



HCSD REOPENING GUIDE 2020

Frequently Asked Questions



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OPERATIONS



Are students eating lunch in their classrooms?

Elementary and Middle School students will eat lunch in classrooms. High School students will eat in the cafeteria and other designated large spaces to allow for proper social distancing.



Will lunches be served?

Lunches will be delivered to Elementary School classrooms. Secondary students will be "grab and go" or pre-boxed lunches. For additional information, see [Reopening Matrix: Child Nutrition](#) in the Reopening Guide.



With an increase in the number of families driving kids to school, will the district be planning for improvement of traffic flow for drop off and pick up at all of the schools?

The District is aware of the concern of increased vehicular traffic and is reviewing the impact on a building basis.



Are students allowed to bring their own hand sanitizer?

State guidelines prohibit hand sanitizer from being transported on school buses. Students are allowed to use their own hand sanitizer while in the school building.



Are we required to wear the masks that the district is providing or can staff and students wear their own masks?

The school district will provide students and staff with 2 washable masks. Students/staff may wear the masks provided or bring one from home. For additional information, see [Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) and Cloth Face Coverings](#) in the Reopening Guide.



How will social distancing work in restrooms?

Only sinks in restrooms that permit for social distancing will be functional. Toilets will remain divided by partitions already in place. To the extent possible, teachers will schedule restroom breaks. Signage will be placed reminding students to remain physically distanced. Staff will reinforce this new expectation. For additional information, see [Social Distancing](#) in the Reopening Guide.



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Are students required to wear a mask in class?

All students will be required to wear a mask while in school. Mask breaks will be scheduled during instructional time.



Are desks going to have shields all the way around them?

Desks will not have shields or dividers around them. Students and staff will remain physically distanced and wear a mask while on campus. Mask breaks will be scheduled.



Can teachers wear shields while instructing instead of face masks if they are 6 feet away from their students?

Teachers may wear shields while instructing but must wear them in conjunction with a mask.



When will cohorts be determined? Will students stay with a specific group all day? If so, how many children can be in a class?

Cohorts A and B will be designed so families with children in multiple schools are in school on the same days.

- Families with multiple last names will default to the oldest student in the household's last name.
- Adjustments to student assigned groups may be made as necessary for classroom size, bus capacity, or other reasons to achieve the desired goal of fewer students in school buildings.

The number of students per room is dependent on the square footage of each space, however spaces can only accommodate a maximum number of students while remaining distanced of at least 6 feet.

Cohort information will be shared during the week of August 17th



OPERATIONS



Due to a medical condition, my child may require more mask breaks than other students, what should we do?

Please contact Colleen Kaney in Pupil Services at ckaney@hcsdk12.org for assistance with this type of request.



How are children arriving to and dismissing from school and social distancing?

Each building is in the process of developing plans to address procedures for arrival & dismissal to include social distancing requirements.



Will students be socially distanced during lunch time?

Yes, students must remain physically distanced during lunch. For additional information, see [Social Distancing](#) in the Reopening Guide.



How is the district planning to improve ventilation and air flow in the buildings?

Ventilation systems will be set to have the maximum amount of fresh air forced into the building as possible. Filters will be changed at the frequency recommended by the manufacturer. Staff will be encouraged to open windows, weather and safety permitting.



How will social distancing work on buses?

The bus will be loaded from back to front, households will sit together, students will be assigned seats. For more information, see [Reopening Matrix: Transportation](#) in Reopening Guide.



I can transport my child one way but not both ways. Who should I contact?

Please contact Fisher Bus at service@fisherbus.com regarding specific transportation questions. For additional information, see [Reopening Matrix: Transportation](#) in the Reopening Guide.



INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES



Will all students receive a chromebook?

All students in grades 3-12 will have a chromebook for them to use in school and at home.

Students in grades PreK-2 will have the opportunity to request an iPad to use in a hybrid or off-campus learning model. The process for requesting an iPad will be shared closer to the start of the school year.

For additional information, see [Technology and Connectivity](#) in the Reopening Guide.



Is the District providing an online option for families that do not want to send their child(ren) back to school in the fall?

Yes. Families have until August 12th to opt into 100% online learning using this [form](#). Please note that this process will be reviewed mid-year. Additional guidance regarding 100% online learning will be shared with families closer to the start of the school year. For additional information, see [Instructional Scenarios](#) in the Reopening Guide



Can the District provide any information for parents that decide to homeschool?

When a parent chooses to homeschool their child they are responsible for the teaching and learning of their child based on the NYS Homeschooling Regulations. When families choose to homeschool their child, a packet is sent to complete which provides useful information in the homeschooling process.



Can students with Special Education needs go to school 4 days a week?

In a hybrid mode, students with special needs placed in a 12:1:1 or 8:1:1 and English Language Learners will attend school Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. All students with an IEP will receive programs and services through a combination of in-person learning, teletherapy, and synchronous and asynchronous learning in the hybrid learning model. For additional information, see [Special Education](#) in the Reopening Guide



INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES



If I sign up for 100% Online Learning, what will this look like for my child?

The District will provide a combination of synchronous and asynchronous learning for students in this model. A certified teacher will be assigned to provide this instruction. Additional information will be shared with families opting into 100% Online Learning, closer to the start of the school year.



How are special education students going to receive services under the Hybrid and Off-Campus model?

In the hybrid model, services will be provided in person and via teletherapy to the extent practicable. Parents will meet with their child's case manager and service providers in September to discuss services and IEP implementation - each student's plan will be individualized. For additional information, see [Reopening Matrix: Special Education](#) in the Reopening Guide.



How are special education students' goals going to be progress monitored in an Off-Campus model?

Case Managers will be checking in regularly with students with special needs. Case Managers will gather the necessary data throughout the semester to be able to accurately assess and support the students' IEP Goals. For additional information, see [Reopening Matrix: Special Education](#) in the Reopening Guide.



How will Physical Education classes be conducted?

Each building is working to determine the best plan of action to accommodate physical education, while maintaining proper social distancing of 12 feet. More information regarding what this will look like will be available prior to the start of the school year.



INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES



How will the Pre-K program run in a Hybrid Learning model?

Our Pre-K program will run on the same hybrid learning model as K-12 in both the AM and PM. Rooms will be sanitized in between groups in the morning and afternoon, as well as on Wednesdays and Fridays, in between cohorts.



Will students have access TO remote learning if they are required to miss multiple days of school due to COVID-19 symptoms, testing, and/or quarantine?

All teachers will be required to create and maintain a Seesaw (PK-2) or Google Classroom (3rd-12th) for each of their classes. Students will still be able to access and participate in the learning while at home, through their classrooms learning platform (Seesaw or Google Classroom). Students in this circumstance will follow the traditional homebound instruction model.



In a Hybrid Learning model, will students off-campus be learning online?

Yes. In a hybrid model, students will continue their in-person learning on the days that they are off-campus. These experiences might include, but are not limited to: completing online modules or tasks; viewing instructional videos; responding to posts or instructor questions; engaging with other class participants in an online or phone discussion; conducting research; doing projects; or meeting with a teacher face-to-face, via the online platform or by phone. For additional information, see [Reopening Matrix: Teaching and Learning](#) in the Reopening Guide.



What if my child attends a BOCES Program, like Potter Rd? Will they still be able to attend?

The district will work with area BOCES to ensure that students continue to have access to Career and Technical Education programs, whether through in-person, off-campus, or hybrid models. Erie 1 and Erie 2 BOCES Reopening Plans can be found using the following links:

- [Erie 1 BOCES Reopening Plan 2020-2021](#)
- [Erie 2 BOCES Reopening Plan 2020-2021](#)

For additional information, see [Career and Technical Education](#) in the Reopening Guide.



INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES



Will service professionals that are not employed by the District be allowed in the buildings (ie. Physical Therapist)?

Yes. Agencies that we contract with to provide services to our students are considered essential and will be allowed in the buildings. These individuals will be required to complete a wellness questionnaire which includes monitoring of their temperature. For additional information, see [Reopening Matrix: Facilities](#) in the Reopening Guide.



Will teachers be able to hold class outside, weather permitting?

Yes. All teachers are encouraged to consider how they might extend the learning space to outside, when appropriate. For additional information, see [Social Distancing](#) in the Reopening Guide.



Will presentations for students and parents be permitted to be scheduled during evening hours?

No. Until further notice, buildings will be closed in the evening to allow for proper cleaning and sanitizing of our buildings and facilities. For additional information, see [Social Distancing](#) in the Reopening Guide.



Will there be any chorus, band, or orchestra ensembles this year?

Each building is working to determine the best plan of action to accommodate band, chorus, and orchestra, while maintaining proper social distancing of 12 feet. More information regarding what this will look like will be available prior to the start of the school year.





How are the needs of special education students being addressed in the Reopening Guide to ensure FAPE?

We will provide special education programs and services in a manner which ensures the provision of a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) for all students with a disability regardless of the mode of instructional delivery (i.e. in-person, hybrid, or remote). IEP implementation during in-person, remote or hybrid instruction will be delivered in a manner consistent with current NYSED Office of Special Education (OSE) guidance. Programs and related services will be delivered to the greatest extent possible in a manner that ensures the health and safety of students with disabilities and staff delivering services.



How will Physical Education classes be conducted?

Each building is working to determine the best plan of action to accommodate physical education, while maintaining proper social distancing of 12 feet. More information regarding what this will look like will be available prior to the start of the school year.



Will elementary students be traveling to special area classes like art, music, and PE?

Special area teachers in the elementary schools will be traveling to students classrooms. Teachers are encouraged to expand the learning space by taking students outside, when appropriate.

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING



How is Hamburg being proactive to address the Social Emotional and Mental Health struggles students, staff, and families may have when returning to school in the fall?

Social Emotional Learning has long been an area of focus for the Hamburg Schools, and we will continue to emphasize this for students and staff during this difficult time. We understand that time will need to be spent connecting with students and adjusting to being back at school. We made a change to the District calendar to include 4 days for professional learning days for staff at the beginning of school. This will allow time to remind staff of what to look for and how to respond. We will build off of the training all staff has had in [Youth Mental Health First Aid](#). For additional information, see [Social Emotional Learning](#) the Reopening Guide.



Communication and Family Engagement



Will Reopening Guide information and updates be posted on the District website?

Yes. The Reopening Guide can be found on the district website by going to: hamburgschools.org > About Us > [Reopening Guide 2020](#).

In addition, all of the Superintendent's communications to families are housed in one location on the website: hamburgschools.org > About Us > Superintendent > [School Reopening 2020](#)



What consequences will there be for those not following COVID-19 protocols while in school?

The District Code of Conduct Committee will be convening to review and revise the current code of conduct and add any additional guidance specific to COVID-19 protocols.



When will the District hold an open/live-streamed meeting for students and parents to ask questions and hear directly from administrators?

Three virtual parent forums are in the process of being scheduled. Additional information regarding accessing these forums will be forthcoming.

- August 19th @ 9am
- August 19th @ 6pm
- August 20th @ 12pm



How can families best engage with the reopening process to ensure that their questions and concerns are adequately addressed? Are older students given the opportunity participate in these meetings?

The stakeholder committee and all three working groups had parent representatives included to share concerns they are hearing from families in the community. As this process continues, reach out the appropriate representative for your concern and/or contact your child's building. In addition, we encourage families to participate in any of the parent forums scheduled the week of August 17th. For additional information, see [Community and Family Engagement](#) in the Reopening Guide.

