



# Old Tappan Public Schools Re-Opening FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)

QUESTION	ANSWER
<b>Return-to-School Plan</b>	
<p><b><i>What is the District's plan for re-opening schools for 2020-2021?</i></b></p>	<p>In this <a href="#">presentation</a>, the two-phased approach to re-opening schools is explained. During Phase I, which will start in September, all students will return for in-person instruction five days a week. The students will be dismissed at 12:30 PM. Students, who are unable to return to school due to illness, disability, quarantine, or parental choice, will engage in asynchronous instruction in the morning and then in the afternoon will engage in synchronous instruction with the teachers.</p> <p>During Phase II, which is likely to begin in October, the District is planning on having all students resume full-day schedules, five days a week. Students, who are unable to return to school due to illness, disability, quarantine, or parental choice, will continue with a combination of asynchronous and synchronous instruction. The schedule for synchronous instruction will vary from the Phase I schedule due to the teachers' availability.</p>
<p><b><i>When is the first day of school?</i></b></p>	<p>Our first day of school for students is now Thursday, 9/3/2020. This date was shifted back by one day from the originally-approved calendar. <i>Updated 8/24/20</i></p>
<p><b><i>What could change the Plan?</i></b></p>	<p>The Re-Opening Plan has to be reviewed by the County Department of</p>

	<p>Education and approved by the State Department of Education. If the Plan is not approved, it could change. Districts will not receive formal notifications of approval from the State Department of Education; however, districts will be contacted if changes need to be made. <i>Updated 8/24/20</i></p> <p>Any imposed directive by the Department of Education or the Governor's Office could change the District's Plan at any time.</p>
<p><b><i>Why is the District choosing a phased approach?</i></b></p>	<p>We are working in phases to allow students and staff to get acclimated to following very different routines, little movement and the usage of PPE when back in school.</p> <p>Once we know that the structured parts of the day are running smoothly, we will introduce lunch and recess, which tends to be a slightly more unstructured time for children. Although, in Phase II, it will be a more structured time than usual.</p> <p>Phase II also will require an additional 1.5 hours back in the same classroom after lunch and recess. This will be a gradual increase of time, allowing everyone to acclimate to our new ways.</p> <p>Phase I will also give us the scalability necessary to adjust for the volume of virtual instruction necessary, based on need and parental choice.</p> <p>Our hope is to introduce Phase II in the early fall, given adherence to directives at the time. If our time frame needs to be adjusted, we will not hesitate to do so. The return to school has to feel as safe and positive as possible for children and staff.</p>
<p><b><i>What other models were considered?</i></b></p>	<p>We considered a schedule with alternating days. However, with the ability to secure desktop PPE for</p>

	<p>students, we opted to maximize instructional days for all students.</p>
<p><b><i>Will students move to different classrooms?</i></b></p>	<p>The students, in both schools, will remain in cohort groups during the school day and will not move around the school buildings. This approach will aid in contact tracing, if necessary, and will reduce the number of people students come into contact with during the day. The teachers will be moving to the classes to provide special-area instruction and/or to provide subject area instruction.</p> <p>Students receiving specialized services will receive those services in locations outside of the classroom; however, enough time has to be scheduled for the cleaning of the space between services/sessions. Additionally, before re-entering the classroom, the student must wash his/her hands.</p>
<p><b><i>How will students be grouped in cohorts?</i></b></p>	<p>The principals will create class groups as they usually do. They will do their best to take into consideration the myriad factors that they usually do when forming classes. In the upper grades of the middle school, where math classes are leveled, the students' math levels will be used as a basis in the formation of the cohort groups.</p>
<p><b><i>What is the difference between synchronous and asynchronous instruction?</i></b></p>	<p>Synchronous learning is interactive, two-way online or distance education that happens in real-time with a teacher, whereas asynchronous learning occurs virtually online and through prepared resources, without real-time, teacher-led interaction.</p>
<p><b><i>What is included in the full-time remote e-Learning model?</i></b></p>	<p>Students who are unable to return to school during Phase I will engage in self-paced asynchronous instruction during the morning while the teachers are working with the students in school. When appropriate, students will be able to connect digitally with their classes</p>

	<p>Synchronous instruction with the teachers will run in the afternoons.</p> <p>After we move into Phase II (full day), the time for synchronous instruction may be varied based on the faculty members' availability.</p> <p>Social-emotional learning lessons will be delivered/accessible for all students.</p> <p>All subject areas will be delivered remotely, with new content, and there will be an assessment of the prior year's learning.</p> <p>The guidance counselor or other school point-person will monitor the children who are unable to return to school.</p> <p>Families will receive notification during the first week of September to come to the school to pick-up the students' school materials that would have typically been distributed in the classrooms on the first days.</p> <p><i>Updated 8/24/20</i></p>
<p><b><i>What support will be provided for English learners?</i></b></p>	<p>For all grade levels, instruction will be provided to English learners as required.</p>
<p><b><i>What support will be provided for special education students or students with 504 Plans?</i></b></p>	<p>For all grade levels, additional instruction and specialized services will be provided for special education students based on their Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) or for students with 504 Plans.</p>
<p><b><i>What support will be provided for gifted education (LEAP) students?</i></b></p>	<p>Students eligible for the LEAP program will receive enrichment services by the LEAP teacher. We will evaluate students at the start of the 2020-2021 school year to determine eligibility for new program participants.</p>
<p><b><i>Will after-care be provided during Phase I?</i></b></p>	<p>Yes, after-care will be provided by the Wyckoff Y (YMCA) during Phase I. The Wyckoff Y typically provides our after-care program. Their informational</p>

	flyer is <a href="#">here</a> .
<b>Selection Process for Families</b>	
<b><i>What is the process for families to choose their preferred instructional model?</i></b>	<p>After reviewing the <a href="#">Re-Opening Plan presentation</a>, families should respond to the <a href="#">Return-to-School Intention Survey</a> by Friday, 8/7/20.</p> <p>If students are unable to return to school, those families should also contact their children's schools by Friday, 8/21/20, to further the discussion and prepare for e-Learning.</p> <p>The Superintendent sent specific confirmation communication to those families who selected the fully remote e-learning instructional model for their children. Additional communication will follow regarding the pick-up of school materials in early September.</p> <p><i>Updated 8/24/20</i></p>
<b><i>What happens if a family does not respond to select an instructional model by the deadline?</i></b>	If a family does not respond to the <a href="#">Return-to-School Intention Survey</a> , it will be assumed the child(ren) will return to school.
<b><i>Can families switch between models?</i></b>	We understand that these are uncertain and unsettling times. We are encouraging families to give this a lot of thought before responding to the <a href="#">Return-to-School Intention Survey</a> ; however, we do understand that changes may be necessary. If a change is necessary, please contact the school.
<b><i>Will families who register after 8/7/20 be able to select their preferred instructional model?</i></b>	Families who register after the Return-to-School Intention Survey closed on 8/7/20 will have the opportunity to select their preferred instructional model upon registration.
<b>Health, Safety, and Wellness</b>	
<b><i>What steps is the District taking to keep students, faculty, and staff safe?</i></b>	The health and safety of our school community are a top priority in planning for returning to school. We have aligned

	<p>our operations to local, state, and public health guidelines. We have worked with the Northwest Bergen Regional Health Commission as well as with our school physician. To understand all of the protocols and procedures that will be put in place, please view this <a href="#">presentation</a>.</p>
<p><b><i>Will face coverings (masks) be required?</i></b></p>	<p>Face coverings will be required for all employees, inside and outside. Face coverings will be required for all students, inside and outside. When students are entering the building, dismissing from the building, in common areas, and moving around the classrooms, face coverings must be worn. When students are seated at their desks, they must wear their face coverings. If students need to get some air, they may remove their face coverings for a moment when they are behind their desk shields. <i>This has been updated based on Governor Murphy's directive, shared on 8/3/20, that everyone attending schools must wear masks at all times, unless medically exempt.</i></p>
<p><b><i>Will face coverings (masks) be provided?</i></b></p>	<p>The District will be providing five (5) washable masks for every student and every employee. The District will be providing washable masks to substitute teachers. Additionally, the District will be providing a face shield to every student and employee.</p>
<p><b><i>Do students have to wear the District-provided face coverings (masks)?</i></b></p>	<p>No, students do not have to wear the District-issued masks. Students may choose to wear their own masks. However, masks should not be vented. According to our school physician, students are not permitted to wear neck gaiters. <i>Updated 8/24/20</i></p>
<p><b><i>How is physical distancing going to be maintained?</i></b></p>	<p>Physical distancing will be maintained to the greatest extent possible. Excess furniture in classrooms is being removed to allow remaining furniture to be separated and set up to face in one</p>

	<p>direction. When physical distancing is not possible or the distancing is not ideal, students will be required to wear face coverings.</p>
<p><b>What temperature is considered too high to enter school?</b></p>	<p>We will be conducting daily temperature checks of students and staff. Temperatures at 100 degrees Fahrenheit or above are considered too high to enter school.</p> <p>In addition to the temperature checks, families and staff will be required to complete a digital Attestation Form -- once in the digital Summer Packet and then once every two weeks (<a href="#">sample here</a>). The form reminds everyone of the health and wellness standards that must be upheld to keep our school community healthy and safe. Families also will be asked to conduct a daily at-home screening before preparing to send their children to school.</p> <p><i>Updated 8/24/20</i></p>
<p><b>What are the traffic patterns that should assist us with our temperature checks at the schools?</b></p>	<p>The Old Tappan Police Department has been helpful in planning traffic patterns that should assist us with temperature checks at both schools. Here are the routes: <a href="#">TBD Route Only</a>, <a href="#">TBD and CDW Only</a>, and <a href="#">CDW Only</a>.</p> <p><i>Updated 8/24/20</i></p>
<p><b>Will visitors be restricted from coming into the buildings?</b></p>	<p>Yes, as a health and safety measure, all visitors are restricted from entering into the buildings until further notice. Volunteer opportunities are also suspended until further notice.</p>
<p><b>If there is a diagnosis of COVID-19 in a building, what will happen?</b></p>	<p>The NJ Department of Health and local health departments developed a <a href="#">guidebook</a> for all schools to follow. This gives direction to schools if there is a presumptive-positive case or a confirmed-positive case among students and staff.</p> <p><i>Updated 8/24/20</i></p>
<p><b>Technology</b></p>	

<p><b><i>If there were another imposed school closure, would students have access to technology?</i></b></p>	<p>If schools were directed to close again, families in need of devices for their children would be permitted to borrow District-issued Chromebooks.</p>
<p><b><i>What steps has the District taken to prepare for e-Learning, if it were to become a reality again?</i></b></p>	<p>During these summer months, the faculty has engaged in learning opportunities to augment their knowledge and skills about online teaching and learning.</p> <p>The District purchased additional Chromebooks to allow for replenishment in classrooms and rotation to carts that could be used as loaner devices if needed again.</p>
<p><b>Community Engagement</b></p>	
<p><b><i>What is the best way to stay informed about re-opening?</i></b></p>	<p>The Superintendent will communicate with families on Fridays during the remaining weeks of summer leading up to the return to school. The communications will indicate if there is a change to the Plan or if everything remains status quo and on track.</p> <p>Visit the <a href="#">District website</a> frequently for the latest information and updates.</p>