



## Overview

The following answers are meant to provide clarity for families as they determine whether to request a learning model switch for the second semester (February 1, 2021 through the end of the year). Learning model assignments will be for the entirety of the second semester.

## Definitions

**Hybrid** - Students are assigned to a cohort and report to school every other day. Days that students are in school are referred to as synchronous. On the days that your student does not report to school, he/she will be assigned work to be completed at your convenience during the day. At home days are referred to as asynchronous.

**100% Remote** - Students are assigned to a cohort and report to scheduled, virtual classes every other day. Days that students are scheduled, virtual classes are referred to as synchronous. On the days that your student does not report to scheduled, virtual classes, he/she will be assigned work to be completed at your convenience during the day. At home days are referred to as asynchronous. It is important to note that synchronous days require students to be a part of lessons for the full school day.

## Five Days of Instruction

### **When will the district return to full-time (5 day a week) instruction\*?**

Our intent since the beginning of the year was to begin with in-person instruction each day for every student/family interested. However, we are bound by the guidance and regulations from NYS and NYSDOH.

At the current time, the District still has to maintain all safety protocols that are mandated by the State and County Health Departments which, along with space issues, does not make full time in-person instruction possible.

Our goal has been to maximize in-person instruction to the fullest extent possible and we plan to get back to 'normal' as soon as allowable by NYS mandate.

### **Is there somewhere we can take our children when they are not in school that can help with instruction on the computer (i.e., asynchronous learning)?**

Please visit the [virtual learning webpage](#) for options for parents who need support on asynchronous learning days.

\*Note: Currently, there are several special class programs across the district that provide 5 day a week instruction for students with disabilities. The District will continue to provide such



programs.

## Learning Model Switch

Please keep in mind that any change to a child's learning model (i.e., in-person to 100% remote or vice-versa) will result in multiple ramifications (see below for specifics) including loss of connection and relationships with current teacher and classmates.

### **If a request to switch learning models is made for my child, does it guarantee a switch (e.g., in-person, hybrid to 100% remote)?**

No. Requests to switch learning models may not be possible if we cannot accommodate the request due to space, class size, or staffing limitations.

### **If a request to switch learning models is granted for my child, will my child keep the same teacher?**

No. A learning model switch would result in a new teacher(s) across all grade levels.

### **If my child has a new teacher(s) due to a requested learning model switch, will my child's learning be aligned with the new teacher?**

As a district, our teachers and administrators have always worked together to maintain curricular alignment between grade levels/courses. However, teachers often work at different paces and, therefore, your child may be behind or ahead of the new teacher's pacing.

### **If a request to switch learning models is granted for my child, will my child's schedule change and will it impact other students.**

Yes. A change in learning model would result in both a teacher(s) change and a schedule change. In some cases, we will not be able to offer courses in which your student is currently enrolled.

Furthermore, it may impact the schedule of other students.

### **If a request to switch learning models is granted for my child, will the day my child is assigned to change (e.g., A → B or-B A)?**

This is a possibility. Students currently assigned to the A-day rotation may have to be reassigned to the B-rotation (and vice versa). As always, we will continue to make every effort to keep assignments the same for students in the same household. However, a granted learning model change may result in households attending school on opposite days.



**Will my child's schedule or teacher(s) change if I do NOT switch learning models?**

It is possible that teachers and schedules may change. If an over abundance of students switch learning models at a grade level or course, LCSD will be forced to re-assign teachers. This may impact students who do not change learning models.

**At the K-3 level, if a different learning model request is approved (100% remote learning to in-person, hybrid learning or vice versa), will my child's building change?**

**100% remote learning to in-person**

Yes, if your child is currently placed with a teacher from another K-3 elementary school in the District. For example, a Court Street student may be assigned to a Como Park teacher's remote section. If the in-person, hybrid request can be accommodated, your child would be assigned to a Court Street teacher.

**In-person, hybrid to 100% remote learning**

It is possible that a child moving from hybrid to remote would be placed with a teacher from another K-3 building. For example, a Court Street student might be placed with a teacher from Como Park.



## **Lancaster High School (specific questions)**

**At LHS, will all courses be offered in both the in-person, hybrid model and remote learning models?**

No. Not all courses are available to students in the 100% remote learning model.

**At LHS, what courses are available to students who participate in remote learning?**

The courses listed below are currently being offered to students who are participating in the 100% remote learning model.

- English I, II, III, IV, AP Language, AP Literature
- Global I, II, AP World, AP US History, US History, PIG/Econ, AP Gov/Econ
- Algebra I (R), Geometry (R), Geometry (H), Algebra II (R), Algebra II (H), College Math, Pre-Calc, Pre-Calc (H), Business Math, AP Calculus
- Living Environment, Earth Science, Earth Science (H), Chemistry (R), Science in the Media, Physics (R)
- Studio in Art
- Health
- Spanish I, II, III, French II & III

If you are considering a change in learning models (especially from hybrid to 100% remote), please contact your child's school counselor to determine if/how the change would impact your child.

**At LHS, if I switch to the hybrid model (in-person) from remote can my child enroll in courses only offered in-person (e.g., AP Physics)?**

No. At this time, students will not be able to enroll in full-year courses if they did not start the course in September 2020.

However, there are potential opportunities for students to enroll in 20-week courses depending on schedule, space, and availability.

**At LHS, if a request to make a learning model change is granted (in-person, hybrid to 100% remote), does it impact my child's academic/graduation progress?**

Yes. Not all courses offered in the in-person, hybrid model are offered in 100% remote learning model. Therefore, a switch to the 100% remote model could result in the loss of the potential to earn full credit.



If you are considering a change in learning models (especially from hybrid to 100% remote) please contact your child's school counselor regarding the potential impact on credit accrual/academic progress.

**Are there any situations where a student could receive partial credit if changing learning models resulted in dropping a course?**

If your student was enrolled in a full-year elective that he/she is no longer able to participate in because of a learning model change, they could receive the  $\frac{1}{2}$  credit they earned during the first semester.



## Health & Safety

### **Does the district have evidence of any community spread in schools?**

At the time, per the Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH), we do not have evidence of community spread in our schools.

### **Do students have to remain six feet apart and wear masks while at school?**

Yes. We must continue to follow all mitigation strategies outlined by the NYSDOH and ECDOH.

### **What are the infection rates in LCSD schools?**

Please refer to the [NYS COVID-19 Report Card](https://schoolcovidreportcard.health.ny.gov/#/home): <https://schoolcovidreportcard.health.ny.gov/#/home> for specific building information that is updated on a daily basis.

Currently about 5500 students are enrolled in Lancaster and approximately 970 faculty and staff are employed.

### **Will families need to continue to submit the daily health assessment (RUVNA)?**

Yes. It is imperative that families continue to complete the daily health screening for their child(ren) on days in which their children are attending school in person.

### **What happens if someone in my child's school tests positive for COVID-19?**

The District will notify and collaborate with the Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH). The ECDOH will contact individuals who have been in close contact and provide further instructions.

### **Will the school be conducting COVID-19 testing while designated as a micro-cluster (i.e., yellow, orange, or red)?**

Yes. Our goal remains to provide in-person instruction in a safe learning environment to the fullest extent possible.

Please watch this [video example of how rapid testing will take place at LCSD](#).

### **Who is eligible for COVID-19 testing?**

Any in-person, hybrid student or any staff member who provides consent may [be selected for random testing](#).



## **How do families provide consent for testing?**

Families can provide consent to the District to conduct COVID-19 testing with their children by completing the attached consent form.

[LCSD COVID-19 Consent Form](#)

## **If one of my children tests positive, will the other child(ren) in the household have to quarantine?**

Yes. Please keep your other children home until the ECDOH is able to communicate instructions.

## **If one of my children is quarantined, will the other children in the household have to quarantine?**

Not necessarily. According to the ECDOH, only the child in close contact must quarantine. However, if any of your children are experiencing symptoms or to be cautious, please keep them home and/or seek medical advice from your family physician.



## Other Questions

### **Will it be acceptable if we occasionally keep our child home when we deem necessary?**

It is imperative that you seek medical attention if your son/daughter has any COVID-19 symptoms prior to returning to school. The district and school must continue to monitor attendance and follow our policies and procedures as it relates to student attendance.

If parents choose to keep students home, then the students are accountable for any missed assignments, tests, and quizzes.

### **When will you mandate the vaccine?**

New York State creates laws around vaccination. This is not a district decision. LCSD will continue to follow any laws around vaccination, as we always have.

### **How will my son/daughter be impacted by an individual who tests positive for COVID-19?**

The ECDOH recently updated information regarding contact tracing related to COVID-19. For all the details, please review the following from the ECDOH:

The Erie County Department of Health has updated its guidance for quarantine for proximate/classroom contacts in school settings. This update removes the “60-minute” guidance.

Our decision to do this was based on three months and hundreds of case investigations within schools, which have shown that student-to-student transmission is **incredibly rare**.

Contact tracers will continue to make decisions on quarantining classroom contacts according to the **NYS definition of a close contact, within 6 feet for 10 minutes or more**. Contact tracers, through case investigations, may also place people in quarantine based on other factors, including duration of contact, proximity, and presence of COVID symptoms.



### **How likely is another transition to go to 100% remote instruction for all students?**

The original micro-cluster strategy guidance from the NYSDOH required COVID-19 testing for 100% of all in-person faculty, staff, and students while in a zone designated orange or red. This was prohibitive for most, if not all, public schools, but especially one the size of Lancaster.

The NYSDOH updated the guidance for schools in orange and red zones to allow for 20% (orange) and 30% (red) of all in-person faculty, staff, and students. This combined with our mitigating strategies (i.e., face coverings, six feet between individuals, constant cleaning and disinfecting) will reduce the likelihood of another transition to 100% remote instruction for all students.

Please visit the following link for more details:

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/12/guidanceforschoolsinredandorangezones.pdf>

### **What is the infection rate of Lancaster schools?**

We have tested over 1170 individuals since December 7, 2020. Less than 0.94% of all those who tested were positive for COVID-19.

If you wish to review the FAQ of other questions asked by the community from the beginning of the school year.

[Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) Fall 2020](#)