

ESM School Reopening Plan - Stronger Together Welcome Back Update

A special welcome to our new and returning families as we embark on the 2020-21 school year. Preparing to reopen in this new learning environment with protocols and practices for the health and safety of all is our highest priority.

Based on parent and staff questionnaires/feedback (7,000+ responses), the ESM Plan:

- Provides live, interactive distance learning with a planned schedule 5 days per week for all families who have requested this learning model.
- Provides in-person instruction 5 days a week for families who would prefer this option. If the capacity for in-person learning is exceeded, a hybrid alternative (2 days in-person/3 days distance learning) will be implemented for those choosing this model.

Phased-in, gradual implementation plan: All students will begin the opening of school with virtual learning and then transition to their preferred learning model (Subject to change).

- **Phase 1 (Sept. 2-9): Staff Development** - Professional development on learning models and training for staff on new health and safety protocols.
- **Phase 2 (Sept. 10-16): Distance Learning** - All students welcomed back to school with distance learning to allow for teacher introductions and engaging instruction. Students and parents will receive training on new, mandated health/safety protocols, including daily health screenings that parents must submit prior to in-person learning.
- **Phase 3 (Sept. 17): Gradual start** - In-person school learning begins by grade level for families that chose this model (5 days per week or hybrid depending on capacity), while distance learning continues:
 - Park Hill - 4-year-old Pre-K
 - Elementary - 5th Grade
 - Middle School - 6th Grade
 - High School - 12th Grade
 - Details for other grade levels will follow
- **Phase 4 (Sept. 24): Full Implementation** - All grade levels are transitioned to the learning model that families have selected. (distance learning model or in-school with a hybrid alternative depending on capacity.)
- **Exceptions:** If there is a NYS Executive Order or if the regional transmission rate of the virus is 9% we must shift ALL students to distance learning.

Transportation/Food Services: Both in-person and distance models include breakfast and lunch options. More information regarding implementation will be forthcoming. Bus transportation will be available. Buses are limited to one student per seat, however children from the same household will sit together. Masks must be worn on the bus.

Parent/Guardian Choice: Parents and guardians will have an opportunity to ask questions and seek clarification on the available learning models for each school through an online form next week. By August 14, we will ask parents/guardians to confirm their choice of learning model for their child(ren) for the 2020-21 school year. We anticipate that the first day of school for students will be September 10 starting with Phase 2 distance learning.

For more detailed information see our [Plan Highlights](#) or our full [ESM Reopening of School Plan — Stronger Together \(91-page PDF\)](#) online.