



Olga Hugelmeyer
Superintendent of Schools

April 23, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The Elizabeth Public Schools has continued to monitor various metrics and the guidance of health officials while remaining committed to maintaining the safety and wellbeing of our students. I am writing to welcome our families and to thank you for your patience.

We will reopen schools for in-person instruction for students in the following grades:

- Grades 4 & 5 – Monday, April 26
- Self-Contained Special Education Classes Grades 6-8 – Wednesday, April 28
- High School Juniors and Seniors - Thursday, April 29
- Self-Contained Special Education Classes Grades 9-12 – Thursday, April 29
- Grades 6-8 – Monday, May 3
- Freshman and Sophomores – Monday, May 3

The pandemic has presented us with many unprecedented challenges and hardships, but through our collective strength and resiliency as a community, we have reached this wonderful milestone. Elizabeth Public Schools is very excited to welcome your children back into our buildings for in-person teaching and learning.

Our Commitment to Creating Safe Learning Environments

Elizabeth Public Schools maintains its pledge to open schools responsibly, guided by the principles of exceeding minimum expectations to place health and safety first for our students and team members, providing high-quality instruction to all students, and delivering accurate and timely communication to team members and families

Please refer to our *Elizabeth Public Schools Reopening Together Plan Guidebook 2.0* <https://www.epsnj.org/site/Default.aspx?PageID=4192> for access to information regarding the extensive protective measures that have been put in place to make the return to school safe for children.

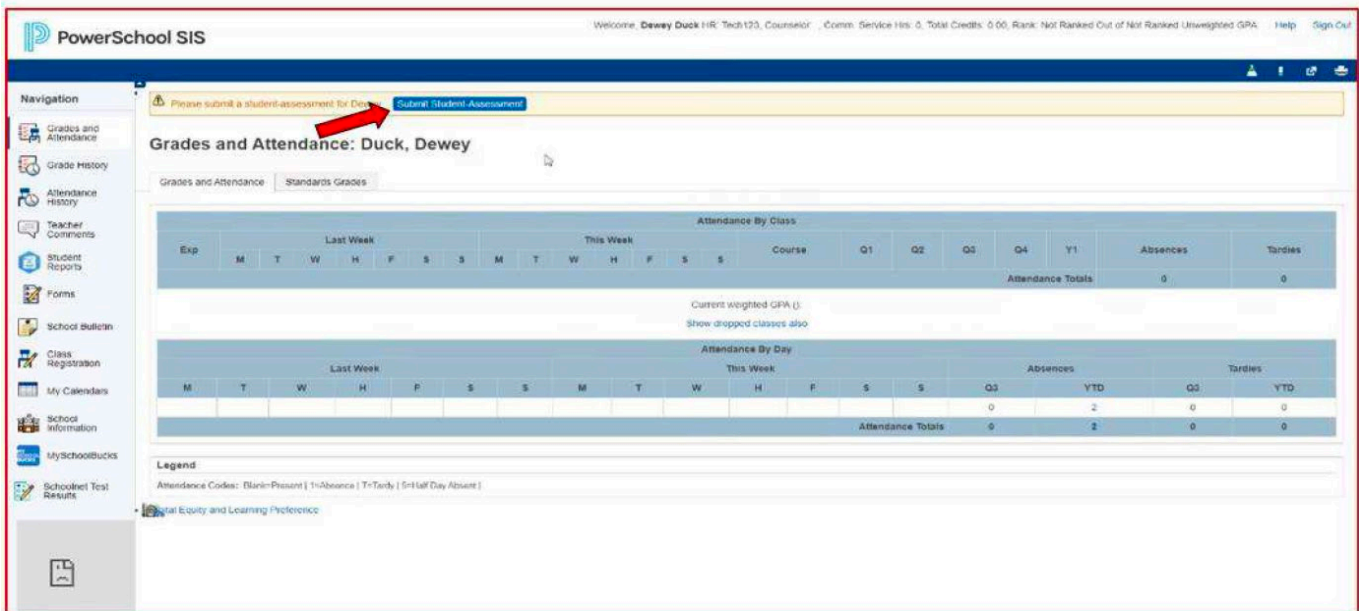
Office of the Superintendent of Schools

PK-8 Welcome Back Videos

In addition, we invite you to access a video to your child's school that demonstrates how a day of in-person instruction will look as we welcome back our students:

<https://www.epsnj.org/ReOpeningVideos>

This overview includes the protocols and the safety measures that will be followed daily by all of our team members. Videos can be found by going to the above link and clicking on your child's school name in the left column. **COVID-19 Assessment** Please be reminded that all students and staff must continue to be screened for symptoms each day. Parents or guardians need to complete a COVID-19 Assessment every day for each child. Parents can access the daily COVID-19 Assessment on their child's iPad or laptop by tapping on the PowerSchool icon.



The screenshot shows the PowerSchool SIS interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the PowerSchool SIS logo and user information: "Welcome, Dewey Duck HR: Tech123, Counselor Comm: Service Hrs: 0, Total Credits: 0.00, Rank: Not Ranked Out of Not Ranked Unweighted GPA: Help Sign Out". Below the navigation bar, there is a yellow notification banner that says "Please submit a student-assessment for Dewey Duck" with a red arrow pointing to a "Submit Student Assessment" button. The main content area is titled "Grades and Attendance: Duck, Dewey" and has two tabs: "Grades and Attendance" (selected) and "Standards Grades". The "Grades and Attendance" tab displays two tables. The first table is "Attendance By Class" and the second is "Attendance By Day". Both tables show attendance data for the last week and this week, including columns for days of the week (M, T, W, H, F, S, S) and summary columns for Absences and Tardies. The "Attendance By Day" table also includes columns for Absences YTD, Tardies YTD, and Attendance Totals. A legend at the bottom explains the attendance codes: (Blank)=Present | 1=Absence | T=Tardy | S=Half Day Absent.

The COVID-19 Assessment must be completed by the parent or guardian **no later than 9:00 p.m. on the night before the child is attending school**. If a child develops symptoms overnight, please contact the school. The COVID-19 Assessment is available in English, Spanish, Haitian-Creole and Portuguese. Parents and guardians will receive a daily phone call or text message with a reminder to complete the COVID-19 Assessment. Temperature screening (for students or staff) will be conducted using a contactless thermometer prior to boarding the school bus and prior to entering the school. Students will be excluded from entering classrooms if their parent has not completed the COVID-19 Assessment.

Steps for completing Daily COVID-19 Assessment

1. Log in to student's PowerSchool account by using a web browser and going to <https://eps.powerschool.com/public/> . **Do not use the PowerSchool app.**
2. Click "Submit Student Assessment" button at top of page

3. Complete Student Assessment form by clicking a response (Yes or No) for each question
4. Click “Submit” after responding to all questions
5. Click “OK” on the “Assessment Submitted” pop-up window
6. Complete the process for each of your children attending in-person instruction by selecting their account at the top left of the screen and repeating steps 2-5

Transportation

Transportation has been offered to parents that reside 2.0 miles and beyond and also for students whose IEP include transportation services. All are socially distanced on the bus.

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

Welcome back letters from principals will also be sent home with detailed information regarding arrival and dismissal procedures.

Daily Virtual Instructional Support

Teachers will continue to be available daily to interact with their students through virtual support from 2:00pm-3:00pm at the Pre-K – grade 8 level and 1:41pm – 2:14pm in grades 9-12. Teacher interaction in the afternoon may include small/whole group instruction, peer to peer instruction, follow up, questions, and check-in. Full-time distance learning has been made available for students in high-risk health categories or who are not comfortable returning to school in-person.

Travel Quarantine/Return to In-Person Instruction

Individual travel quarantine circumstances may dictate a delayed return to school for your child. If you have traveled internationally (outside the United States) or within the U.S. to states other than New York, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, or Delaware, you and your child are required to quarantine for 10 days. With regard to all travel, any child required to quarantine will be able to continue on virtual instruction during the quarantine period.

Grab and Go Breakfast/Lunch Program

Elizabeth Public Schools will continue to offer the Grab and Go lunch program as students return for in-person learning. All students may receive free meals regardless of status and parents are able to pick up the grab and go meals at the nearest location to their home. The latest information regarding available locations/dates/times for grab and go pick up can be found [here](#) on our district website.

Elizabeth Public Schools remains strongly committed to educating our students with health, wellness, and safety as a primary concern. We will continue to provide all students the best educational experience possible, with the academic and social-emotional support they need to learn during these challenging times.

Sincerely,



Olga Hugelmeyer