

Return to Learn 2025-26



PUEBLO
SCHOOL DISTRICT 60
Educating for Purpose and Impact

Letter from the Superintendent



Dear District 60 Students and Families:

The Pueblo School District 60 (D60) Return to Learn School Plan is the product of extensive planning and collaboration with the D60 community, as well as the Colorado Department of Education (CDE), Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), and our local health partners at the Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment (PDPHE). This document reflects our district's continued planning for transitioning our district back to normal operation.



D60 will provide full in-person learning at all of our K-12 schools, four days per week (Mondays through Thursdays), for the 2025-2026 school year. Please note that our pre-kindergarten students will also attend in-person four days a week (in either the ½ day or full-day program). Remote and/or hybrid learning options are also available for some of our students through D60 Online (grades 5-8) and Paragon Learning Academy (grades 9-12). More information about how to enroll students into either of these options is available online at www.pueblod60.org/enroll or by calling (719) 253-6014.

Please mark your calendars for Monday, August 18, 2025, for our reorientation and transition day for students. This day allows our students to begin their 2025-2026 school year with a strong foundation by building relationships with the teachers and staff at their schools who will be leading students on their learning journeys this year. Each school will communicate with families the specific schedule of events for that day, so please contact the school with specific questions.

We are looking forward to welcoming all of our students back to school for the first full day of classes on Tuesday, August 19, 2025. The first day of school for preschool students will be August 27, 2025.

Please understand that student and staff safety remains our priority in D60. This D60 Return to Learn School Plan outlines the health and safety protocols that we are taking to minimize the exposure and spread of any communicable diseases, including COVID-19. Remember that ensuring that all eligible family members are fully vaccinated, in accordance with their family physician's recommendations, in addition to staying home when sick to prevent the spread of infection, remain priority strategies in keeping our students and staff healthy and ready to learn.

This year we will also continue our frequent, targeted sanitization regimen to reduce transmission. Families should screen, monitor, and keep the school informed of student's health concerns, keeping students home when they are sick, when they are exhibiting symptoms, and/or when they have tested positive for COVID-19 or any other communicable infection.

This Return to Learn plan is intended to strike a balance among the health concerns posed by COVID-19, along with other communicable infections, the access to quality educational programming, and the needs of our community. D60 will continue to focus on the guiding principles offered in our Strategic Plan, including our core value that the social and emotional well-being of our students is as important as their academic needs. We will adjust and adapt instructional delivery as the local Pueblo County health and/or D60 specific health context changes. Our plan is intended to support schools in normal operation and will be updated as necessary to align with current health practices and needs.

In D60, we understand that families and students have endured immeasurable stress during the pandemic and in its aftermath. We will continue to adapt to changing health conditions, as needed, while also providing equitable access to the high-quality education our students deserve in a safe environment. We are confident that this D60 Return to Learn School Plan will accomplish this.

We know that each family has a personal choice to make when it comes to the educational options for their children, and we are thankful that you have chosen to entrust us with your children's education.

Sincerely,

Barbara R. Kimzey, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

The impact of COVID-19 is an ongoing situation. This information may be updated depending upon additional information.



Return to Learn Plan 2025-2026

We are offering a traditional school format for the 2025-2026 school year. As we continue to work through the effects of COVID-19, Pueblo School District 60 strives to utilize the new knowledge the past few years have taught us. In the following information, you will see the 2025-2026 plan for our school district. Maintaining safe and consistent in-person learning is a top priority for us, and we are confident that our educational vision is with the safety and well-being of all our students, faculty, and staff at the forefront. Precautions will continue to be in place to help minimize the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Please review the Return to Learn Plan and be assured that we will continue to be anchored in excellence in all we do at Pueblo School District 60.

Guiding Recommendations from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

- Continue to encourage all staff and students to stay up to date with [vaccinations](#).
- Stay home when experiencing symptoms of illness, including those not related to COVID-19.
- Continue to recommend transmission prevention strategies.
- Maintain appropriate ventilation of indoor spaces.
- Continue to support appropriate and applicable mask use by staff, students, and visitors. However, masks are optional for all D60 staff, students, and visitors. Masking requirements may change at any time based on any applicable guidance from local, state, or federal authorities.
- Respond to clusters of cases (including increases in respiratory illness) and confirmed outbreaks in accordance with CDPHE expectations.
- Continue to report identified cases and outbreaks to public health.
- In lieu of individual case investigation and contact tracing, implement new cluster or outbreak detection strategies including public health reporting of school absenteeism data and participation in wastewater surveillance.

D60 PreK-12 Health and Safety Guidelines

Promoting Behaviors that Reduce Spread

Staying Home When Appropriate

- Employees and students who are sick with COVID-19 are asked to stay at home.

Social Distancing

- For the 2025-2026 academic year, D60 will not require any specific social distance expectations.
- PK-12 students may have specific seats in each classroom if deemed necessary by the teacher or school administration.

Mask-wearing

- Continue to support mask use by staff and students, as determined appropriate by the individual. However, masks are optional for all D60 staff, students, and visitors. The decision to mask/not mask is a personal choice and the expectation is that either choice will be respected in the school setting.

Frequent handwashing

- Proper hand washing protocols and frequent hand washing will be encouraged whenever feasible (when in classrooms with sinks, during restroom visits).
- Students will be encouraged to wash their hands or use the provided hand sanitizer directly before eating lunch.

Signs and Floor Stickers

- Although not required, D60 schools may place developmentally appropriate signage such as social distancing and good hygiene (handwashing). Signs may be hung on walls and stickers placed on floors of public areas, including the cafeteria, hallways, front office, classrooms and all major entrances.

Transportation

- Bussing will operate normal schedules.
- Buses will be disinfected, as needed.

Maintaining Healthy Environments

Cleaning and Disinfecting

- High-touch areas (bathrooms, water fountains, door handles, shared surfaces, etc.) will be cleaned by custodians.
- As necessary and/or appropriate, buildings will be disinfected.

Use of Water Fountains

- Students and staff will be able to use water fountains. The use of water bottles is encouraged but not required. Water bottles should not be shared.
- As in the past, disposable plastic bottles of water may be provided during high-heat days only, as needed.

Ventilation

- Buildings will be encouraged to increase circulation of outdoor air by opening windows and doors, as long as doing so does not pose a safety risk. (This may need to be limited in air-conditioned buildings during extremely hot weather.).
- Fans can be used, particularly during extreme heat conditions.

Sharing of Materials

- Textbooks and supplies may be shared.
- Sharing/checking out of Media Center books will be permitted.

Lockers

- Student hallway and PE/athletic lockers may be used.

Cafeteria Use - Breakfast and Lunch Service

- All kitchens will be fully cleaned and sanitized following regular cleaning procedures.
- Breakfast and lunch will be served per normal school routines and schedules.

High Aerosol Classes

- High aerosol classes, including PE, may be encouraged to meet outdoors when possible.
 - PE lockers may be used.
- Elementary Music
 - Masks will not be required for elementary music classes, performances and/or activities..
- Band/Orchestra/Instrumental Music in grades 6-12
 - Masks will not be needed for music-related classes, performances and activities.
- Choir
 - Masks will not be needed for choir classes, performances and activities.

Athletics

- All athletic practices and events will follow current athletic procedures, as well as the current guidelines from CHSAA.

Large In-Person Group Events

- Large, school-sponsored, in-person student events (ie. assemblies, field trips, pep rallies) will be allowed.
- Large, school-sponsored, in-person school community events will be allowed.
- Parent/teacher conferences may take place in person.

Maintaining Healthy Operations

Arrival/Dismissal

- D60 schools will utilize normal arrival and dismissal routines.

Hallway Transitions

- “One-way” hallways and/or staggered transition times will not be required. Individual schools may enact such procedures, at their discretion.

Visitors and Volunteers

- Outside visitors, volunteers and community partners will be permitted.

D60 PreK-12 Instructional Delivery Model

D60 believes that in-person learning is the optimal instructional delivery model for PreK-12 learners and therefore PreK-12 students will attend school in person, full time beginning the first official day of school, Tuesday, August 19, 2025. Each school will plan and communicate with parents regarding an “orientation” day for students, with an emphasis on key transition grades (kindergarten, 6th, 9th) on Monday, August 18, 2025. This will provide an opportunity for students new to the building to be welcomed into the school, to begin to form strong relationships with their teachers, and to engage in team building activities with peers and school staff.

Online School Options

- If a family desires online instruction for their student, they will need to fill out a school transfer request to D60 Online (grades 6-8) or Dutch Clark at Paragon (grades 9-12). It is important for parents to recognize that this should be a long-term decision and should not be considered for anyone anticipating less than a full year’s worth of online instruction. D60 will not offer online learning to students in preschool-5th grade in the 2025-26 school year.

Use of Technology

- Each student in grades K-12 will be issued a district technology device (e.g., Chromebook) for their use throughout the school year. All classrooms will capitalize on the use of digital textbooks, teacher presentations, assessments, and applications as part of their daily in- classroom instruction as well as for homework as appropriate.

Seating Charts

- Seating charts will not be required by the District. Seating charts are at the discretion of the teacher and/or school.

Absences

- COVID-related student absences and quarantines will be treated like a regular student illness absence. In accordance with Board policy, make-up work shall be provided for any class in which a student has an excused or unexcused absence. It is the responsibility of the student/parent/guardian to pick up any make-up assignments which will receive full credit. There shall be one day allowed for make-up work for each day of absence.
- COVID-related student absences, including quarantines, will be excused.

Additional Information

The impact of COVID-19 during the 2025-26 academic year may be an evolving situation. This information may be updated depending upon additional information.