Reopening Our Schools Responsibly
OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Exceed minimum expectations to place health and safety first for our students and Team Members
- Provide High-quality instruction to all students
- Ensure families have flexibility and choice in the instructional models
- Deliver accurate and timely communication to team members and families as needed and keep all stakeholders informed throughout the school year.
OUR SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- Internal and external stakeholder groups
- Parent, Team Member, and Student surveys
- Mayor’s office
- Local Department of Public Health
- Elizabeth Police Department
- Governor’s office
- New Jersey Department of Education
- New Jersey Department of Health
- New Jersey Office of Emergency Management
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- American Academy of Pediatrics
OUR REOPENING TASK FORCE

Parent Reopening Schools Committee
Cabinet
Elizabeth Parent Teacher Organization
Elizabeth Special Education Parent Advocacy Committee
Elizabeth Bilingual Parent Advocacy Committee

Culture and Wellness Committee
Cabinet
Division of Human Resources
Department of Public Health Elizabeth Chief Medical Inspector &
Elizabeth City of Elizabeth Health Officer
Trinitas Hospital
OUR REOPENING TASK FORCE

Education Recovery Committee
Cabinet
Elizabeth Education Association
Elizabeth Administrators and Supervisors Association

Teaching and Learning Committee
Cabinet
Division of Early Childhood
Division of Elementary & Secondary Instruction
Division of Special Services
Division of Curriculum and Instruction
Division of Special Projects
Division of Staff Development and Innovative Programs
Division of Human Resources
Principals
OUR REOPENING TASK FORCE

Operations Committee
Cabinet
Division of Plant & Property
Division of Financial Services
Division of Human Resources

Equity and Community Engagement Committee
YMCA
Elizabeth – NAACP
Elizabeth -Early Childhood Providers
NJ PTA
EDUCATION CONTINUITY FOR LEARNING COMMITTEE

Technology Sub-Committee (Technology Instructional Coaches)
- Devices
- Access to internet

Students Sub-Committee (High School Student Government)
- School Nutrition
- Physical and Mental Health
- Social Emotional & Instructional Supports
Families Sub-Committee (PTO Presidents)
- School Nutrition
- Physical and Mental Health
- Social Emotional Supports
- Instructional Supports
- Professional Development – Distance Learning Pedagogy
- Health & Safety Considerations

Teachers Sub-Committee (PK/Elementary/High School/Bilingual and Special Education Teachers)
- School Nutrition
- Physical and Mental Health
- Social Emotional Supports & Instructional Supports
- Professional Development – Distance Learning Pedagogy
- Health & Safety Considerations
Initial Community Input – July (July 1 – July 10, 2020)

Initial Planning for Reopening Plan – Mid-July (July 15, 2020)

Continued Stakeholder Engagement – July-August (July 13-August 5, 2020)

Final Decisions on Reopening – Mid-August (August 11, 2020)

Final Preparations for Reopening – August (August 16 – September 4, 2020)
We invite parents, Team Members and 6-12 grade students to complete the Reopening Plan Survey specific to your group.

- Parent surveys will be available until July 10.
- Team Member surveys will be available until July 10
- Student Survey will be available until July 13

Results will be shared on our website at a later date. You can click on the links below to access the appropriate survey. The student survey links will also be emailed to epsnj.org email addresses.
The Reopening Together Plan

Planning and Preparation
We need you to know that guidance and orders from Federal, State and Local agencies change weekly, sometimes daily.

We are closely monitoring these changes and are conferencing regularly with other Districts to make sure that we are using the most current information available in making our decisions.
“New Normal” - The phased reopening is not a return to pre-pandemic normal. We all must all consistently take five core actions to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

1. Physical distancing
2. Wearing cloth face coverings
3. Handwashing
4. Cleaning surfaces
5. Staying home if you are sick

The guidance from the CDC includes social and physical distancing in classrooms, buses, and shared spaces. These are important COVID-19 prevention strategies. Physical distancing limits the number of students and staff who can be inside a school at any one time.
Modified In-Person Model - All students return to school with 6’ physical distancing

- Maximum number of students per classroom while maintaining 6’ feet of distancing
- Students in rows facing forward
- Students return to full-time school
WHAT ARE THE VARIABLES DRIVING THE DISTRICT’S REOPENING DECISION?

- Physical Distancing Requirements
- School Building Capacity
- Number of Students
PHYSICAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS
Option 1. Hybrid In-Person & Remote Learning: Students will engage in some in-person learning coupled with remote learning.

- Part-Time in School, part-time E-remote learning for all students
- Daily virtual instruction will be connected to each classroom daily as an improved structure for the E-remote learning program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Groups of Students</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group A</td>
<td>In-Person</td>
<td>Remote</td>
<td>In-Person</td>
<td>Remote</td>
<td>In-Person</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group B</td>
<td>Remote</td>
<td>In-Person</td>
<td>Remote</td>
<td>In-Person</td>
<td>Remote</td>
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Option 2. Hybrid In-Person & Remote Learning: Students will engage in some in-person learning coupled with remote learning.

- Part-Time in School for one week and the following week in E-Remote learning.
- Daily virtual instruction will be connected to each classroom daily as an improved structure for the E-remote learning program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Groups of Students</th>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Week 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Monday</td>
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Option 3. Full-Time Remote Learning – All students learn remotely
Reasonable accommodations should be provided for individuals that the Centers for Disease Control identifies as having a higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19, including older adults (aged 65 years and older) and individuals with disabilities or serious underlying medical conditions, which may include:

- Chronic lung disease or
- Asthma (moderate to severe)
- Serious heart conditions
- Immunocompromised
- Severe obesity (body mass index, or BMI, of 40 or higher)
- Diabetes
- Chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis
- Liver disease
- Medically fragile students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs)
- Students with complex disabilities with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs)
- Students who require accommodations under a Plan in accordance with the Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (504 Plan).
Providing 2 to 3 days of instruction per week

Remote Learning option will be offered if that is what the family desires

Daily virtual instruction will be connected to each classroom daily as an improved structure for the E-remote learning program.

Special needs students attending Out of District Schools may have a different plan compared to the district’s plan.
SAFETY PRECAUTIONS FOR ALL SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTS

- Require vendors to follow EPS recommendations when working in or entering facilities.
- Discontinue use of water fountains.
- Provide a cleaning frequency chart that addresses COVID-19 concerns.
- Request building staff to help with personal space disinfecting procedures.
SAFETY PRECAUTIONS FOR TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

- Implement 6 feet distancing on all buses.
- Masks must be worn by students and adults.
- Parents must declare whether students will be virtual or in-person.
- Require vendors to follow EPS recommendations when operating buses.
- Hand Sanitizer installed on buses with addition of routine bus sanitization.
Social-Emotional Learning needs to be a top priority in all of our EPS classrooms Pk-12.

- Identify the students that require additional socio-emotional supports
- Make resources available for students, staff and team members
- School Counseling and Social Work services (In-Person or in a virtual format)
FUTURE TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED

- Transportation
- Education for at-risk students
- Athletics – Phase 2 Guidelines will be issued on July 26, 2020
- Recess and Passing Periods
- Lunch – Grab and Go
- Physical Education
- Visitor Management
- Extra-curricular Activities
Families are asked to communicate their intent to participate in this model by July 15. Parents must declare whether students will be virtual or in-person.

By responding by this date, our district can plan and schedule both the in-person and remote learning.

Teachers will also be surveyed about both in-person and remote learning.
Reopening Together
September 2020

ELIZABETH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Every Child, Achieving Excellence