



Olga Hugelmeyer
Superintendent of Schools

July 30, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Elizabeth Public Schools is committed to providing high-quality instruction to all students while ensuring families have flexibility and choice in the instructional models offered to our students.

The district recently released reopening information for the 2020-2021 school year, including two instructional scenarios based on the extended process of gathering information from our learning community, advisory committees, taskforces and the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE):

1. **Social Distancing/Hybrid Plan-** The social distancing/hybrid plan would be a combination of distance and face-to-face instruction with increased safety and disinfecting measures as listed above, which could be done in a variety of configurations.
2. **Full Distance Learning Plan-** All students in the full distance learning plan would participate in the learning of new material, continued standard pacing, interactive lessons, graded assignments, and assessments.

NEW INFORMATION

Full Distance Learning Plan Information

At the end of the 2019-2020 school year, we received valuable information from you, our valued families, about your experience with our E-Remote Learning model. In the weeks since this past school year ended, we have used that time and gathered information to further develop and enhance our virtual learning model for a more comprehensive educational experience for our students.

Here are some of the important details related to our full distance learning plan:

- Students will log on to the same class as the students in Option 1 following the school schedule and will be able to ask questions.

Office of the Superintendent of Schools

- Students will receive interactive, teacher-led/synchronous instruction five days per week. This means daily interaction with teachers.
- Classes will follow a daily schedule similar to a normal school day.
- New instructional content will be taught, work will be graded, and attendance will be taken.
- Students will have opportunities for small-group work with teachers and peers.
- Comprehensive specialized services for English Learners, Special Education and Gifted students will be provided, including robust special education services (counseling, speech, OT, PT).
- Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) will be delivered through synchronous interaction with teachers and counselors.
- Parent Academies will be offered, with training and resources for parents to support learning at home.

CARES Act – Technology Funding

Elizabeth Public Schools is pleased to announce that due to \$6.9 million received from the the federally-funded CARES Act, the district is now capable of offering 100% connectivity and technology devices for all students and staff.

The \$6.9 million will support the purchase of 3,686 devices for PK students and teachers and another 6,218 devices for students and teachers in grades K – 2. Additionally, the funding has already provided internet connectivity for students learning remotely during summer school and will continue to provide remote learning internet connectivity for all district students throughout the 2020-2021 school year.

As a reminder, it is important for EPS families to know that the reopening recommendations may change based on a number of factors including:

- Changing health and safety guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH);
- Updated guidance from the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) and Governor Phil Murphy;
- Agreements with the District's labor union partners;

We again ask that you please make your selection **no later than 5 p.m. on August 1**. Your prompt attention is imperative to providing our schools the required time to schedule students and staff accordingly.

Thank you for your valued partnership and cooperation in support of our efforts to reopen schools in September.

Sincerely,



Olga Hugelmeyer
Superintendent of Schools