



The following questions have been collected from the Lancaster Community through surveys, emails, parent/community meetings, and conversations. This document will be updated as new questions arise.

Health & Safety

Why do students have to be six (6) feet apart?

It is a mandate from Governor Cuomo, the New York State Education Department (NYSED), and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH). Poly-carbonate barriers are not considered an alternative for 6 feet of distance. Teachers are being trained throughout the year on ways to engage students and have them work collaboratively while maintaining distance.

Who has to wear a mask and what happens if a student refuses.

Governor Cuomo mandated masks and six (6) feet social distancing. Therefore, Lancaster is following the Governor's mandate that everyone in the school wear a mask. Face shields are an extra level of protection but not a replacement for face masks. We recommend students, faculty, and staff bring at least one face covering from home each day that is comfortable and has been labeled with their name. However, the District will provide face coverings to anyone who needs one or who has one that does not fit completely over the nose and the mouth. Those with serious conditions, with medical documentation, may apply for an exemption. Strict social distancing will be in place. Students who refuse to comply with the mask mandate will be subject to the code of conduct, just as they would for any rule violations.

How will mask breaks be handled?

Masks breaks will look different across the district and at each grade level. Break areas will be provided throughout each building. Each building and teacher will communicate details in the beginning of the year and we will continue to monitor and look for further guidance from SED, DOH and CDC.

How will students be screened?

The district has purchased an app called RUVNA. Parents will receive a daily health assessment link via text/email to complete and submit before their child goes to the bus stop or comes to school. By participating in the hybrid model, you are agreeing to temperature check your child in the morning before school and complete the screening daily for the safety of all students, faculty, and staff. As an added layer of safety, the District has also invested in non-contact thermal checkpoints to randomly select students and staff for a temperature check when



entering the building. These thermal checkpoints are highly accurate. Students who are found to have a fever through that process will be directed to their physician/DOH for evaluation regarding testing.

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 and they (ECDOH) will contact individuals who have been in close contact (within 6 feet for more than 10 consecutive minutes) and provide instructions regarding quarantining and testing. The determination of school closing will be made by the district in consultation with the Erie County Department of Health. Please refer to the district plan for more details.

Will the school be conducting COVID testing?

No. The Erie County Department of Health will handle testing, or direct parents to other testing centers. Testing will be deemed necessary by the ECDOH.

If one of my children tests positive, will the other children in the household have to quarantine?

Yes.

When will classrooms be cleaned?

Classrooms and all other spaces within a building will be disinfected nightly. Additional cleaning staff has also been added during the day to frequently clean bathrooms and high touch surfaces. All classrooms will be equipped with sprayers and fast acting disinfectant. Refer to the district plan for more details.

Is the ventilation system sufficient?

Yes. Ventilation will meet or exceed ventilation standards (ASHRAE-school building code standards). The District is following EPA guidance on indoor air quality during COVID-19 and implementing measures as they relate to our schools. Additionally, our teachers will be encouraged to open windows in their classrooms. Refer to the district plan for more details.

How will shared materials be handled?

As much as possible, we will be eliminating shared materials (e.g., crayons, markers, etc). If materials need to be shared, hand washing or hand sanitizing will take place before and after use. Each building and/or classroom will create protocols and procedures.

My child needs a nebulizer. How will this work?



The nurse in each building will have the PPE appropriate to conduct nebulizer treatments (N-95 mask, shield, gown, gloves).

How do we drop off epi pens and medication for kids who have food allergies?

Individual Schools will be sharing their specific plans.

How often will students go outside?

There is not a set amount of time that students will be outside. Teachers will use our outdoor spaces as appropriate and when possible. Playground time will be scheduled for our K-3 students to ensure that classes are not intermingling. Please make sure that your child has the appropriate clothing for the weather.

Will parents and other visitors be allowed in the building?

We will limit the people in the buildings to students, faculty, and staff whenever possible. Refer to the district plan for more details.

Will every student get their temperature checked or just a select amount? If not everybody, why?

By participating in the hybrid model, you are agreeing to temperature check your child and complete the screening daily for the safety of all students, faculty, and staff. As a secondary level of screening, the non-contact thermal checkpoints will be used daily for randomly selected students and staff when entering the building. The checkpoints will not be for everybody because parents have the responsibility to check temperatures prior to boarding the bus/entering the school building.

Are there any concerns attending school with a child that has asthma in regards to wearing masks?

Students who are unable to medically tolerate a face covering should provide medical documentation from a licensed physician to the building.

What ramifications will be put into place for parents that essentially lie on the Ruvna self-evaluation and send a sick child to school?

It is every parent and staff member's responsibility to be honest on self-evaluation and follow the required steps in order to keep our community safe and healthy.



Are fans allowed in classrooms?

Devices such as portable fans, window air conditioning and portable cooling units that may blow air across the room are not permitted.

How do you confirm that a student or facility member is symptomatic? If someone has allergies...or cough are they going to be forced to leave school and have to be seen by their primary care.

Individuals that have other conditions with similar symptoms, should provide the school with medical documentation. If it is a chronic condition, parents should be able to identify the signs of the condition. It is important for students to stay home when they are sick with any illness, until at least 24 hours after they no longer have symptoms.

Explain exactly what will happen to children in the same classes of a sick child who is sent home- they may not seek a COVID-19 test so how will tracing kick in?

If a child is sent home with COVID-19 symptoms, the nurse will give the parent/guardian a form that indicates the protocol that must be followed to return to school. The parent/guardian will be responsible for attesting that the protocol is followed by signing the form and returning it with a note from a healthcare provider, prior to the child's return to school. Refer to the district plan for more details.

Are students allowed to carry their own hand sanitizers?

Yes.

If teachers are encouraged to open windows, how do you plan to handle this with students who have several seasonal allergies?

Fresh air will be entering the buildings and students will be outside more often. Please talk to your health care provider.

How will fire drills and lockdown drills be handled?

Safety drills will be performed as required. Students and staff will wear face coverings and social distance and modify procedures to ensure distances between persons.



Selection of Learning Model (Hybrid or 100% Remote)

Why is the District implementing a hybrid model?

The Governor, in conjunction with the State Education Department, has mandated that students maintain social distancing of 6 feet. That does not leave the District with sufficient space to have all students in the schools at once as classrooms that normally would fit 24 students for example can now only hold 12.

Can you choose a different model for each child in your home or will they all have to be hybrid or remote?

Yes.

Is it too late to change to hybrid, from remote only?

Parents have until Monday, August 24, 2020 to select their child's learning model. If a parent changes from the original submission, please type "final" after your last name. After August 24, 2020, parents must commit to the selected model for the first 20 weeks.

If a parent chooses the 100% remote option and some courses/classes are not offered, can the parent switch to the hybrid model?

No. After the selection on August 24, 2020, parents must commit to the selected model for the first 20 weeks.

100 % Remote Learning

When my child is doing 100% remote learning, will they be required to be online at specific times and will they get their services.

If a family has opted for full-remote, they will be expected to be online during the school day at specified times and participate in synchronous instruction with their teacher(s). Times at the secondary level will be similar to the current bell schedule. Times at the elementary level will take place during the day and will be broken up with non-screen assignments throughout the day. All students who opt for the full remote option will be expected to have access to join Google Meets during the instructional day. Students who receive specialized services (AIS, ENL, Special Education) will have all of their mandated services met in the remote option using the same technology as core classes.



Will students who are quarantined be moved to the remote option?

The District will work with families to meet their educational needs along with balancing their health needs.

Who will be teaching the full-remote option?

A Lancaster teacher who is certified in the grade-level or content area will be teaching.

Will my child be able to take part in sports and extracurricular activities if I choose to have them take part in the full-remote option?

Yes. But, currently interscholastic athletics are on hold until at least September 21, 2020. If extracurricular activities and athletics are approved to continue after that date participants must maintain the same level of adherence to guidelines and mandates as during the school day. Transportation will not be provided.

How will testing be done for 100% remote?

We are able to assess students in many ways beyond the traditional paper and pencil test (i.e., writing assignments, projects, and presentations).

Is it possible for a student to learn from a virtual model for the whole entire school year?

Yes, at this time. This is dependent on factors beyond LCSD.

Will my child be able to participate in specialized classes (e.g., music ensembles, electives, APs, academies, etc.) if I chose full remote?

Under SED and DOH guidance, some classes are challenging (i.e., Advanced Placement courses or music ensembles) to offer in a full remote model. We will continue to work to provide as much equity as possible for our fully remote students.

If a student is struggling with remote learning, will a teacher be able to Google Meet to support?

Yes. In the 100% remote option, that is the role of the teacher.

Why do we have to commit to 20 weeks for the remote option?

In order to properly staff our classes we need accurate information.



Hybrid Model

How will teachers cover all the curriculum?

Curriculum groups at each grade level/course are reviewing pacing guides, assessments, and online activities for asynchronous instruction. Pacing guides will be revised to reflect standards that have been prioritized for success in the current grade level/course and in future grade levels/courses. This will allow our teachers to do their best to maximize student learning.

Will siblings attend school on the same day?

Yes.

Can we request which sets of days our children attend school?

No. Students are being divided using the alphabet, out of district placements, and to keep acceptable numbers of students in our classrooms and buildings.

Will students still take art, PE, and music?

Yes, There have been modifications made to our basic curriculum but all students will receive all subjects that are mandated by NYS.

What will instruction look like in the hybrid model?

Students will attend school every other day. During their at school day, teachers will focus on creating a deeper understanding of the content and work with students on guided practice. The school day will look much like it has in the past, with the addition of social distancing and masks. Teachers have been and will continue to be trained in ways to keep students engaged in the socially distanced classroom. On “at home days” students will receive some combination of synchronous instruction, instructional videos, brief assignments, long-term projects, and readings that will be completed without joining a live Google Meet.

Will the teacher teach the same lessons on Group A & B Days

Teachers are responsible for both sets of students (Groups A & B) for each day. The expectation continues to be that teachers in the same grade level, course, and/or department will work collaboratively to plan for in-person and remote instruction. Curriculum writing opportunities were provided over the summer and we will utilize planning time to the fullest extent possible.

Will in person classrooms have a paperless format of instruction?

No. Paperless classrooms are not mandated.



Can absent students in a group attend school on the alternate day so they don't miss instruction?

No. Students need to follow their group as these additional students would not have a seat and social distancing could not be followed.

How and why was this hybrid model chosen?

The District has been planning for a 100% full return, several hybrid options, and a full remote option since March. This planning was based on information collected from other states since NYS did not release official guidance to schools districts until mid-July. Since that time, there have been changes to that guidance impacting our plans and decisions. For example, the District was forced to enact a hybrid model due to Governor Cuomo's mandate of 6 feet to 12 feet depending on the activity for all public schools, which has required us to decrease the capacity of all of the school buildings. This model allows for 20 more days of in person schooling (approximately one month of instruction).

The research is clear that the longer children are away from their teacher the greater the learning gaps are and that there is more regression. An every other day schedule minimizes time away from school.

The every other day model allows students to participate in all academic and special areas in a face to face fashion. Set days would have decreased the amount of core area instruction in favor of specials or vice versa.

Our model allows our special education, AIS, and ENL students to receive regular interactions with their support teachers.

We understand that for most students learning from home is difficult. This model allows teachers to maximize the in person time. Students will watch videos of their teachers presenting the content on at home days. This is the same as the passive learning that takes place during parts of the school day. Instead of being shown how to do something while sitting at a desk, the student will watch a video that can be rewatched and archived for their reference. Students will then be asked to complete a short assignment to check for understanding. Teachers will use this as a tool to determine which students need additional help and which students can go deeper into the curriculum with guided practice at school. With this model, misconceptions can be fixed within a day rather than a week later.

Students who rely on the school for mental health supports and food will have more consistent access.

Finally, parents told us that they preferred that their children be in school more often (over 70%) and of the models that offered more time in school, the every other day model had the most parent interest.

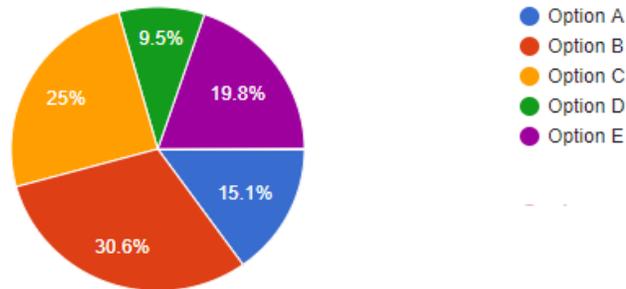
See the chart below for a breakdown of parent responses.



Hybrid Models

Please select the Hybrid instructional model that would work best for your child when it comes to instruction.

3,985 responses



Option A = 15.1%

- Group A → Monday & Thursday
- Group B → Tuesday & Friday
- Fives days over 10 day cycle with every other Wednesday

Option B = 30.6%

- Every other day (Week 1 = MWF; Week 2 = TTh)
- Fives days over 10 day cycle

Option C = 25%

- Group A → Monday & Tuesday
- Group B → Thursday & Friday
- Fives days over 10 day cycle with every other Wednesday

Option D = 9.5%

- Group A → Monday & Thursday
- Group B → Tuesday & Friday

Option E = 19.8%

- Group A → Monday & Tuesday
- Group B → Thursday & Friday

Other Instructional Matters

Will teachers modify the curriculum for 2020-2021 to accommodate for instructional gaps from last spring?

Every year teachers differentiate their instruction to meet the learning of students. This will not change.

What will classrooms in the elementary schools look like and might they be in non-traditional



spaces.

Much of the extra furniture has been removed to allow for social distancing. In some cases, classes may take place in our larger spaces to accommodate for social distancing.

Will students be leaving classrooms during the day for specials?

Specials may take place in the classroom, in their traditional spaces or outside.

Special Education/ENL/AIS

Will children with special needs attend full-time?

Certain students that attend specialized, full day programs in small group settings are eligible to attend in person on a daily basis. The Special Education Department has already notified parents of students who attend these programs.

What if my child needs to be therapeutically held?

Our crisis prevention/de-escalation trainers have recently received updated training and are working on additional protocols/safety procedures to assist our students and teachers. Based upon past experience, it should be noted that we have very few situations where physical intervention is needed. District staff are trained to de-escalate students to avoid the need for any physical intervention.

If my child is eligible for daily instruction can they attend on hybrid model days only?

Students eligible for daily instruction should attend each day in order to access the full benefit of specialized instruction and to receive any needed related services. If there are special circumstances, parents should discuss with the Special Education Department.

Will AIS, ENL, Consultant Teacher, Resource Room services be offered to identified students?

Yes, students in the hybrid model will see these teachers while in school and will have additional support online. All IEPs and mandated ENL accommodations will be provided as practicable. Students who have opted for the remote model will meet with their teachers online.

Will specialized reading and math instruction continue to be provided?

Yes, AIS instruction and small classroom instruction in reading and math will continue to be offered via in person and online approaches.



Will my child with a 504 accommodation plan or IEP receive accommodations and services?

Yes, various accommodations including testing accommodations and various modifications will be provided. Some of these accommodations/modifications may need to be adjusted during online instruction and testing. For example, the “test read accommodation” can be provided directly by school staff or by using certain technology approaches.

How will students that attend out of district special education programs (e.g., BOCES, Day School Agency) receive their education program?

Each school has developed its own reopening plan that details the model of instruction and safety procedures it will follow. These special education providers will contact parents and the District to communicate how and when they will provide special classroom programs and related services.

Can my child be evaluated or reevaluated for special education services?

Yes, the district will continue to evaluate and reevaluate students as required and will continue to meet mandated timelines as best as practicable. Safety protocols will be followed for in person evaluations to help ensure the safety of students and staff.

Home Schooling (Parent Taught)

If we choose to homeschool (parent taught, not the school offered remote model) can we enroll our child at some point?

Yes.

Grading and Assessment

Will students be graded?

Yes. Teachers will give assessments and examinations of student performance and provide grades for report cards.

How will grading be uniform for kids remote vs hybrid especially with testing? And how will science labs be performed?

Students will be assessed and graded on their proficiency and mastery.

How will students be assessed and graded.



There may be some instances in which students take part in traditional assessment (leveled reading, certain screenings) but much of our assessment may be completed through writing, projects, and presentations.

Student Schedules

How will holidays and breaks affect the alternating hybrid schedule?

Please refer to the [LCSD Calendar](#) for specific information.

Will students have shortened class periods due to the hybrid model?

No.

Have the hours of instruction (start/end time) changed for the building while students attend school?

No.

Is there a restriction on what time students can enter the building?

Students will not be able to enter the buildings prior to when buses unload.

Technology

What kind of technology will my child need and what will be provided by the District?

All K-12 students will be provided a Chromebook. Students in grades 4-12 will be responsible for keeping it charged and for transporting it to and from school (if they are part of the hybrid model).

What is the process for returning my old Chromebook and receiving my new one?

Please see the COVID 19 page of the website for all Chromebook information.

Is there a plan for families who don't have internet access?

Families who do not have internet access will be provided with a mobile hotspot (i.e., Mifi). Eligibility for mobile hotspots will be determined by the school administration and based upon multiple factors including free/reduced meal eligibility data. Printers will not be required.



Will teachers utilize technology (e.g., digital cameras and mics via Google Meet) to deliver synchronous instruction to hybrid students on remote learning days?

Not at this time but we will evaluate that as we move forward.

Can students use their own devices instead of the LCSD Chromebooks?

Yes. As long as the device meets the learning requirements for the grade level/course.

Will there be training for parents on Google Classroom? Is someone available for parent questions?

Yes. The student's teacher is the best resource for questions. The [LCSD eLearning](#) webpage was created with the intent to provide additional resources and updates specific to Google Classroom and learning in a digital setting.

Instructional Supports

Will there be after school for students to get extra help from teachers?

No.

How will parent/teacher conferences work?

Parent/teacher conferences will occur in a virtual format.

Will there be some type of informational sessions for the students to help them with transitioning to remote learning, be it 100% remote or hybrid?

There will be multiple resources available for students and parents to make the transition to remote learning as seamless as possible. Most will be organized and delivered by the teacher of record.

Food Service

Are breakfast and lunch meals available? Are they still free?

Yes, meals will be available. Breakfast and lunch will be made available for all students according to their meal status (paid, reduced (at no cost), or free). The emergency community eligibility for free meals that was authorized this past spring and through the summer has NOT been reauthorized for the 2020-21 school year. Students that are not free or reduced lunch



eligible must pay for any meals they wish to purchase. Meals will be available to order for 100%

remote students and for hybrid students for the days they are learning remotely. Details on ordering these meals will be forthcoming prior to the start of school.

How will students eat lunch?

Students will wash or sanitize hands before entering the serving or dining area. Students will wear a mask and be social distanced while in the serving area. Once seated in the dining area, at least 6 feet apart, they may remove their mask. If they get up from their assigned table for any reason, they must wear a mask. Students may be assigned to eat in areas other than the cafeteria.

How will food allergies be handled if students are assigned to eat outside classrooms?

Students with allergies will continue to have “allergen free” areas and cleaning protocols will be continued. In any alternate situation, they will be accommodated accordingly.

Can my student bring a water bottle from home and use it throughout the day?

Yes, students may bring their own water bottle and there are areas to refill it throughout the schools. We are encouraging this practice.

Transportation

What will bus transportation look like for students?

Bus transportation will operate as normal but with fewer students assigned to a bus due to the hybrid and remote options changing the capacity. Students and drivers will wear masks throughout the ride, while loading and unloading, and while at the stop. Social distancing will be practiced at stops and while loading and unloading. Refer to the district plan for details.

If my son/daughter does not ride the bus, can I opt for LCSD transportation at a later date?

Yes.

Can parents drive their children to and from school on a daily basis?

Unlike many other districts, we are not soliciting or encouraging parents to drop-off as traffic congestion and safety at many of the school locations will be a concern. Please remember that there is limited space for car traffic at most of our buildings and that we will be unable to allow students into the buildings before school (unless they are there for an approved program). The



District will not be responsible for setting up carpool groups.

Will students be allowed to wipe the seats down on the bus before sitting?

Students are not permitted by law to use cleaning agents.

Will there be bus aides to enforce these rules?

No.

What happens if the bus doesn't go to my house and the family that takes care of me is in a different group than me?

Please work with your child care provider to have your child at the bus stop.

Can I walk my child to school?

Yes.

Social Emotional

Will my child be able to get social and emotional support at school?

The District has maintained our staff of mental health professionals and they will continue to be available for students. We have prepared for students who have experienced trauma during the pandemic or who have anxiety about returning to school.

Will students doing 100% online learning have access to counselors/psychologists online?

Yes.

Other Items

If school is forced to end in-person instruction, will instruction look like it did in the spring?

No. All students will move to the full-remote model and be expected to join classes as assigned times.

Who will pay for my child care?

NYS is no longer paying for daycare for essential employees. Families are responsible for their



own child care arrangements.

Will the YMCA be open before and after school?

Yes. Please contact the YMCA for before and after school program inquiries.

What school supplies do I need?

Please check your school's website or contact the school.

Does anyone know the eligibility of FMLA for Hybrid students? My employer said parents are not able to use FMLA if your children are over 14.

FMLA inquiries should be made with your employer.

Will the children be using their lockers on a daily basis?

No.

Should we expect group, teacher assignments, transportation information, and supply lists next week?

Yes. This information will be available the week of August 24, 2020.