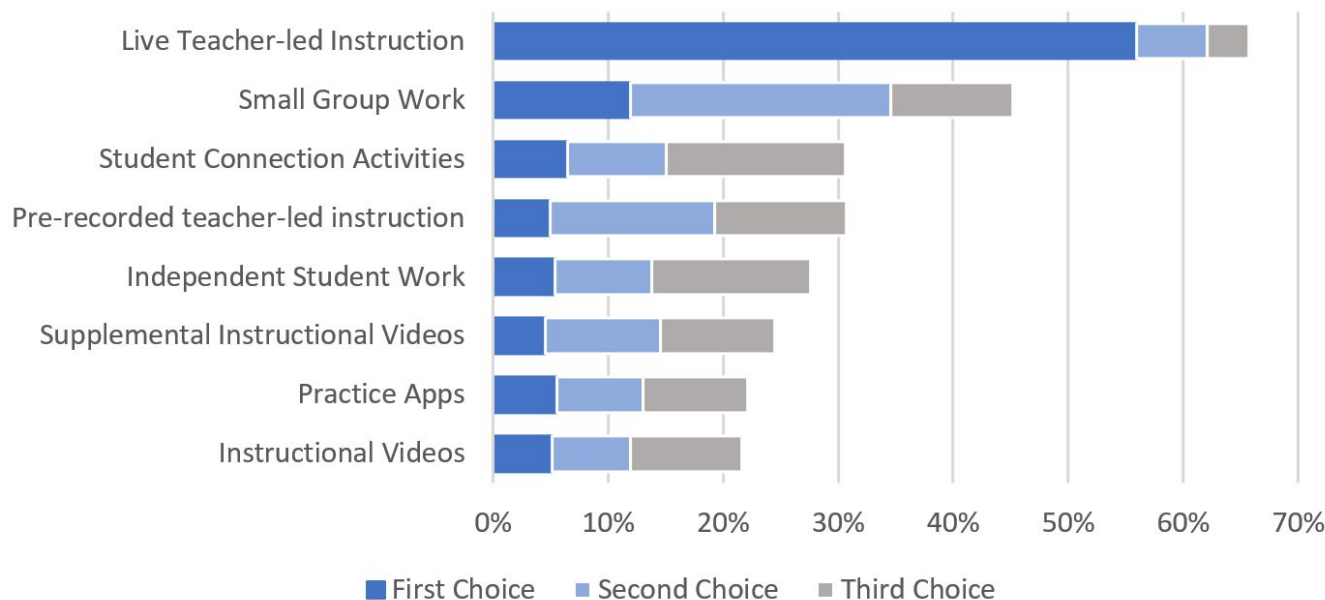
Parent Feedback – Learning from Home

Based on Last Spring, What Concerns Do You Have with Learning from Home?



Parent Feedback – Learning from Home

Based on Learning from Home Last Spring, What Practice was most Successful?



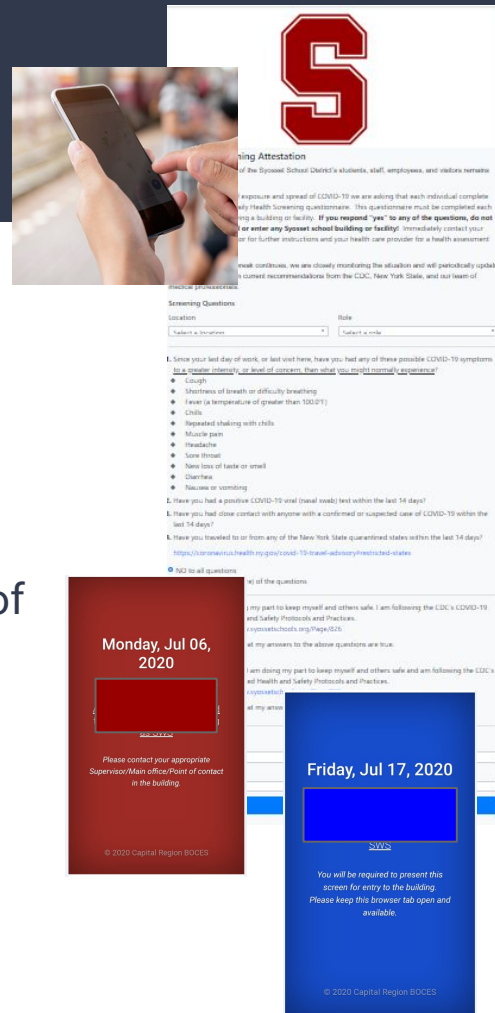
Health and Safety



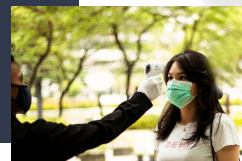
- Physical safety is at the foundation of all else.
- Although we cannot eliminate risk altogether, we can take significant steps to minimize it, to protect the learning environment, and to address health concerns quickly as they arise.

Protocol for Daily Health Screening

- All staff and students (or their parents) will be asked to complete a Daily Health Questionnaire from any device
- The Questionnaire requires one “Yes” or “No” response to all 4 questions:
 - Do you have any symptoms possibly related to COVID-19?
 - Have you had a positive COVID-19 Test within the last 14 days?
 - Have you been in contact with anyone confirmed or suspected of having COVID-19 within the last 14 days?
 - Have you traveled to any of the NYS quarantined states?
- “Yes” results in a **RED** screen directing the staff member or student not to come to school.
- “No” results in a different colored screen that “clears” the staff member or student to enter.



Protocol for Daily Temperature Taking



- Parents must take their child's temperature prior to sending the child to school or the bus stop.
- No student with a temperature of **100.0° F or greater** should come to school or ride the bus.
- Upon arrival at school, trained personnel will also be taking student temperatures again with touch-less IR thermometers.
- Students with temperatures of **100.0° F or greater** will be directed to the nurses office and isolated in a separate space. A parent or guardian will be called to immediately pick the child up from school.
- Students may return to school upon symptom resolution and documentation from the health care provider per [NYS DOH regulations](#).

Three Protocols for Safety in Classrooms

1. All students and staff will be required to wear masks/face coverings. School will provide masks if needed.
2. Desk partitions will be ordered for each student as an additional social-distancing precaution.
3. All instructional spaces are redesigned with students maintaining a social distance of six-feet from one another.

During mask breaks and eating, the partitions and distancing will be maintained.

Protocol for Hand Hygiene

- Portable handwashing stations deployed at elementary & secondary schools
- Training for all in using soap and water for proper hand-washing
- Touch-free faucets, paper towel and soap dispensers installed in new construction bathrooms
- Touch free paper towel and soap dispensers in existing restrooms
- Hand-sanitizer dispensers available in every classroom
- Policy for “no sharing” of personal items in all facets of school community

Summary of 3 Required Plans

1. In person
2. Hybrid
3. Virtual

Plan 1: In-Person Instruction



- To achieve proper social distance after architect review:
- Elementary - All students would attend in-person learning, Monday through Friday.
- Middle - All students would attend in-person Monday through Friday with normal school day hours but on an 8-period schedule.
- High School - Insufficient space to house all students:
 - Would follow alternating-day schedule.

Plan 1: In-Person Instruction



- Class sizes determined by social distancing requirements and room square footage
- Instruction a combination of in-person class sizes appropriate for each individual space. Small group work maximized
- All certified staff will be used to maximize in-person instruction
- Lunch eaten in classrooms
- Students remain in homeroom space, teachers rotate in to classroom to the extent practical

In-Person Elementary

- Each space in the building reviewed for appropriate social distancing. Many spaces within each building repurposed for instructional space with a focus on small group instruction when possible
- Utilization of “co pilot” methodology for classes split between two physical areas
- Lunch and most specials to take place in classrooms
- Student schedule will allow for breaks and recess opportunities

In-Person Middle School

- Challenge: Accommodate all students on a regular day schedule.
- Solution: Shift from a 9-period day to an 8-period day for 2020-21 only in order to have adequate staff for all students.
 - Changes in program for all three grades based on state regulations
 - Some electives postponed until 2021-22
- Each space in the building reviewed for appropriate social distancing.
 - Many spaces within each building repurposed for instructional space.
 - Classes split between two physical areas; staffed in teams
- Lunch in classrooms

In-Person High School

- Currently 97 classrooms at Syosset High School.
- 94% of those rooms are in use each of 9 periods on a normal day.
- When we reduce classroom capacity by 50%, we cannot place all students in classrooms for instruction.
- Not enough physical space to bring only ninth grade in everyday and alternate for other grade levels.
- Therefore, no way to do in-person for students: All students would attend on alternating-days in a continuous 4 day cycle.

| | | | | |
|--------|---|---|---|---|
| Day | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Cohort | A | B | A | B |

Plan 2: Hybrid Instruction



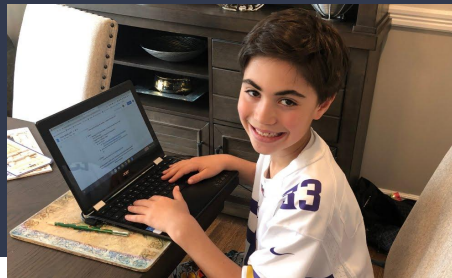
- New York State requires the development of a hybrid plan.
- A combination of in-person learning and remote instruction, thus limiting the number of students in a school building on any given day in an alternate-day model.
- Students engage in eLearning when they are at home.
- Hybrid schedules created at elementary and middle school.
- Not recommended for K-8 at this time since in-person instruction meets guidance for social distancing.

Alternate-Day Hybrid Model at High School



- Students attend in-person learning for instructional schedule on alternating days.
- eLearning will take place during alternating days.
- Maximize time for existing student schedules
- Only half the student population in school building on a given day allowing for appropriate social distance
- Signage clearly delineating flow of movement for social distancing

Plan 3: Fully-Virtual Instruction



- All students will engage in remote instruction.
- Feedback from parents and faculty on the virtual learning program implemented this spring.
- Investments in online lessons and resources so teachers can focus more of their attention on instruction and students.
- Portals for parents to streamline assignments and schedules for multiple classes and teachers.



On-Line Learning: Curriculum Development

2020 Summer Curriculum Work to enhance virtual learning.

85 Elementary Teachers writing virtual grade level lessons for Project Based Learning, Reading and Writing, Science , and Virtual tools for small group instruction

115 Secondary Teachers writing virtual curriculum for Middle School and High School Advisory, Secondary Social Studies, Math, Micro Economics, Technology, and Science.

Assessment & Interventions

- In early September, administer curriculum-based measures in literacy and math to collect student performance data as a baseline for progress
- Provide additional small group literacy/math support to compensate for academic skill loss to students identified as in need of such support
- In early October, administer standardized measures of academic growth to monitor students' learning progress
- Continue to provide small group academic supports to students as needed

Special Education



- Special education programs and related services provided as per the IEP to the greatest extent possible
- Elementary special classes and HS Life Skills students attend in-person sessions every day
- CPSE/CSE, 504, and teacher meetings held remotely
- Parent procedural safeguards in place
- Student referrals to CSE accepted

ENL Education



- Continued support and instruction, to meet “units of study” requirements
- Ongoing communication, in the language preference, regarding the identification and delivery of services for all English Language Learners
- Attention to all timelines for identification, notifications, and placement for ELL students
- Ongoing supports for students’ emotional well-being

Students Unable to Attend In-Person School

- Medically fragile and/or students with medical conditions may need additional precautions when attending in-person school or they may be unable to attend school.
- Students who have family members who are in high-risk groups may need to attend school remotely.
- Plans created to address the needs of each special needs child. (i.e., additional PPE, alternate setting, home/remote instruction, parents may decide to choose home schooling)
- If parents choose not to send their student back to school, plans will be made for remote learning.

Parent Choice Q&A

Q. Can parents of students without a medical condition still choose a remote learning option?

A. The Department of Health guidance currently does not permit this. However, it is our understanding that this is under discussion by State officials.

Transportation



- Low-Density Routing - One student per seat, (22 students would be routed on a 66 person bus.) siblings may sit together, all students will wear masks.
- Students and school bus staff will be trained and wear masks and social distance on the bus.
- Students, parents and staff will observe social distancing at bus stops, and at all boarding and unloading times.
- School buses will have routine cleaning & disinfection.
- Arrival and Dismissal procedures unique for each school
- Protocol for parent transportation and student walkers

Arts, Athletics & Activities



- NYS Public School Athletic Association:
 - fall sports delayed until September 21st;
 - fall-back plan 3-season schedule starting in January.
 - Will accommodate alternating day
- Locker Rooms
 - Locker spacing
 - Masks
- Every effort will be made to run Ensemble Groups with the following criteria: This will be evaluated building by building. More information to follow.
 - Social Distancing
 - No Sharing of Wind Instruments
 - Cleaning of stands and instruments

Events & Visitors



- **Field Trips:** At this time, we have canceled all field trips until further notice
- **Co-curricular Activities:** We are making determinations regarding co-curricular activities (i.e. clubs, intramurals) on a case by case basis
- **Large Group Events:** All large group events have been canceled until further notice.
- **Community Use of Schools:** All community uses of facilities are discontinued until further notice.
- **School Visitors:** Limited to visitors participating in essential and/or necessary functions (i.e. picking up your child). All parent meetings will be held online.

Going Forward

- **Presentation, survey results will be posted on the District website.**
- **Thought Exchange community engagement (email to be sent Friday, July 24).**
- **Working through safety protocols with SCOPE**
- **Awaiting Additional Clarification from New York State on Several Issues**