

North Greenbush Common School District

Little Red School House—Grades K-1

Reopening Plan

Introduction

The North Greenbush Common School District worked with a cross-section of stakeholders to develop school reopening plans that provide a safe learning environment for students and staff this fall. Stakeholders followed the guidance released by the New York State Education Department to create a comprehensive plan that centers around the health and safety of our school community to provide equity and access to a quality education while also meeting the social-emotional needs of our students.

The committee was established to assist the district by providing feedback into the development of our reopening plans. The committee met and parents were surveyed to collect and analyze pertinent information to be considered when developing this plan. Our committee reviewed resources such as CDC guidelines, resources from NYS Department of Health, Questar III documents and guidance provided by the New York State Education Department.

The following principles guided our school reopening plans:

- The health, safety, and well-being of our students and adults is our top priority.
- Equity and access for all students must be a consideration for every part of our plan,
- Flexibility to provide in person or remote learning environment as needed so that we are prepared to move from one model to another if regulatory changes occur during the school year.
- Our school reopening plans are student-centered with a safe learning environment at its core.

Communication/Family and Community Engagement

Communication between the district and students, parents and staff as well as fostering family engagement is of utmost importance. Schools and districts must develop a communication plan for students, parents or legal guardians of students, staff, and visitors that includes applicable instructions, training, signage, and a consistent means to provide individuals with information via district web pages, email groups, letters and direct contact by phone.

All students must be taught or trained how to follow new COVID-19 protocols safely and correctly, including but not limited to hand hygiene, proper use of face covering, social distancing and respiratory hygiene. Schools and districts must encourage all students, faculty, staff, and visitors through verbal and written communication (e.g. signage) to adhere to CDC and DOH guidance regarding the use of PPE, specifically acceptable face coverings, when a social distance cannot be maintained. Communications must be provided in the language(s) spoken at home among families

and throughout the school community. Written plans must be accessible to those with visual and/or hearing impairments.

The District will:

- Use our stakeholder committee of parents, teachers, administrators, school nurse and community members to assist with creating our reopening plan.
- Post and maintain all school reopening plans on the District website and have hard copies available at the school and the district office in the languages spoken by families.
- Update our Parent Handbook to include district COVID-19 procedures, send informational updates via e-mail and/or direct mail.
- Immediately notify the local health department about potential COVID cases and work closely with local health department guidelines for contact tracing and coordination as needed.
- Immediately notify parents of any confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 within the school community as per notification from Rensselaer County Department of Health.

Health and Safety

Schools and districts are required to perform health checks and screenings, per DOH guidance, and recognize signs and symptoms of illness in students and staff; maximize social distancing; manage and isolate ill persons until they can be sent home; instruct students and staff in proper hand and respiratory hygiene; require face coverings; and clean/disinfect the schools in accordance with CDC and DOH guidance. The district is required to appoint a COVID-19 Safety Coordinator.

All students and staff are required to:

- Participate in daily health screenings.
- Wear masks over their nose and mouth except for periodic breaks during the day when social distancing requirements can be met
- Wear a mask to ride the school bus and wear it while entering, exiting, and while seated.
- Wear a mask while driving students to/from school (bus drivers/aides).
- Maintain 6 ft. of social distancing while in school and on school grounds wherever appropriate (e.g. common areas such as entrances/exits, lobbies, etc.).
- Participate in training provided by the District on proper practices of hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene and social distancing.

Parents will:

- Provide their child with a cloth mask to wear everyday
- Provide their child with a water bottle everyday.
- Be encouraged to take their child's temperature before coming to school every day.
- Keep their child(ren) home from school if they display a temperature greater than 100.0 Fahrenheit.

The District will:

- Appoint a Safety Coordinator at its August Board Meeting.

- Ensure that personnel performing in-person screening activities are properly trained and appropriately protected from exposure.
- Require daily temperature checks for all individuals before entering our schools. No one with a temperature greater than 100 Fahrenheit will be permitted to enter except to be quarantined in a designated, supervised area until the individual(s) can be safely removed from school premises. All efforts will be made to protect the confidentiality of the individual(s).
- Notify the local health department about potential COVID cases and work closely with local health department guidelines for contact tracing and coordination as needed.
- Consult with the local health department about the requirements for determining when an individual who has tested positive can return to the in-person learning environment.
- Provide disposable masks for anyone without a mask.
- Provide and maintain hand hygiene stations, including handwashing soap, warm water, and disposable paper towels, as well as alcohol hand sanitizer (60% or more) for areas where handwashing is not feasible.
- Conduct daily cleaning and disinfecting protocols as well as a deep disinfection of all areas of the school each school session day. All products used will be in compliance with all COVID-19 safety guidelines.
- Ensure regular cleaning and disinfection of restrooms and distancing rules will apply.
- Provide for the cleaning and disinfection of exposed areas in the event an individual is confirmed to have COVID-19. Cleaning and disinfection practices that follow CDC guidelines will include heavy traffic areas and high touch surfaces such as desks and tables.
- Ensure that shared books and supplies will be minimized and where used, books (e.g., library books, trade books), supplies (e.g., science lab materials) will be disinfected or allowed to remain untouched for 3 days between use (or length specified by CDC).
- Restrict school visitors to only those required for school business.
- Train students and staff on proper hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene and social distancing practices.

Facilities

Schools and districts are required to promote social distancing while maintaining existing safety requirements designed to protect students. To accomplish this, our schools will change the way they utilize space. Ventilation and filtration requirements will be met or exceeded to support air quality.

Schools are required to conduct mandatory fire and lockdown drills. These drills will be conducted in a manner that maintains social distancing at exits and gathering points outside the building, while still preparing students to respond in emergencies.

The District will:

- Ensure filtration and ventilation systems meet or exceed minimum requirements.
- Encourage teachers to have windows open and instruct parts of classes outdoors, where practical and feasible.

- Provide individual desks with personal materials & supplies and an I-pad for each student.
- Provide students and teachers with disposable paper cups for drinking water and provide a backup of bottled water for use as needed.
- Conduct mandatory fire and lockdown drills using SED guidance.

Child Nutrition

Schools and districts enrolled in the School Food Authorities (SFA) must provide all enrolled students with access to school meals each day whether school is in-person or remote; address all applicable health and safety guidelines; ensure compliance with Child Nutrition Program requirements; and communicate with families through multiple means, in the language spoken by those families.

*Students attending the Little Red School House bring in their lunches every day as our school does not qualify as an SFA.

The District will:

- Ensure that all students will be eating in their classroom, at their desks and at the appropriate social distance.
- Provide alternate locations for students with severe food allergies, as needed.
- Provide supervision during meal times and prohibit the sharing of food and beverages unless members of the same household.

Transportation

Schools and districts must provide transportation services to all students with consistency and equity. Districts are required to ensure that school buses have regular disinfection measures. Students are to be trained about the wearing of masks and social distancing on the bus, at stops, and at loading/unloading times.

The District will:

- Require masks on school buses--students must wear a mask to ride the school bus and wear it while entering, exiting, and while seated.
- Require that school bus drivers and aides must wear a mask while driving students to/from school.
- Encourage parents/guardians to screen their child(ren) for fever/signs of COVID prior to getting on the bus; sick students must be kept home.
- Assign seats on buses for all students that provide appropriate social distancing, with one child per seat. (Members of the same household may sit together on the bus).
- Encourage parents to drive their children to/from school where feasible.
- Ensure that our bus vendor disinfects the bus after each bus run.

Social-Emotional Well Being

Schools and districts must prioritize social emotional well-being; not at the expense of academics, but to create the mental, social, and emotional space for academic learning to occur.

The District will:

- Continue to support a safe, supportive learning environment that nurture our students' social and emotional learning, whether in person or remote instruction.
- Ensure that our teaching staff provide regular check-ins with each student and their families on a regular basis, regardless of mode of instruction.
- Review and update the social-emotional learning lessons that are embedded within our academic lessons in our small community school.
- Provide professional learning and support to staff in order to address identified topics related to physical and social-emotional well-being practices.

School Schedules

Schools are required to develop a comprehensive plan for a schedule that includes in-person or remote instruction. The schedule must support state and local health and safety guidelines and ensure social distancing practices.

The District will:

- Provide dedicated time during the first week of school to teach our K-1 students about the new safety protocols.
- Instruction will be provided using longer periods to reduce the number of movements within the instructional space.
- Limit in-person presence to only those staff who are necessary to be at the building during normal school hours in order to reduce the student contact exposures each day.
- Provide remote instruction in the event school buildings are compelled to close.
- Require students to participate in classroom work remotely and to complete assignments.

Budget and Fiscal Matters

Schools and districts must continue to meet existing state aid reporting requirements. Additionally, the content of data submissions, such as attendance data, will remain consistent with past practice, except where modified by law, regulation or executive order.

Attendance and Chronic Absenteeism

Schools must collect and report daily teacher-student engagement or attendance whether the setting is in person or remote. School policies and procedures must focus on the academic consequences of lost instructional time and address absences before students fall behind in school.

The district will:

- Take student and staff attendance daily.

- Monitor and review student attendance in order to address any compliance requirements so students will not fall behind in school.
- Reach out to parents via phone call, email and if need be, conduct a home visit to discuss and address attendance concerns.

Technology and Connectivity

Schools and districts must determine the level of access and tech support all students and teachers have in their places of residence. To the extent practicable, schools should address the need to provide devices and internet access to students (and teachers) who currently do not have sufficient access and provide multiple ways for students to participate in learning and demonstrate their mastery of the learning standards in remote instructional models.

The district will:

- Evaluate the surveys of parents (Family Digital Access Survey & Feedback Survey on remote learning last year) to determine the level of access to computing devices and internet connectivity to which students have access in their homes.
- Provide computing devices and internet access to any student who currently does not have sufficient access.
- Provide technical support for parents and teachers as needed.

Career and Technical Education

N/A (K-1 School Only)

Athletics and Extracurricular Activities

N/A (K-1 School Only)

Special Education

School districts must ensure the provision of FAPE (Free and Appropriate Public Education) is consistent with the need to protect the health and safety of students with disabilities and those providing special education services.

Schools and districts should consider in-person services a priority for high-needs students and preschool students with disabilities whenever possible and consider contingency plans developed by the CPSE/CSE to address remote learning needs in the event of intermittent or extended school closures.

The District will:

- Provide meaningful parent engagement in the parent's preferred language or mode of communication regarding the provision of services to his/her child to meet the requirements of

IDEA.

- Provide and implement services required by the CSE for any/all students with disabilities
- Ensure access to the necessary accommodations, modifications, supplementary aids & services and technology to meet the unique disability related needs of students.
- Continue to provide instruction to students in self-contained, special education programs daily whether onsite or remotely when school is in session.

English New Language and World Languages

Schools must provide all communications to parents/guardians of English Language Learners (ELLs) in their preferred language and mode of communication to ensure that they have equitable access to critical information about their children's education. Schools must ensure that all ELLs receive appropriate instruction that supports college, career, and civic readiness, by providing them the required instructional Units of Study in their English as a New Language program based on their most recently measured English language proficiency level.

Schools must conduct ELL identification for all students who enrolled during COVID-related school closures in 2019-20, during the summer 2020, and during the first 20 days of the 2020-21 school year within 30 days of the start of the school year. Schools and districts must provide professional learning opportunities related to the instruction and support of ELLs to all educators, as required by Part 154 of the Commissioner's regulations.

The District will:

- Align policies to the blueprint for English Language Learner/Multilingual learner success.
- Adopt progress monitoring tools to measure ELL proficiency.
- Provide social-emotional learning supports to ELLs in their home language.
- Continue using technology in ELL instruction.

Staffing and Human Resources

Schools and districts must ensure that all teachers, school and district leaders and pupil personnel service professionals hold a valid and appropriate certification for their assignment.

Teacher and Principal Evaluation System

Schools should consider whether their currently approved APPR plans need to be revised in order to be consistent with their plans for re-opening under an in-person, remote or hybrid instructional model.

Student Teaching

Schools should identify appropriate ways in which student teachers can support classroom instruction.

General School Information

- There will be no field trips for the time being.