

Williamsport Area School District

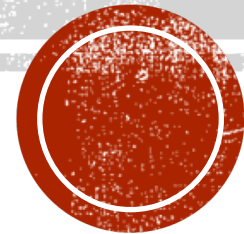
HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN

UPDATE

8-4-2020

2020-2021

School Year



WASD PLAN UPDATE

Williamsport Area School District

Phased School Reopening

Anticipated Launch Date

Student First Day

September 1, 2020

**approval of revised school calendar on agenda*



WASD PLAN REQUIREMENTS

PA Department of Education and Department of Health Guidelines:

- All Pre-K to 12 schools are required to develop Health and Safety Plans prior to returning students to school buildings and resuming in-person instruction.
- In developing these plans, Pre-K to 12 schools must consider the safety and health of all adult staff, in addition to students, as well as balance the educational imperative to open schools to in-person instruction with the public health imperative to mitigate COVID-19 infection and transmission rates.

***Tonight's Board presentation is to provide information on changes
and to recommend a reopening phase***



WASD PLAN CHANGES

Changes and Additions

Communication

- If there is a confirmed positive case of COVID-19 with a student or staff member, all parents in the school district will be notified through our Swift K-12 parent notification system by phone and text, and with a letter sent home with all students.

Travel Guidelines

- Public Schools are required to create a procedure/policy on how to handle students and staff who have traveled to or live in one of the listed states and incorporated into the school's health and safety plans.
- Students and families are asked to voluntarily stay at home, quarantine for 14 days upon return, and self-report, their travel outside of Pennsylvania to any of the states listed with high COVID-19 rates.
- Employees are strongly encouraged to refrain from traveling to those states identified by the PA Department of Health as COVID-19 "hot spots". Employees are asked to disclose those plans to his/her respective Principal or Direct Supervisor, so the safety of his/her co-workers and students can be taken into account



WASD PLAN REQUIREMENTS

All family and community members should be mindful that as long as there are cases of COVID-19 in the community, there are no strategies that can completely eliminate transmission risk within a school population. The goal of the district's Health and Safety Plan is to keep transmission as low as possible to safely continue our students' education and school activities. The district's Health and Safety Plan implements the guidelines and the resources provided by:

- Pennsylvania Department of Education
- Pennsylvania Department of Health
- Center of Disease Control

This is not optional guidance. The district is required to prepare and submit a plan to the PA Department of Education responding to guidelines, orders, and requirements



PLANNING CHALLENGES

School district administrators have worked continuously since March 2020, to bring forward a workable path to return students and staff to schools.

- We understand fully that these are challenging and difficult decisions and that no one phase or decision will be liked by everyone.
- The district's path for reopening involved thorough planning, research, and a comprehensive review of district resources, spaces, and input from the **Pandemic Team** and multiple groups.
- It is only by working together with mutual respect will we be able to achieve everyone's goal of returning our students to school.



WASD GOALS

In developing the district's Health and Safety Plan, our goals remain clear.

- 1. To keep the safety and health of our students and staff the highest priority**
- 2. To provide the best education possible to our students that does not compromise the health and safety of our students and staff**
- 3. Assess and respond to risk and infection rates within our state and community to determine reopening phases**



REOPENING PHASE

Factors that influence the district's decision making on how to reopen and in which Phase:

1. Meeting all PA Department of Education and PA Department of Health requirements and guidelines
2. Information and updates from health officials on current infection rates, testing capacities, rising/decreasing trends
3. The district's own capacity in reopening with adherence to the guidelines that must be followed and ability to respond quickly to possible spread of infection in-schools
4. Input from groups, inclusive of our Pandemic Team, and parent survey, to determine their comfort level with planning phases
5. Rates of new COVID-19 cases and level of risk within the state and county



FAMILY SURVEY

- The district sent out a family survey communicating phases of the plan to our families. (4,549 responses)

Questions:

- Which Phase do you feel most comfortable sending your child back to school?
- If the district reopens in the In-Person Phase, will you send your child to school or choose Remote?
- If the district reopens in the Hybrid Alternate Phase, will you send your child to school or choose Remote?
- Do you plan to use district bus transportation for the 2020-2021 school year?



PARENT SURVEY RESULTS

Q#7: When asked which Phase do you feel most comfortable sending your child back to school?

- There was no single phase/choice that received a strong majority of responses.
- Families have split views on Phases they felt the most comfortable in sending their child or sending their children back at all (Remote).
 - In-Person – 40%**
 - Hybrid – 33%**
 - Remote – 27%**

Q#7 and Q#9 were important to ask to determine if schools reopened in a specific Phase if parents would send their child(ren) to school.



PARENT SURVEY RESULTS

Q#8 and Q#9 Asked: If the district reopens in either of the In-Person or Hybrid Phase will you send your child to school or choose Remote?

Phase	Would Send to School	Remote
In-Person - 62%	2,819	1,730
Hybrid – 75%	3,404	1,145

Hybrid Phase – More students will attend school and less students will request Remote



REOPENING PHASE

With consideration of the all the factors described,
the district will reopen in the

Hybrid Alternate Phase



REOPENING PHASE

Why open in a Hybrid Phase:

1. Reduces building size and class size in our classrooms by approximately 50% that allows social distancing in classrooms
2. Present COVID infection rates in the state and community are on the rise (statewide public mask order, restrictions on business operations). There is a high infection risk and community spread of the virus in the community
3. Students will still receive in-person instruction in smaller groups with teachers, 2 days a week
4. Reduces the number of students on district transportation
5. Allows the district and schools to flexibly and quickly pivot to in-person if conditions improve or to remote if risks worsen



HYBRID

Hybrid Alternate Schedule

- Hybrid blended learning is a combination of in-person instruction and remote learning.
- In this type of model, students complete a majority of their coursework online and meet with a teacher(s), 2 days per week for; direct instruction, tutorial support, hands-on labs, projects or specific activities that in-person is the preferred delivery. In-person time may also be used for well-being checks, services and supports.
- In-person instruction will be used for check-ins and direct instruction. Student work time, completion of student assignments, independent reading and writing are focused on the remote online portion to maximize the in-person instruction time



HYBRID

- **Staggered Student Schedule - A & B Sections - 50% of Students**
- *Where possible, students will be scheduled alphabetically (by last name) to maximize the grouping of same family members, in the same household, together into like schedules, across buildings.*
- *Example schedules may be **Section A:** A-K and **Section B:** L-Z.*
- *Students will have the same teacher(s) for both in-person and remote learning days*

Sections	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
A	In-School In-Person	Remote Learning	In-School In-Person	Remote Learning	Remote Learning
B	Remote Learning	In-School In-Person	Remote Learning	In-School In-Person	Remote Learning



HYBRID

Delivery of Planned Instruction

Our shift to hybrid learning will allow the district to start the 2020-2021 school year fully prepared to deliver planned instruction, in-person and remotely, as defined by the PA Department of Education (PDE):

“Planned Instruction is formal teaching and learning similar to that which occurs in a classroom setting. Within this process, teachers use planned courses of instruction of new concepts/skills aligned to grade level standards. Teachers assess the learning of their students and adjust instruction based upon student progress. In order to receive grade and credit, students must attend regularly and complete the course requirements.”

(PA Department of Education)



CHANGES MAY OCCUR

Flexibility is a Must

- Depending upon the public health conditions in the county, the district's plan needs to be flexible, adaptable, and change with new developments. It should be expected that there may be a cycling back and forth throughout the school year between less restrictive to more restrictive designations as public health indicators improve or worsen.
- When and if a change would need to occur from one phase to another, the district and schools will clearly communicate these changes to their families through SwiftK-12, district website, and social media outlets.



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