SYOSSET CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
REOPENING PLAN
2020-2021

FAQ

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www.syossetschools.org/reopening

GENERAL QUESTIONS

What is the District's Reopening Plan? How was it developed?

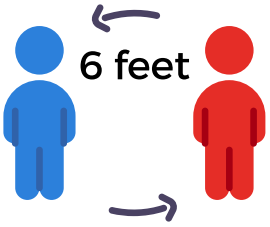
In response to the global pandemic, the Syosset Central School District has developed comprehensive plans for the reopening of schools for the 2020-21 academic school year with the health and safety of our learning community at the forefront of our planning. We are committed to providing the safest learning environment possible by minimizing any risk that cannot be eliminated, while delivering a high-quality instructional program (whether in-person or remote) and nurturing the social-emotional and mental wellness of our students.

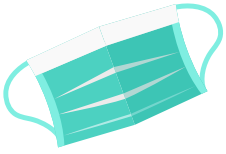
The Reopening Plan defines clear plans and protocols for the reopening of our schools and aligns with the regulations and guidance provided by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and the New York State Education Department (NYSED). The Plan was developed with input from stakeholders throughout our learning community, including parents, faculty and staff, administrators, PTA leadership, architects and safety consultants, through their participation in the Reopening and Recovery Task Force, surveys and/or community engagements.

The reopening plan was submitted to the State on July 31, 2020, as mandated by Governor Cuomo.

Where can I find the most up-to-date information regarding the reopening plans?

A section of the District website is dedicated to providing information on the reopening of schools for the 2020-2021 school year. It will be frequently updated and can be found here: www.syossetschools.org/reopening.





GENERAL HEALTH & SAFETY PROTOCOLS

What are the requirements for face coverings?

All students and staff will be required to wear masks/face coverings. The District has and will maintain an inventory of face masks for students, staff, and visitors that arrive without one.

Face coverings are required all times, except for meals and during instruction with appropriate social distancing. During instruction, the District will allow time for brief "mask breaks" for students when they can maintain social distance, such as times when there is six feet between individuals or when seated six feet apart and positioned between desktop barriers.

Face coverings may be challenging for students (especially younger students) to wear in all-day settings such as school, so scheduling mask breaks is important. In addition, face coverings will not be placed on:

- Students where such covering would impair their health or mental health, or where such covering would present a challenge, distraction, or obstruction to education services and instruction
- Anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious
- Anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance

Students and staff may use alternate PPE (i.e., face coverings that are transparent at or around the mouth) for instruction or interventions that require visualization of the movement of the lips and/or mouths (e.g., speech therapy). These alternate coverings may also be used for certain students (e.g., hearing impaired) who benefit from being able to see more of the face of the staff member.

To maximize the safety of students and staff, we will initially reopen with this very conservative mask protocol. The mask policy will be reevaluated on 30-day intervals based on events and any updates to CDC or NYSDOH guidance.

If a child is sitting behind a desktop barrier, can they remove their mask?

We have created a system of redundant physical protections for students. We are aiming to have at least two of the three main recommended safety precautions (social distance, masks and physical barriers) in place at any given time. Students will be given brief mask breaks when socially distanced with the desktop barrier in place. The NYS DOH defines a 10-minute exposure to an infected individual as a "close contact", so mask breaks will be of lesser duration than 10 minutes.

Do students and staff have to maintain a 6-foot distance from others at all times?

Social or physical distancing means keeping at least six feet between yourself and other people while outside your home, and avoidance of gathering in groups, crowded places and mass

gatherings. The goal of social distancing is to limit physical contact to decrease viral spread among people in community settings, such as schools.

Students, staff, and visitors will be required to maintain a social distance of 6 feet to the fullest extent possible.

All classrooms have been measured to determine the capacity of each room based on social distancing guidelines. The number of students in each room varies based on total square footage, layout of the room (i.e. doorways, built-in cabinetry, etc.), and furnishings.

- All instructional spaces have been redesigned so that students can maintain a social distance of six-feet from one another.
- Furniture placement in the classrooms has been adjusted accordingly.
- Changes to foot-traffic flow through buildings have been identified to limit the amount of close contact between students in high-traffic situations.
- Desk partitions will be used as an additional social-distancing precaution.
- Staggered arrival and/or dismissal times may be implemented.
- Multiple entry/exit points will be utilized rather than funneling all students through the same space.
- Bathroom usage may be monitored by staff to ensure social distancing.
- Signage, floor markings and visual aids (e.g., tape, stickers, posters, cones etc.) will be used to illustrate traffic flow and appropriate spacing to support social distancing indoors and outdoors.
- Size of groups/cohorts of students will be determined by the number of students who can be in each classroom while maintaining 6 feet of social distance.

In classroom settings where social distancing is not possible, such as employees working with students with disabilities, additional personal protective equipment will be provided.

Can time spent outdoors be increased so that students have the opportunity to move around and get fresh air?

The District will maximize opportunities for students to go outside during the school day. All K-12 P.E. classes will be conducted outdoors, weather permitting.

What is being done to encourage hand washing?

Students and staff will be trained on proper hand-washing techniques. Portable handwashing stations have been deployed to secondary schools and hand-sanitizer dispensers are available in every classroom. Additional permanent hand-washing stations will be installed where possible. Touch-free paper towel dispensers and soap dispensers have been installed in all restrooms. Signage throughout the buildings will remind students and staff to wash their hands regularly.

Elementary: Time for regular hand-washing will be built into the master schedule. Students will wash hands before lunch, upon return from recess, and any time students move to a new classroom and return to their original room. Hand sanitizer will be available in every classroom.

Secondary: Regular hand-washing will be expected, especially before lunch. Hand sanitizer will be available in every classroom.

Are health checks being conducted before admission to a school building?

Before entering any school building, all students, staff, and visitors must complete a Daily Health Screening Questionnaire and confirm that:

- they are not exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19,
- they have not been exposed to individuals known to have tested positive for COVID-19,
- they are not awaiting results from a COVID test for themselves or an immediate family member, and
- that they have not traveled internationally or out-of-state to a location designated through the New York State Travel Advisory within the last 14 days.

Temperatures must be taken prior to entering the buildings. Infrared (IR) non-touch temperature screening devices will be used to identify individuals exhibiting temperature of 100.0° F or greater.

- Parents must take their child's temperature prior to sending the child to school or the bus stop and complete the Daily Health Screening Questionnaire.
- Staff and visitors must also take their temperatures prior to arriving at the building.
- No student, staff member, or visitor with a temperature of 100.0° F or greater should come to school or ride the bus.
- Upon arrival at school student temperatures will be taken once 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 with a written clearance from their health-care provider and a negative COVID-19 test result. These requirements are consistent with the protocol in the NYS DOH Regulations (p.3) and as per the advice of the District physician.

What if my child has a health condition that causes a symptom, such as a headache, that is also a symptom of COVID-19? Will my student have to stay home?

A Registered Professional Nurse will assess individuals that are sent to the health office, as chronic conditions such as asthma and allergies or chronic gastrointestinal conditions, previously identified and documented by health-care providers, may present the same symptoms as COVID-19 but are neither contagious nor pose a public health threat.

The school nurse will use their professional judgement, based on guidance from the NYSDOH and CDC, to isolate and dismiss any student or staff member who has a fever or other symptom(s) of COVID-19 to seek follow-up evaluation with their health care provider.

Students should be **excluded** from school if they have any one of the following:

- Fever
- Loss of taste or smell
- Shortness of breath
- Difficulty breathing
- New or worsening cough
- Sore throat
- Headache
- Muscle aches
- Congestion/runny nose
- Chills
- Diarrhea
- Nausea or vomiting

If a person is diagnosed with COVID-19 by a healthcare provider or if a person has symptoms of COVID-19 (but does not get a COVID-19 test), they should not be at school and should stay at home.

What will be the protocol for a faculty/staff member or student to be cleared to return to school after exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19?

Schools will follow CDC guidance for allowing a student or staff member to return to school after exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19. Students and staff that are absent from school due to having symptoms of COVID-19 can return to school:

- Once there is no fever, without the use of fever reducing medicines, and they have felt well for 24 hours,
- With written documentation of an evaluation by a health-care provider, **and**
- With a negative COVID-19 test result.

What will be the protocol if a faculty/staff member or student tests positive for COVID-19?

If a student or staff member reports having tested positive for COVID-19, school administrators will notify the local health department to determine what steps are needed for the school community.

What will be the protocol for a faculty/staff member or student to be cleared to return to school following a diagnosis of confirmed cases of COVID-19?

- It has been at least ten days since the individual first had symptoms.
- It has been at least three days since the individual has had a fever (without using fever reducing medicine).
- It has been at least three days since the individual's symptoms improved, including cough and shortness of breath.

What if someone doesn't report their positive test result to the School District?

All health care providers and testing laboratories are required to report any positive test result to the County department of health (DOH). The DOH will then commence a contact tracing process that will result in the school district being notified. The school district will then support the DOH's contact tracing protocol by providing class lists and/or student schedules, for example.

By law, the DOH must keep medical information confidential, so contact tracing could potentially occur without the District being informed of who the individual was who tested positive. Even if the

District is aware of the individual's identity, it also must keep confidential any health-related information it obtains whether from an individual who self-reports, or through the course of supporting a DOH-led contact-tracing effort. No such information will be disclosed to any member of the general public. However, if it is determined through the contact tracing process that you or your child were potentially exposed to an individual with COVID, you will be notified and given direction on next steps to take.

On August 7, Governor Cuomo announced that school districts will need to post a contact tracing protocol. We are awaiting guidance on how we will partner with the DOH in this process.

What happens if a student or faculty/ staff member starts showing symptoms during the school day?

School buildings have a room to isolate students or staff with symptoms of COVID-19 identified during the school day.

- Students or staff will be moved safely, discreetly, and in accordance with applicable privacy laws or regulations, to the isolation room for evaluation.
- The individual will be provided a mask if they are able to use one, and students will be supervised by a staff member who maintains at least 6' of distance and uses appropriate PPE.
- Parents/guardians of the sick student will be contacted and asked to come pick the child up from school immediately.
- Students will be escorted by the nurse to meet the parent/guardian at the door to the building. We ask that parents/guardians remain outside and their child will be brought to them.

How will health and safety protocols be enforced? Will there be consequences for those who do not follow the guidelines?

There will be ongoing communication with students, parents, and staff to ensure all are aware of the protocols. Enforcement will be handled by the school administration on an individual basis consistent with the Code of Character, Conduct and Support.

Are COVID tests required throughout the school year?

School districts are not required to test asymptomatic individuals. Such a process is infeasible at this time (currently 70,000-80,000 tests are conducted daily statewide; it would take over a month to test every student in NY once, even if every test in the state was dedicated to the effort). However, schools are required to have a plan in place to perform screening testing in the event of an outbreak. In addition, State guidance requires testing (with different rules for positive and negative results) before allowing students to return to school.[1]

[1] "This returning to learning protocol must include at minimum documentation from a health care provider evaluation, negative COVID-19 testing, and symptom resolution, or if COVID-19 positive,release from isolation." p.20 (emphasis added) from NYS DOH guidance.

CLEANING DISINFECTING & AIR QUALITY

How often will classrooms, hallways, bathrooms be cleaned?

Every 30-35 days, the District re-applies an antimicrobial treatment that lasts for 90 days. In addition, along with their daily cleaning requirements, the custodial team will increase the frequency of disinfecting surfaces, such as high-touch surfaces in common areas and in all classrooms and athletic areas.

Elementary school level:

- Several times during the school day, custodial workers will clean and disinfect high touch points and surfaces (door knobs, light switches, push bars, stairwell handrails, ledges), hallway and nurses office bathrooms.
- Classroom monitors and/or aides will assist custodians by helping gather food after classroom meals and performing periodic wiping of classroom chairs, desks and polycarbonate barriers during the school day, as required, utilizing Diversey Alpha PH multi-surface cleaner or alcohol wipes.
- Nightly, the custodial staff will spot mop, dust mop, clean and disinfect each classroom, classroom bathroom, nurse office, offices, gymnasium, multi-purpose room and high touch points with one of the District's disinfectant products (Diversey Virex II 256 or Bioesque Botanical Disinfectant Solution), using the appropriate applicator.
- The custodial staff will clean, disinfect and apply BioProtect on classroom, bathroom and other surfaces as per the manufacturer's recommendations for safe and clean surfaces in each school. BioProtect is an EPA established antimicrobial technology that provides protection to surfaces, protecting surfaces from microbes for up to 90 days.

Middle and High School:

- Several times throughout the day, custodial workers will clean and disinfect high touch points and surfaces (door knobs, light switches, push bars, stairwell handrails, ledges), and hallway and nurse bathrooms.
- Classroom monitors and/or aides and assistants will assist custodians by performing periodic cleaning of classroom chairs, desks and polycarbonate barriers during the school day, as required, utilizing Diversey Alpha PH multi-surface cleaner or alcohol wipes.
- Nightly, the custodial staff will spot mop, dust mop, clean and disinfect each classroom desk and chair, hallway bathroom, gymnasium, multi-purpose room, locker room and high touch points with one of the District's disinfectant products (Diversey Virex II 256 or Bioesque Botanical Disinfectant Solution), using the appropriate applicator.
- The custodial staff will clean, disinfect and apply BioProtect on classroom, bathroom and other surfaces as per the manufacturer's recommendations for safe and clean surfaces in each school. BioProtect is an EPA established antimicrobial technology that provides protection to surfaces, protecting surfaces from microbes for up to 90 days.

Will all classrooms be air conditioned, as it will be difficult to wear masks if it is hot in the classroom?

The District undertook an extensive capital project to install classroom air conditioning this summer. Nearly all classrooms will have either window or "split unit" air conditioning by the start of the school year. There have been some manufacturing delays due to COVID that will slow completion of some of the systems.

Is there appropriate ventilation in each classroom and office in the schools?

The District has been reviewing every building's air filtration and ventilation systems. Architects and engineers are going through each room in every building to evaluate room ventilation and provide recommendations.

An important aspect of that work is reviewing the air filters that are installed in our building HVAC systems with the goal of upgrading filters wherever possible. The chart below indicates some preliminary work of the engineers. In the first column the air filtration system is indicated, the second column indicates the current filters and the column on the right indicates the recommended upgraded filters that will be installed.

For example, the first entry shows that Roof top unit (RTUs) air filters are being upgraded to MERV13 filters. MERV stands for Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value. MERV ratings are on a scale from 1 to 16 depending on the size of the particles a filter can be expected to capture. The higher the MERV rating, the more effective it is at trapping smaller particles. Filters in unit ventilators and other mechanical ventilation systems will be upgraded to the highest MERV filters allowable based on recommendations of architects/engineers and manufacturer's recommendations for the individual units.

Air Filtration	Present	Sept 2020
Roof Top Units (RTU)	MERV 6	MERV 13
Classroom univentilators (older)	MERV 2 - 4	MERV 6 - 8
Classroom univentilators	MERV 7	MERV 10 - 13
Central Heating & Ventilation units	MERV 4 - 6	MERV 10 - 13
Ducted split AC fan coils	MERV 2	MERV 4
Ductless split AC wall units	MERV 2 - 3	MERV 10 - 16

MOVEMENT & TRAFFIC FLOW IN BUILDINGS

Will visitors be allowed in the buildings?

No outside visitors or volunteers will be allowed in school buildings at this time. Currently building visitors are limited to those participating in essential and/or necessary functions only, such as picking up a child.

- All parent meetings will be held via videoconference.
- All visitors will have their temperature taken upon entering.
- All visitors will be required to wear face coverings/masks and maintain social distancing at all times.

How will student arrival and dismissal be handled while still maintaining proper social distancing guidelines? Will drop-off and dismissal times be staggered?

Additional entry/exit points will be utilized throughout school buildings. Adjustments have been made to the flow of foot traffic. Signage, floor markings and visual aids (e.g., tape, stickers, posters, cones etc.) will be used to illustrate traffic flow and appropriate spacing to support social distancing. It is possible arrival and dismissal times will be staggered. Specific information for each school building will be provided prior to the start of school.

How will social distancing be maintained when secondary students are accessing their lockers?

At this time, we are not planning on permitting students to utilize lockers, as proper social distancing would not be possible.

Will facilities be available for outside use after school?

At this time, we are not planning on permitting outside organizations to use District facilities during the evenings or on weekends, unfortunately.

TEACHING & LEARNING

What will in-person instruction look like at the elementary level?

All students attend in-person Monday through Friday with normal school day hours.

- Instruction is delivered in-person, in class sizes appropriate for each individual space.
- Each space in the building has been evaluated for occupancy with appropriate social distancing. The number of students in a classroom will reflect the need to ensure that

students' desks/seats are positioned no less than six feet apart.
- Staff will be structured in a "pilot/co-pilot" methodology for classes split between two physical areas.
- Many spaces within each building have been repurposed for instructional space with a focus on small group instruction when possible.
- All students will remain with their cohort (homeroom class) throughout the day. Special area teachers (Art, Music, and Library) will follow a push-in model. This means the students stay in their classroom and the special area teacher will come to them. Physical Education classes will take place outdoors when weather allows. Lunch will take place in classrooms.
- The student schedule will allow for breaks and recess opportunities.
- At this time, assemblies, field trips and other large-group activities will not be scheduled.

What will in-person instruction look like at the middle school?

All students attend in-person Monday through Friday with normal school day hours, but on an 8-period schedule.

- Instruction is delivered in-person, in class sizes appropriate for each individual space.
- The shift from a 9-period day to an 8-period day allows for adequate staff for all students.
- Some electives are postponed until 2021-22.
- Each space in the building has been evaluated for appropriate social distancing.
- Many spaces within each building have been repurposed for instructional space.
- Classes that are split between two physical areas will be staffed in teams.
- Students remain in their homeroom space, and teachers rotate into the classroom to the extent practical.
- Lunch will be eaten in classrooms. Whenever possible, students will utilize outside space for physical education instruction.
- At this time, assemblies, field trips and other large-group activities will not be scheduled.

What will alternate-day hybrid instruction look like at the high school?

In the Alternating-Day Hybrid Model, students engage in a combination of in-person learning and remote instruction, thus limiting the number of students in a school building on any given day.

Students attending remotely will participate in the day's activity via livestream (if there is a lecture component) or by participating in a small group activity or assessment.

- Teachers will take attendance every period and students must keep their cameras engaged.
- All of the classroom guidelines and practices, including grading, will remain in place, regardless of attending school in person or virtually.
- Students will be divided alphabetically, with A - K on one day and L-Z on the other so that siblings will be scheduled on the same day of the alternating schedule.

High school students attend school in-person on alternating-days in a continuous 4-day cycle. For example: on days 1 & 3, the "A" Cohort would attend in person. On day 1, they would have their "red day" schedule, on day 3, they would have their "white day" schedule. If Monday is Day 1, Cohort A would attend on Monday (Day 1), Wednesday (Day 3) and Friday (Day 1). The following week, Monday would be Day 2, so Cohort A would attend Tuesday (Day 3), and Thursday (Day 1).

	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.
Day	1	2	3	4	1
Cohort	**A**	**B**	**A**	**B**	**A**

Did the District explore other hybrid models at the high school?

Yes, the District investigated the possibility of half-day and split-day (a full day before noon, another after noon) schooling, but the logistics of midday busing and staffing costs were insurmountable. Moreover, surveyed parents rated alternating-day hybrids more favorably than half-day models.

What will instruction look like for those opting in to the fully virtual model at the *elementary level*?

Elementary level students opting to attend virtually will be instructed by a certified elementary teacher. Grade level classrooms will be developed based on the size of the cohort of students choosing this option and may include students from more than one building.

Students will experience a combination of whole group and small group instruction as well as independent work assigned by the teacher. In addition, a full complement of special area classes and special education, ENL services will be provided.

Students will be instructed remotely based on the following schedule:

- Kindergarten and First Grade will begin with approximately two and a half hours of instruction scheduled throughout the school day. This abbreviated length of time allows for transition for kindergarteners to the school environment and adjustment for the first grade students coming back to this environment from last spring. These timeframes will be evaluated monthly and be expanded as appropriate. A sample schedule for students in kindergarten and first grade will look as follows:

Grades K-1 Virtual Schedule SAMPLE	
9:15 - 9:45 a.m.	Morning Meeting Community Building/SEL
9:45 - 10:15 a.m.	ELA
10:15 - 10:30 a.m.	Break/Snack
10:30 - 11:00 a.m.	Math
11:00 - 11:30 a.m.	Social Studies / Science
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Lunch & Break

12:30 - 1:00 p.m.	Specials Area
1:00 - 3:15 p.m.	For students who require additional small group instruction and support

- Grades 2 - 5 will have a full day of instruction scheduled throughout the school day (between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.), inclusive of planned break time and lunch. Students will receive a full day of content instruction, small group work, special area classes, and special education and ENL services. A sample virtual schedule for students in grades 2 - 5 will look as follows:

Grades 2-5 Virtual Schedule SAMPLE	
8:30 - 9:00 a.m.	Special
9:00 - 9:15 a.m.	Break
9:15 - 10:00 a.m.	Math
10:00 - 10:15 a.m.	Break
10:15 - 11:15 a.m.	ELA
11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Break and Lunch
12:30 - 1:00 p.m.	MTSS
1:00 - 1:45 p.m.	Social Studies / Science
1:45 - 2:00 p.m.	Break
2:00 - 3:00 p.m.	Writing / Small Group Work

- Specific grade level schedules will be posted on Google sites for easy access and planning for parents.

What will instruction look like for those opting in to the fully virtual model at the *middle school* level?

Middle School students opting to attend school virtually will remain connected to their home school wherever possible.

Students will virtually follow the same 8 period day as their in-school peers, participating in online instruction with other students learning from home. Teachers will plan breaks for students at home beyond the five minute “passing time” if needed.

2020-2021 Middle School Bell Schedule (8 Period Day)

Advisory	8:20 - 8:40 a.m.
Period 1	8:46 - 9:24 a.m.
Period 2	9:30 - 10:08 a.m.
Period 3	10:14 - 10:52 a.m.
Period 4	10:58 - 11:36 a.m.
Period 5	11:42 a.m. - 12:20 p.m.
Period 6	12:26 - 1:04 p.m.
Period 7	1:10 - 1:48 p.m.
Period 8	1:54 - 2:32 p.m.

Students will be provided with parallel learning experiences to their in school peers. Some adjustments to online special area courses may be needed.

Students learning at home will be supported with the same mental health, counseling, and other resources as students learning at school. All school District expectations for student attendance, grading, participation and conduct apply.

What will instruction look like for those opting in to the fully virtual model at the *high school*?
High school students opting to attend school virtually will be expected to attend every class, every day, for which they are regularly scheduled. They will be attending the same class virtually, with their peers, as if they were attending in person.

High School Daily Bell Schedule

Period	Time
1	7:39 am - 8:18 am
2	8:26 am - 9:05 am
3	9:10 am - 9:49 am
4	9:54 am - 10:33 am
5	10:38 am - 11:17 am

6	11:22 am - 12:01 pm
7	12:06 pm - 12:45 pm
8	12:50 pm - 1:29 pm
9	1:33 pm - 2:12 pm

All classes will be conducted via live instruction and accessible on-line through either Canvas or Google Classroom. Students must log in, be an active participant in the class, and complete all assignments in a timely manner, the same as if they were in-person. All of the classroom guidelines and practices, including grading, will remain in place regardless of attending school in person or virtually.

Faculty and staff will be available to support all aspects of student learning. Teachers will provide daily live instruction, Monday through Friday. Students may attend extra help virtually as teachers will make their extra help schedule available.

Students learning at home will be supported with the same mental health, counseling, and other resources as students learning at school.

For all secondary students, attendance will be taken each period, and students are expected to adhere to the Syosset CSD **Code of Character, Conduct & Support**, **Digital Learning Chromebook User Agreement Grades 6-12**, **Acceptable Use Policy**, and **Internet Safety Policy.**

If the school buildings reopen for instruction in September, can I request that my child stay home for full remote learning?

Yes. We are very much aware that some of our students may have medical reasons that require special consideration and that may not allow for in-person teaching and learning during this time. We also understand that, as a result of the COVID-19 crisis, families may wish to opt for an all-virtual learning experience for their child. Parents/guardians were given an opportunity to request an all-virtual learning experience by the deadline of August 12.

If I opt into an all-virtual learning experience for my child but conditions change, will I be able to change my decision?

Should circumstances change that necessitate a student's return to in-person instruction, a request may be made at specific points throughout the school year.

To request a return to in-person instruction for their child, a parent/guardian must submit a letter of request to the school building principal.

- Parent/Guardian requests for an elementary student (grades K-5) to re-enter for in-person instruction will be honored at the beginning of either the second or third trimester.

Elementary letters of request will need to be submitted no later than November 30, 2020 or March 8, 2021.

- Parent/Guardian requests for a secondary student (grades 6-12) to re-enter in-person instruction will be honored at the beginning of the second, third, or the fourth marking quarters. Secondary letters of request will need to be submitted no later than November 2, 2020, January 18, 2021, or April 5, 2021.

If I opt for virtual instruction for my child but conditions change, why do I have to wait until specified times to request a switch to in-person instruction?

Parents/guardians of students enrolled in the virtual model will be able to request a switch to in-person instruction at the beginning of either the second or third trimester for elementary level students and at the beginning of the second, third, or the fourth marking quarters for secondary students. In order for the District to plan and staff appropriately, changes in the learning model can only be accommodated at these specified times. We will make every effort to place the student into an in-person classroom setting, contingent upon space availability. Should space not be available at the beginning of a quarter or trimester, the District will make every effort to place the student back into the homeschool when space becomes available. In addition, the District may have to change bus routes which could be disruptive to other families.

If my child returns to school in-person but conditions change and/or they are uncomfortable in the new environment, can we immediately switch to virtual instruction?

Yes, students may request virtual instruction at any time.

Do I have to make the same decision on the fully virtual model vs in-person instruction for all my children? Or can I make an individual decision for each child?

The decision to opt-in to virtual instruction is made on an individual student level. Siblings are not required to make the same decision.

Will my elementary level student have a different teacher if they start the school year in person, but request to change to the fully virtual model?

All elementary students will be assigned a teacher in the building for the fall. If a parent chooses virtual instruction, the student will be assigned a teacher who is teaching virtual classes, and that class may include students from more than one building.

In the hybrid model at the high school, will my children be able to attend in person on the same schedule?

Yes, siblings will be placed on the same schedule.

If a child switches between in-person and virtual instruction, will they have a different teacher?

At the high school level, due to the alternating day schedule in place, the student who moves from in-person to all virtual instruction will remain with his or her teacher.

At the elementary and middle school levels, a student who moves from in-person to all virtual instruction will be assigned a different teacher who is fully certified. Students will be assigned to classes with students from their home school, but there will be instances where students from other schools in the district will also be in the class.

If a student is enrolled in in-person instruction but is absent due to a quarantine, can that student engage in virtual instruction?

Yes. The student will engage in virtual instruction during the period of absence due to being quarantined.

What will be done to address the needs of students with IEP's and special services?

The provision of a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) to eligible students identified by the Committee on Special Education (CSE) remains within the school reopening plan. Special education programs, related services, and supplemental aids/services are provided to students as listed in the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) to the greatest extent possible to consistently protect the health/safety of students with disabilities and those providing the services. All accommodations, modifications, supplemental aids/services and assistive technology interventions are provided to students to the greatest extent possible. This would include the provision of mainstreaming opportunities within the general education program as identified in a student's IEP.

- Parent procedural safeguards remain in place.
- Student referrals to CSE continue to be accepted.
- CPSE/CSE, 504, and teacher meetings will be held remotely.

In a Hybrid instructional model, HS Life Skills students attend in-person sessions every day. (If in the future, a hybrid model is ordered for all schools, elementary special class students would also attend daily).

Will a student with an accommodation to take exams in a testing room still be able to do so?

Yes, testing accommodations will be provided to students keeping with all health/safety protocols.

Who will be teaching the virtual classes?

The virtual instructional classes will be taught by a member of the Syosset faculty.

What will the class size be for both virtual and in-person instruction?

Many spaces within each building have been repurposed for instructional space with a focus on small group instruction when possible. For in-person instruction, the number of students in each room is dependent on six-foot social distancing requirements and varies based on total square footage, layout of the room (i.e. doorways, built-in cabinetry, etc.), and furnishings. Virtual classes will vary in size due to the number of students on grade level at elementary or course at secondary that request virtual learning.

What improvements have been made to the virtual model that was implemented in the spring?

Building upon the solid foundation established in the spring, the virtual learning platform has been significantly advanced and will provide an improved experience for students, staff and families.

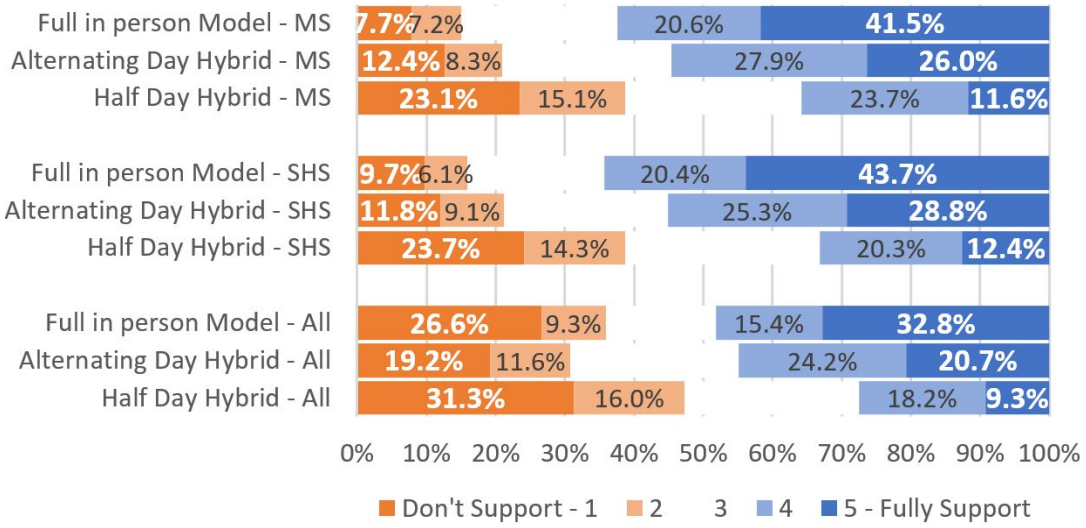
- Feedback from parents and faculty on the virtual learning program implemented this spring has been incorporated into the plans for the fall.
- Investments have been made in online lessons and resources so teachers can focus more of their attention on instruction and students.
- Portals have been created for parents to streamline assignments and schedules for multiple classes and teachers.

How will students be assessed in the fully virtual model?

Students will be assessed using the digital tools our teachers have been trained on and began to utilize during the spring. Assessments will be based on the learning standards of each course.

Was a hybrid schedule considered for K-8?

Yes, multiple models were evaluated for each level. The State required school districts to develop 3 plans: a full in-person plan, a hybrid plan, and a fully virtual plan. If schools are required to implement the full in-person plan, it was determined that we could accommodate all elementary students and all middle school students every day (through the 8-period day model). Middle school parents surveyed ranked the full in-person model much higher than either hybrid model.



Can I request 5 days of in-person learning for my high school student?

Due to the space constraints in the high school building and the requirements for social distancing, we are unable to offer a full in-person model at this time to all high school students.

Will there be a consistent organizational structure for accessing assignments, Google Meets, class information, etc.?

Portals for parents have been created to streamline assignments and schedules for multiple classes and teachers.

Can you provide a visual example of what a classroom will look like?

Desks will be placed to allow for social distancing of at least six feet between students with plastic shields on top to interrupt air circulation.

Will there be any additional SEL supports in place for students?

The District recognizes that many students have experienced loss, financial instability, or the disruption of social isolation. We know, after this prolonged closure, many of our students will require social-emotional support to help them re-engage and re-enter school. Nurturing the social-emotional and mental well-being of students will be essential to resuming a life in school.

We are committed to maintaining an emotionally and physically safe, supportive, and engaging learning environment to promote all students' social and emotional well-being and development. The District will provide the following resources to address mental health, behavioral, and emotional support for both students and staff:

- General social-emotional learning/mental health resources are provided on the District website to all families, students, and staff.
- Referrals are streamlined through the Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) for mental health, behavioral health, and emotional support services. Resources provided to families through MTSS will be curated based on family/student needs.
- Counselors, Social Workers, BCBAs, and Psychologists are available to support in-district and to assist in making referrals.
- Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) supports (i.e. Advisory Program at secondary level and classroom SEL curriculum at elementary level) will be provided to all students to not only offer SEL skill-building, but also provide an opportunity for staff to have proactive check-ins with students to identify student SEL and mental health needs. Restorative practices will also be used.
- Referrals are made to community agencies, clinics, hospitals, private psychiatrists and therapists, community groups. Referrals are culturally appropriate and are made depending on the families financial/insurance needs.

- McKinney-Vento supports are in place remotely and in school, supporting families while maintaining confidentiality.
- Small group, virtual training for faculty and staff is available addressing various challenges regarding student tolerance for PPE and/or new health and safety procedures.

What is the District doing to ensure consistency among grade levels and buildings? Are teachers being offered professional development to ensure the same level of proficiency with the online learning tools?

Professional development is available to teachers, including a comprehensive teacher support platform of digital resources and a professional development calendar of online classes. Details on the professional development currently available can be found in the Superintendent's Report from the April BOE meeting (starting on page 33). Prior to the start of the next school year, professional development will take place during the Superintendent's conference days. Building principals meet frequently to collaborate, strategize and plan at a District level.

In addition, the District had more than 200 teachers participate in curriculum development work this summer to ensure a more comprehensive library of lessons and learning experiences for students district-wide. This should both improve consistency and allow teachers to spend more time focusing on students, rather than building new lessons for the online environment.

Will standardized testing still be taking place this year?

The administration of New York State standardized testing for Grades 3 - 8 and Regents examination will be determined later in the year as per federal and state guidelines.

District administered standardized testing for academic progress monitoring is scheduled for October, 2020.

Standardized testing for the identification of students in need of special education services is available.

Will clubs be offered this year? Can they be offered virtually?

Extracurricular activities are an important part of the rich breadth of educational opportunities offered in Syosset. Clubs will meet virtually whenever possible.

Will SCOPE still be available?

At this time, the District is finalizing a plan with SCOPE for before- and after-school childcare for elementary level students.

Will field trips be available this year?

At this time, all field trips and large group events have been cancelled until further notice. Middle school Washington D.C. trips have been postponed until April, and will be reevaluated later in the Fall of 2020.

How will music curriculum classes (band, orchestra, choral groups) be taught under social distancing practices?

Ensemble groups will maintain the following criteria for rehearsals and lesson groups:

- Social Distancing of 12 feet will be maintained for playing of wind instruments and singing, as per NYSDOH recommendations.
- Wind Instruments will not be shared. Students who play a school owned wind instrument with have one assigned to them. It will be for their use only.
- For school owned string instruments (cellos and basses), the following protocols apply:
    - Students should wash their hands before and after using a school owned/shared instrument.
    - Shared instruments will be wiped down with a disinfectant cloth after each use.
- When specialty drumsticks and mallets are used, students will wear gloves. Percussion students are asked to purchase a stick bag and a few sets of basic sticks and mallets.
- All instruments that are rented or owned by the student/family MUST be labeled with the student's name.

Why am I being asked to make a decision on opting in to a virtual model at this time?

The District will be staffing remote learning at each grade level. Therefore, families are being asked to make a decision in advance so that we can staff and prepare accordingly. In addition, bus routing must be completed. There will not be sufficient capacity to maintain a seat for every child, so it is important to know who will actually use busing services.

FOOD SERVICES

Will breakfast and lunch meals be available for purchase?

The District will continue to provide all students access to school meals each day whether the students are in school or learning remotely. In all cases, the District will enforce appropriate rules for social distancing and will encourage hand-washing before and after eating.

While initially the menu choices will be limited, all meals will be compliant with NYSED Child Nutrition meal pattern requirements.

Where will students eat lunch?

Elementary and Middle School students will eat lunch in their classrooms. High school students will eat lunch in five (5) designated areas, which will be cleaned and disinfected between each of the lunch periods.

What precautions are in place during lunch time?

Protocols for Elementary & Middle School lunch service:

- Students will eat in their classrooms.
- The District is purchasing desk guards to provide an additional protective measure when students remove their masks to eat.
- A pre-order menu system will be available. Pre-ordered meals will be delivered to school classrooms.

Protocols for High School lunch service:

- Students will be served a limited-menu in a grab-and-go style.
- Students will make their selections from the cafeteria or mobile carts while maintaining social distancing.
- Lunch will be served over several periods in designated areas. These areas will be cleaned and disinfected between each of the lunch periods.

What precautions are food servers taking?

The District's food service provider, Aramark, is implementing COVID-19 Mitigation Protocols and safety training, including the following:

- PPE Protocols;
- Employee Health Monitoring;
- Increased sanitation measures:
    - More frequent cleaning of all surfaces;
    - CDC hospital grade disinfectants;
- Health & Respiratory Hygiene Training;
- Social Distancing.

With all students eating in the classroom, what precautions will be taken for students with food allergies?

The existing point of sale (POS) system will ensure attentiveness to students' with allergies at all levels. At the elementary and middle schools, food service workers or monitors will scan the meals into the POS system prior to delivery to the classrooms. At the high school level, students will scan their cards into the POS system upon purchase of their meals.

School nurses will identify students with food allergies to staff working with these students. Particular attention will be paid to ensure that students are maintaining separation from identified food allergens during lunch in the classroom. Social distancing and the use of desk partitions will mitigate the spread of allergens. Moreover, the established room cleaning protocol will ensure that any surface area which may potentially retain food allergens will be thoroughly disinfected.

Will meals still be available to students who are remote learning?
Yes. At this time we are planning for meals to be available for pick-up at the High School or distributed to students at the end of the school day for the remote learning day.

TRANSPORTATION

How often will buses be cleaned?
Cleaning and disinfecting of buses will take place daily by Huntington Coach, the District's transportation contractor.

- All interior surfaces of Company School Vehicles will be sprayed thoroughly with a sanitizing and disinfecting product called Valuguard VG-G200 every 30 days.
    - This product is EPA approved, and kills 99% of germs and viruses on contact, including Human CoronaVirus. It is designed to dry on the surfaces, where it remains effective for up to 30 days. It is environmentally safe and non-toxic.
- Every day, all high contact surfaces (handrails, seat corners, etc) will be resprayed using that same product.

Will students be required to maintain social distance on buses?
The District is developing low-density routing to reduce the number of students on a bus at a given time. Students will be educated on maintaining social distancing at bus stops and when boarding and leaving the bus.

Will students be required to wear masks on buses?

- Students will be required to wear masks on the bus (a supply of masks will be given to all drivers should students arrive at the bus without a mask).
- School bus drivers, monitors and attendants are required to wear face masks and any drivers, monitors and attendants that have direct physical contact with a child will wear gloves.

What if my child is unable to medically tolerate wearing a face covering on a bus?
Face coverings will not be required for students where such covering would impair their health or mental health.

Will bus drivers be screened for COVID-19?
Upon arrival to work each morning and afternoon, all transportation employees are screened for symptoms of COVID-19. This screening includes verbal verification that the employee is not suffering from the CDC identified symptoms, and a scan of their body temperature using a touch free temperature scanner.

RECESS & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

How will physical education classes take place if gyms will be used as classrooms to reduce class size?

All K-12 P.E. classes will be required to hold classes outdoors weather permitting. Social distance will be maintained for all PE classes and handwashing will be encouraged after each session. Students will not be using locker rooms to change.

Will there be any middle school and high school sports?

NYS Public High School Athletic Association has announced the following:

- The official start date of the Fall 2020 sports season has been delayed to September 21.
- Fall Regional and State Championship events have been cancelled.
- If the Fall sports season is unable to begin on September 21, then a “condensed seasons” plan will be implemented, which is a 3-season schedule beginning in January.

Once a determination has been made that Athletics will take place, the following health and Athletic safety protocols will be in place:

- Athletes must abide by social distancing rules and not congregate in large groups.
- Coaches will reinforce social distancing and PPE guidelines.
- Masks will be worn when not engaged in physical activity.
- Equipment, uniforms, water bottles, towels or any other individual items may never be shared between athletes.
- Whenever possible athletes will refrain from using the locker rooms. When necessary, teams will have separate locker rooms or designated spaces.
- All clothing and cloth items must be taken home daily for cleaning.
- Hard equipment will be sanitized after each practice or game.
- Teams will stagger practices to avoid cross contact.
- Off- site practices will be on hold until further notice.

During a question and answer session with reporters on August 7, 2020, Governor Cuomo indicated that no decisions about Fall sports have been made yet.