

Reopening Schools 2020-2021
Ithaca Public Schools

Ithaca Commits to

1. **Safety**- student and staff safety is our top priority. This plan will reflect the Richland Health department recommendations, the CDC guidelines, and DPI recommendations.
2. **Flexibility**- plans will be developed to allow for a fluid response keeping in mind staff, student, and parent capacity, coupled with the financial resources of the district.
3. **Instruction**- plans will reflect a preference for face-to-face learning and focus on creating conditions to safely reopen schools. Instructional models will include blended and E-learning options in the event that face-to-face learning cannot occur. The Richland County health department will issue any changes in instruction.

The Ithaca Public Schools plan to reopen with face-to-face learning.

Operations

Instructional models

Professional development

Stakeholder input

Operations: Physical spaces

Implementation guidelines based on guidance from the Center for Disease Control and Richland County Health Department.

Physical Barriers: Office area shielded, in addition to other areas yet to be determined.	Hand Sanitation Stations: increased placement throughout district buildings, with frequent and encouraged use.
Floor Adhesives: 6 foot separation stickers placed in high traffic areas to ensure social distancing. High traffic areas include: hallways, bathrooms etc.	Safety Signage: CDC posters on hand hygiene, social distancing, and symptoms of COVID-19 will be hung throughout school buildings, including symptoms posters at all entrances
Restrooms: Restrooms will have limited capacity to ensure social distancing, with monitoring to ensure compliance.	Creating Space for Distancing: Enable social distancing by removing furniture, reconfiguring or moving workspaces, and reconfiguring, or moving teaching spaces.
Drinking water fountains will be inaccessible, with the exception of those that fill water bottles filling only. Students must bring their own water bottles.	Isolation area identification of a space to isolate individuals with potential COVID-19 symptoms and any needed Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) needs.
	Locker Usage: rotating use during passing time or allowing the use of backpacks.

Operations: Healthy Environments

Ventilation: increased circulation of outside air by opening windows into buildings and buses. (as available with weather)	Communal Spaces: Communal spaces will have limited capacity (marked acceptable seating) and staggered usage, to ensure social distancing, and increased cleaning protocols (more often daily and deep cleaning nightly).
Cleaning and Disinfecting: increased daily and weekly protocols; custodial staff will be thoroughly cleaning and disinfecting classrooms and other spaces that are frequented by students and staff following each day of school, and rooms will remain unoccupied until the next day.	Hand Hygiene: Students will be instructed on proper hand hygiene, frequency and reinforced by staff and the strategic placement of CDC recommended hand hygiene signage placement.
Shared Objects: Avoid sharing individual personal supplies and property whenever possible; any other objects that must be shared, must be sanitized frequently, including after each session requirements.	Modified Building Layouts: adjusted student pedestrian patterns and marked on the floor to ensure social distancing.

Operations: Day to Day

Visitors: limit non-essential visitors and visits. Temperature checks will be taken before people enter the building.	Staffing: reassign staff as needed to cover daily operational needs prioritizing student learning and safety.
Cohorts: move elementary and middle school classes as static groups, and limit interaction outside of the classroom environment.	High Risk Staff and Students: limit exposure and provide PPE alternatives.
Entrances and Exits: regulate access and directional flow. All students and staff will enter specific doors, temperature checks will be required upon entrance.	COVID-19 Point of Contact: District: Julie Prouty 608-252-2512 Student: Principal Staff: HR- Brooke Hackl
Face Coverings: The school district will require approved masks or approved face coverings to be worn by all staff and students. If we move to a different risk level as a county, then that may be modified as determined by the CDC, and Richland County	Communication: The school district will provide frequent and systemic communications to families and staff. Ithaca public school is required to report any individual diagnosed or someone who has been exposed to someone with a Covid

health dept. The district will provide face coverings and training will be provided on	diagnosis to the Richland Department of Health Guidelines.
Ithaca public schools are asking that students and staff not come to school if they are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19.	Field trips: The school district will monitor conditions before providing final approval. Limit of 24 individuals to a bus to ensure social distancing, approved face coverings required. (24/bus)
Large Scale gatherings Limit on large scale gatherings.	

Operations: Transportation

<p>Student Capacity: There is no way to transport all our students and social distance on a bus.</p> <p>All students will be required to wear face mask coverings on the bus. Temperatures and visual symptom checks will be conducted by district staff before entrance to the bus.</p>	<p>Health and Safety: Buses will be disinfected following each route with special attention to high touch areas.</p>
<p>Driver Capacity: Continued driver shortage.</p> <p>Consideration for bus monitors to take temperatures and to assist for student behavior and masking.</p>	<p>Self-transport: Parents and/or students planning to self transport self-transport are encouraged to contact transportation to increase accuracy of routes and staffing requirements.</p> <p>Temperatures and visual symptom checks will be conducted by district staff before entering the building.</p>
<p>Face coverings: For the health and safety of our employees and students, adults and students will be masked and must wear face coverings when inside school district buildings and buses. Those unable to wear a face covering should inform the applicable COVID-19 Point of Contact. Please bring a doctor's note.</p>	<p>Drop off/pick up zones: Bus drop off and pick up areas will be modified to accommodate loading/unloading to ensure social distancing. Temperatures and visual symptom checks will be conducted by district staff using touchless thermometers before entering district buildings.</p>

Instructional Model: Face-to-face Classroom Learning

Return to the Classroom: Students and staff practice operational safety procedures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 as listed in the <i>safeschools</i> training.	Resources: This may require additional resources to support work and systems.
Staffing: Staff may be reassigned to support social distancing and safety procedures enabling students to return to the classroom.	Alternatives: Students and families who are not comfortable with face-to-face classroom learning will be provided an online/virtual option.
Schedules: Daily schedules will be modified (ex. lunch, recess) as necessary with start and end of day bell times remaining the same.	Communication: The school district will provide ongoing and systematic communication to staff and families.
Social Emotional: SEL foundation for reboarding students and staff.	Moving between Models: Learning Models may need to be moved between, based on positive COVID-19 cases within the community or individual schools; with a preference for traditional classroom learning in a safe and healthy environment.

Instructional Model: Blended Learning

Grades 9-12 only: May be used to reduce the number of students in larger secondary school classes. Grades PK-8 to continue traditional classroom learning.	Resources: May require additional resources to support work and systems.
Schedule: Grades 4K-12 to utilize face-to-face instruction unless the pandemic phase changes.	Grading: Traditional grading will be utilized for Blended Learning.
Communication: The school district will provide ongoing and systematic communication to staff and families.	Devices and Access: Students will use district devices, home internet access will become vital for all students. Similar accommodations to last quarter will be followed. Please contact the school if you are experiencing difficulties.
Moving between Models: Learning Models may need to be moved between, based on positive COVID-19 cases within the community or individual schools; with a preference for traditional classroom learning in a safe and healthy environment.	Early Identification: Teachers and schools to quickly identify students struggling to engage.

Instructional Model: E-Learning

Targeted or District-Wide: May be used for short or long term needs as determined by the Richland County Health department as positive COVID-19 cases increase.	Resources: May require additional resources to support work and systems.
Schedule: Grades 4K-12 to utilize face-to-face instruction unless the Richland county health department pandemic level changes.	Grading: Traditional grading will be utilized for E-Learning.
Devices and Access: Students will use district devices. Home internet access will be vital for all students. Please contact the office if your needs are not being met for devices or access.	Communication: The school district will provide ongoing and systematic communication to staff and families.
Early Identification: Teachers and schools to quickly identify students struggling to engage. All E-learning must be supported by a coach at home.	Moving between Models: Learning Models may need to be moved between, based on positive COVID-19 cases within the community or individual schools; with a preference for traditional classroom learning in a safe and healthy environment.

Instructional Model: Special education, 504s, and English Learners

Environments: Access to education will be reconfigured to meet social distancing guidance while meeting the needs of individual students.	Moving between Models: If/as there is a need to move between instructional models, accommodations will be made for safe delivery of services utilizing the student IEP and 504 teams.
Caseloads: Staff or schedules may be redesigned to provide access to individualized learning to meet IEP and 504 plans.	Communication: The school district will provide ongoing and systematic communication to staff and families.
Resources: May require additional resources to support work and systems.	

Instructional Model: Social and Emotional Health

Reboarding: Focus on social and emotional health during the first week back for students and staff will focus on inclusion and anxiety reduction.	Resources: The district is using Safeschools training modules for 6-12 SEL training, and continuing to use the Second step program in 4K-5.
Climate and Culture: Work to introduce students to the new look of school and classrooms before school starts, creating welcoming environments for learning.	Wellness: Staff has been trained in trauma sensitive schools and has worked on self-recognition of their own trauma. PD includes training on <i>safeschools</i> .
Universal Instruction: Lean on existing curricular components of Second Step, Zones of Regulation, and ATTACK period.	Communication: The school district will provide ongoing and systematic communication to staff and families.
	Moving between Models: Needs will likely change if/as instructional models change, in response to school or community conditions. At these points, additional SEL resources and strategies will be implemented for staff and students.

Extra Curricular Activities

WIAA Guidance: Rely on and implement guidance from WIAA to safely hold athletic practices, competitions and events. (current summer activities require face covering)	Communication: The school district will provide ongoing and systematic communication to participants and advisors.
Clubs and Activities: Assuming school is able to resume in a traditional classroom learning environment, clubs and activities will take place with social distancing and safety measures (like masking and socially distancing) in place.	Moving between Models: Activities and events may be postponed or adjusted to meet guidelines and/or current conditions in schools or the community.

Instructional Model:

Moving between models

	Traditional Classroom	Blended Learning	E-Learning
Health and Safety	Safety precautions implemented to limit spread and exposure. Driven by positive Covid-19 case factors to include: possible staff exposure, student exposure, and building exposure.	To be used as a tool to reduce the number of secondary students utilizing transportation and present in the building on a given day, while providing in-person opportunities for teaching and learning.	To be used in the event of a positive Covid-19 case in the school, or a county or state-mandated closure. Allows for fewer instructional interruptions. Allows cleaning protocols to be executed.
Family and Community Needs	Addresses community and parent child care crisis concerns. Reduces the burden of teaching and working from home.	Allows district flexibility to increase distancing while prioritizing traditional classroom instruction. Provides in-person interactions while reducing bus and building capacity on a daily basis.	Anticipate use of this model targeted to buildings or cohorts to address Covid-19 exposure and/or outbreaks. Families must be prepared for short term building closures without significant notice throughout the school year.
Social & Emotional	Offers ongoing needed beneficial human interactions in a safe environment. Utilize the first weeks of the school year to rebuild relationships and debrief experiences. Establishing the new normal.	Offers beneficial needed human interactions in a safe environment. Rapid identification of disengaged or struggling students.	Special attention is paid to the social and emotional health of students and staff. Rapid identification of disengaged or struggling students or staff.

Professional Development for staff and families

	Traditional Classroom	Blended Learning	E-Learning
Learning Environment	Defining the new normal in classrooms and schools. Responsive classrooms. <i>SafeSchools</i> Covid-19 training modules.	Defining the new normal for classrooms and schools. Parents as coaches, training will be provided.	Clear expectations for staff and students. Clear expectations for auxiliary support for student learning.
Curriculum	Schoology learning system. Universal curriculum. Identified learning targets. Common aligned learning targets and assessments.	Schoology learning system. Universal curriculum. Identified learning targets. Common aligned learning targets and assessments.	Schoology learning system. Universal curriculum. Identified learning targets. Common aligned learning targets and assessments.
Social & Emotional	Defining the new normal in classrooms. Zones of regulation. Mental health screening. ATTACK time. Sources of Strength.	Defining the new normal in classrooms. Second Step. Zones of regulation. Mental health screening. ATTACK time. Sources of Strength.	Defining the new normal in classrooms. Second Step. Zones of regulation. Mental health screening. ATTACK time. Sources of Strength .

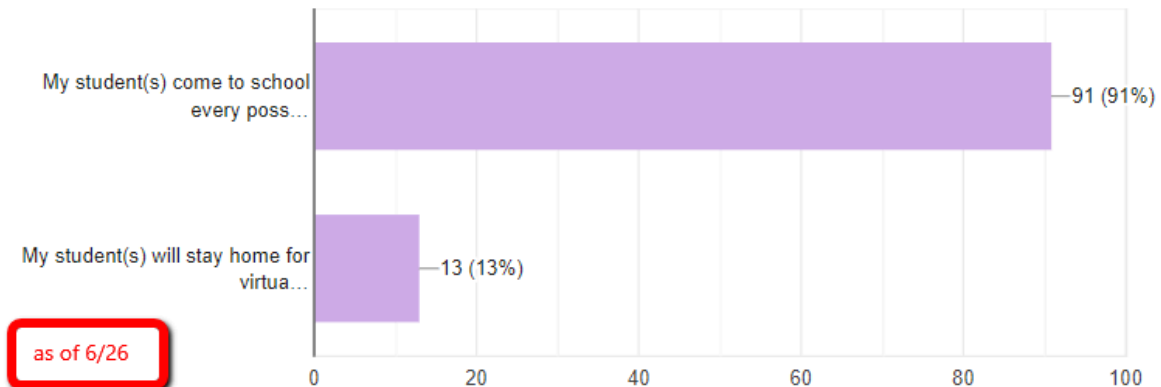
Staff Input:

61 of 65 responded. 98.5% stated they will return in the fall, (one did not know) with only 1.5% stating that they were slightly worried about their own personal health and safety.

Families Input: (100 respondents)

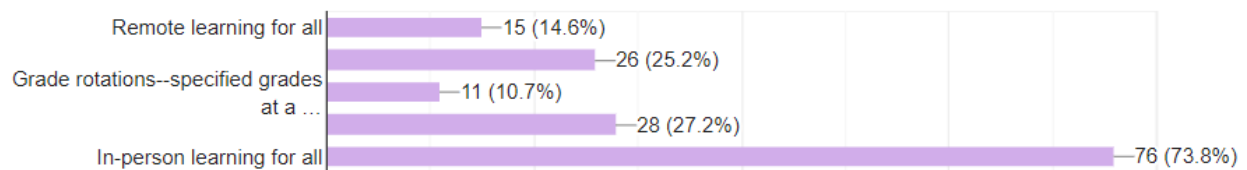
What is your preference for student learning?

100 responses



Here are a few Possible Instructional Models Scenarios. Please pick which you would prefer (you may choose more than one)

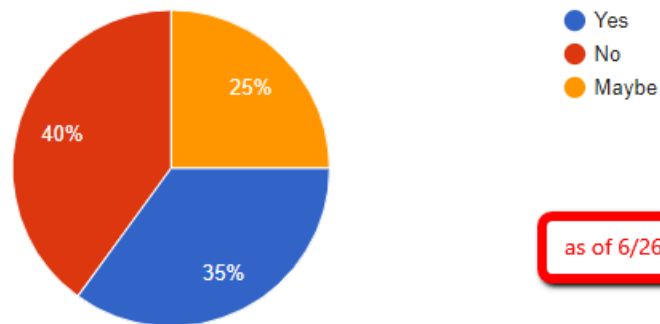
103 responses



- ☐ Remote learning for all
 - ☐ Alternating weeks--students attend in person for a full week and then rotate to a week of remote learning
 - ☐ Grade rotations--specified grades at a time in school. All others engage in remote learning.
 - ☐ Alternating days: Students attend in person one day and learn remotely the next day.
 - ☐ In-person learning for all
- as of 7/2

Do you feel that, if required by the department of health, your child would be willing to wear a face mask while in school?

100 responses



Next steps:

August 27- Ithaca Picture night, Virtual students pick up devices.

September 1- School starts