

City School District of Albany

2020-21 Elementary Reopening
Parent/Guardian/Community Forum
Information is subject to change

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Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Instruction
July 21, 2020



CSDA Guiding Principles

Vision Statement

The City School District of Albany will be a district of excellence with caring relationships and engaging learning experiences that provide equitable opportunities for all students to reach their potential.

Mission Statement

We will work in partnership with our diverse community to engage every learner in a robust educational program designed to provide the knowledge and skills necessary for success.

Goals

Increase student achievement

Enhance the delivery of quality instruction

Build our leadership capacity

Empower families

Partner with our diverse community

2020-21 Elementary Student Forum

Provide an update and opportunity for feedback on the planning process and status of reopening schools in September.

If you have questions or feedback you would like to provide during this focus group, please use the **Chat function** on your screen.

We will answer as many new questions as time allows.

2020-21 Elementary Student Forum

Superintendent Adams charged the Elementary Reopening Committee with developing recommendations for reimagining elementary schools in the time of the COVID-19 pandemic. She asked the committee to define the framework for learning in three modalities: fully on-site, blended and fully virtual/off-site.

The team's best thinking to date, given the parameters, is presented within. The team continues to research, review guidance documents from the Reimagine Education Advisory Council and the NYS Departments of Health and Education, and seek input from stakeholders to inform this recommendation.

Our ultimate goal and purpose is to present our best recommendation for a safe plan for reopening that creates the most conducive learning environment within the guidance parameters.

CSDA 2020-21 Reopening

Planning Committee: Elementary School

Name	School	Role	Name	School	Role
Ashley Chapple	District	Director of Health, PE and Athletics	Leah Gaetano	MMS	Special Education Teacher
Betsy Wright	AHES	ELA Coach	Linda Mitchell	Giffen	Teaching Assistant
Cecily Wilson-Turner	District	Assistant Superintendent	Lynn Strang	District	Humanities Instructional Supervisor
Rosanna Cheuk	SPA	ENL Teacher	Marie Culihan	ASH	Principal
Deanna Carras	MMS	4th Grade Teacher	Megan Riggins		Math Coach
Emily Lawyer	District	Assistant Director Special Education	Melissa Hasty	District	Early Childhood Director
Jeremy Dudley	District	Instructional Technology Coach	Melissa Hunt	SPA	Kindergarten Teacher/APSTA Elementary VP
John Powell	MMS	Principal	Michele Bridgewater	District	District Improvement Director/APSAA President
Kate Wright	District	Art & Music Instructional Supervisor	Nicole Lindeman	District	Instructional Supervisor
Ken Lein	DCS	Principal	Rich Gargiula	AHES	5th Grade Teacher
Kendra Chaires-Francis	PSAA	Principal	Sara McGraw	District	STEM Instructional Supervisor
Kerri Barrington	District	Data Coach	Tia Cornel	PHES	Principal
Kim McDonough	TOAST	Instructional Coach	Zuleika Sanchez-Gayle	SPA	Principal

2020-21 Reopening Discussion

Required components of our Reopening Plan

- Parent choice: in-person, hybrid, virtual
- Enhanced academic rigor and accountability
- Students and employees wearing masks
 - Families are asked to provide masks for their children
 - The district will have replacement masks and also face shields as an option for employees
- Daily health screenings for all employees and students
- Parents asked to take their child's temperature daily before coming to school
- Contact tracing and coordination with local health department guidelines
- Daily cleaning and disinfecting protocols
- Shared books and supplies minimized.
 - Where used, books (e.g., library books, trade books) and supplies (e.g., science lab materials) will be disinfected or allowed to remain untouched for three days between use (or length specified by CDC)
- School visitors will be restricted to those required for school business
- Students and staff will be trained on proper hand hygiene practices

CSDA 2020-21 Reopening

Elementary Reopening Overview – Current Status

Overview

- Planning for PK-5 students to attend school every day
- Sixth-grade classes at ASH, Eagle Point, Giffen and TOAST may follow the middle school schedule
- Classes split in half to classes of 12 students spaced 6 feet apart, or classes placed in larger learning environments (gym, café, library) to house full classes 6 feet apart
- Staff is assigned to best support the needs of all students; however, all students may be with their classroom teacher for half of the day
- Goal to provide core teaching staff a half-day of planning and professional development each week

Note: No decisions have been finalized at this time.

CSDA 2020-21 Reopening

Elementary Reopening Overview – Current Status

Overview

- Staggered arrival/dismissal to allow for student symptom screenings, grab-and-go breakfast and daily teacher planning time
- Students and employees will wear masks and maintain 6 feet of social distancing
- Students have individual sets of all classroom and personal materials
- Limited student movement, reduced adult contact
- Students are primarily located in one space for the duration of the day
- Use outdoors and hallways to create opportunities for movement breaks and recess for students in their assigned group

Note: No decisions have been finalized at this time.

CSDA 2020-21 Reopening

Building Space and Staffing – Current Status

Space for class sizes of 12+ at 6 feet apart

- ASH, Arbor Hill, Giffen, Eagle Point, Montessori, Pine Hills, TOAST may keep all PK-5
- Delaware Dual Language and PK-5 at New Scotland may relocate to Myers
- Schuyler and Sheridan Prep may send grades 4-5 to Clement
- Some self-contained sections may relocate with grade-level peers
- Sixth-grade students from ASH, Eagle Point, Giffen and TOAST may attend Hackett, North Albany or O’Neal

Staffing for class sizes of 12+

- Core, encore (PE, Art, Music, Library), reading, ENL, hall monitors and teaching assistants (supervision)

Staffing for rotation to provide required services

- Instructional coaches, social workers, school psychologist, speech therapists and behavior specialists may also be needed for supervision, in addition to 30+ secondary staff (hall monitors and TAs)

9 *Note: No decisions have been finalized at this time.*

CSDA 2020-21 Reopening

Recommendation for the Structure of the Day

- Classroom teacher may provide a half-day of instruction to each group
- A supervising adult may provide the supervision/instruction for the other half of the day
- Supervision may be fluid, with split classrooms to ensure that teacher-facilitated instruction and student-led instruction is balanced and best for students
- Encore teachers may rotate through classes to provide live instruction and supervision to each class in half-day sessions
- Reading, ENL and speech teachers may be assigned supervision rotations that allow them to provide required services to a different grade level each week

Note: No decisions have been finalized at this time.

CSDA 2020-21 Reopening

Recommendations for Curriculum and Instruction

➤ Flipped classroom

- Instructional model where students lead their learning with tasks to build background knowledge and practice when they are with the supervising adult
- Teacher-facilitated time is used to provide explicit teaching and feedback to advance student learning

➤ Virtual Instruction

- Google Classroom, Nearpod, Dreambox, Lexia Wonders, Envisions and Foss will be the primary resources for virtual learning. They may be active year-round to support in-person instruction, remote instruction, and potential temporary and long-term closures
- A schedule of live instruction may be provided for each grade level
- Student attendance will be taken
- Standards-based approach to grading
- Grab-and-go materials will be established for each classroom
- Teachers and coaches will support the structure for virtual instruction

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Next Steps

- Assess transportation capacity to serve all eligible elementary-level students with social distancing and PPE guidelines in place
- Determine multiple entry points at each building and design staggered arrival and dismissal procedures
- Finalize staff and student supervision pairings, rotations and schedules
- Develop robust guidelines and resources:
 - flipped instruction
 - exclusively virtual instruction
 - teacher professional development and planning (academic, social-emotional and procedural)
- Develop a communication plan for students, families and staff to provide clear guidance on re-entry procedures

CSDA 2020-21 Reopening

Planning Committee: Student/Parent/Community Forums

- 646 survey participants
- 3,632 total comments and questions
- 9 categories

Frequently Asked Questions

Delivery of instruction

- **Online Q:** Will students be held more accountable for grades and participation than in the spring?
- **Hybrid Q:** What percent of instruction will be online and what will be in-person?
- **In-person Q:** How many students will receive instruction at a given time?

Transportation

Q: How will social distancing be maintained and enforced on buses, and how frequently will buses be cleaned and sanitized?

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Planning Committee: Student/Parent/Community Forums

Frequently Asked Questions (continued)

Athletics

Q: What safety precautions will the district implement and enforce to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among student-athletes, coaches and spectators during the fall?

Safety and security

Q: What will be done to enforce social distancing, handwashing and other safety protocols during the school day, including arrival and departure? What consequences will individuals face if they intentionally refuse to comply?

Health screening

Q: How will screening be handled – process, frequency, etc. – for all students, employees and building visitors?

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Planning Committee: Student/Parent/Community Forums

Frequently Asked Questions (continued)

Health and hygiene

Q: What procedures will be in place to ensure that adequate supplies of hand sanitizer, soap, paper towels and PPE are available to students and staff in buildings? How will you assure that students can easily access sinks for handwashing during the school day?

Breakfast and lunch

Q: Where will students eat their meals, and how will you enforce social distancing while students eat and are not wearing masks?

Technology

Q: What is the district doing to provide a laptop to every student and Internet access to every home that doesn't have it?

Other

Q: How will the district handle it if a student or teacher tests positive for COVID-19?

Questions

If you have additional new questions or feedback you would like to provide, please use the **Chat function** on your screen.

We will answer as many new questions as time allows.

