

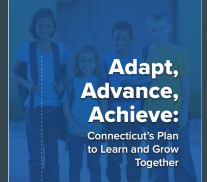


Torrington Public Schools **Revised Re-Opening of Our Schools**

August 13, 2020

Re-Opening Plan Timeline

June 29, 2020: Release of *Adapt, Advance and Achieve*: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together



July 24, 2020: TPS submitted Re-Opening Plan which included 3 mandatory Phases: Phase I: In-person; Phase II: Hybrid; Phase 3: Distance Learning

July 27, 2020: Governor Lamont and Commissioner Cardona provided flexibility to districts in the use of phased approaches to re-opening

July 28, 2020: Release of Addendum 4 to *Adapt, Advance, Achieve*: Interim Guidance for Decision-Making Regarding the Use of In-Person, Hybrid (Blended), or Remote Learning Models in CT Schools during COVID-19



Requirement: Phase I: In-Person as of July 24, 2020

The Governor and Commissioner required that every district submit a Re-Opening Plan with Phase I:

Every student, every day, in-person 5 days a week for full school days.

What Changed?

On July 27th: The Governor and Commissioner provided flexibility to design a re-opening plan that included the operational considerations of each district. With a district the size of TPS, 4,000 students with most of our schools at capacity, we determined that a hybrid model would be the safest for our students and staff.

Disadvantages of In-Person to Begin the School Year

In-Person: no choice; requirement for submission of our Re-Opening Plan for Phase I as an in-person; found physical space, but not 4-6 feet - not optimal for daily functioning; no cohorting at 8th grade or the high school

In class eating; fewer recess times; no mask breaks; long arrival and dismissal times, impacting instructional time; virtual electives, specials and unified arts; less opportunity for cleaning and disinfecting and more people; social distancing was compromised; more students on the bus, not socially distanced

Physical & Operational Ability to Implement Mitigation Strategies: Addendum 4

- ❖ **Consideration of Other Key School Characteristics**
 - **Design of Physical Space**
 - Physical distancing, outdoor space, entrances/exits, overall population
 - **Cohorting**
 - Ability to safely group & minimize interaction with other cohorts
 - **Cleaning and Disinfection**
 - Plans in accordance with DPH, CDC and SDE Guidelines and implemented accurately
 - Adequate supplies



Hybrid Model: K-12

- ❖ Rotating day schedule - 50% attend in person - two days per week.
- ❖ When not attending in person, students attend via Distance Learning.
Monday/Tuesday = Cohort 1; Thursday/Friday = Cohort 2.
- ❖ Wednesday = 100% Distance Learning to allow for deep cleaning between cohorts.
- ❖ Distance Learning - a blend of synchronous (real time, live-stream) and asynchronous (remote) instruction, which include daily interactions between teachers & students
- ❖ Small group work and developmentally appropriate independent work (supported by parents as needed).



Benefits of the Hybrid Model

- ❖ **Health and Safety:** Fewer students allows for CDC recommended social distancing. It also provides adequate time for cleaning and sanitizing between cohorts and more opportunities for mask breaks.
- ❖ **Allows time for students and teachers to adjust and be trained**
- ❖ **No disruption to course offerings at grades 6-12: Electives, Unified Arts**
- ❖ **Integrity of the cohorts will be maintained, grades PreK-7.**
- ❖ **Permits use of cafe for lunch time**



Benefits of the Hybrid Model (continued)

- ❖ **Students would be able to remain in cohorts or smaller groups, which is easier for sanitizing, cleaning and smaller number of students.**
- ❖ **Daily operations will be streamlined: Arrivals and Dismissals, Meal distribution, Hallway passing**
- ❖ **Interventionists/instructional support staff serve in their roles**
- ❖ **More parents are sending students: 67% to 79% with hybrid**
- ❖ **More options for mask breaks in class and outside of class**
- ❖ **Reduced number of students on busses**



Downside of Hybrid

Child Care

- Working with local agencies to provide families with additional child care options
- To be posted on our website as soon as possible

Goal for Remote Learning: Hybrid & Distance Learning

Blended learning experience, which includes daily live-stream interactions between teachers and students on remote days

Developmentally appropriate independent work time (supported by parents as needed)

Allows for screen breaks

Teachers will conduct targeted, small group instruction via the virtual platform, as appropriate



Special Education

- ❖ **Each student with a disability will be provided the special education and related services identified in their IEP developed under IDEA.**
- ❖ **Students who are educated in alternate out-of-district placements will continue to follow the schedule of their attending school**
- ❖ **Additional PPE will be provided as necessary to ensure safety of staff and students**



Transportation

- ❖ **Masks:** To be worn at all times by the driver, bus monitors and students
- ❖ **Bus Cohorts:** Families limited to 1 bus per student for pick-up and/or drop-off.
- ❖ **Hybrid Phase:** 50% of students each day; fewer students on each bus and in each seat
- ❖ **Buses will be cleaned and disinfected after every run.**



Food Service

- ❖ **All students will be provided breakfast and lunch every day, even when they are participating in remote learning. Breakfast and lunch distribution locations and times will be clearly stated prior to the beginning of school.**
- ❖ **Students will be able to eat in designated common areas while social distancing.**
- ❖ **Students will be separated by plexiglas table dividers while eating and seating will be socially distanced.**
- ❖ **Allows for a more varied menu.**



Funding for Hybrid Model

- ❖ **Estimated Additional Expenses: \$1.9 million**
- ❖ **Staff: Bus Monitors, Custodians,/Sanitizers, Nurses, Teachers, Techs**
- ❖ **PPE/Supplies: Masks, gloves, gowns, hand sanitizer, cafe table dividers**
- ❖ **Technology: Software and devices**
- ❖ **Transportation: Special education bussing as needed**



First Day of School

September 8th

Professional Development Days for staff, preparation for the needs of 2020-2021 school year will occur August 27-September 4.

Governor's change in 180 day requirement, reduced to 177 days

Provide students, families and staff orientation videos and opportunity to adapt to the new routines established in the Re-Opening Plan



Questions???

[K-5 Sample Schedule](#)

[6-8 Sample Schedule](#)

[9-12 Sample Schedule](#)

Please submit questions to Reopen@torrington.org