

Date: 8/4/20

Dear East Hartford Community,

As we head into August, I wanted to continue to follow up with communication regarding our Fall 2020 ReOpening process. A sincere thanks to each of you who has reached out individually and made good use of [ReOpenEHPS@Easthartford.org](mailto:ReOpenEHPS@Easthartford.org). Your questions and insights have been helpful as we have worked to revise and adjust our plan.

I am writing to you today to share our most updated plan in which we have worked to incorporate both your feedback and recent flexibilities provided by Governor Lamont on July 27, 2020. As you are aware, we submitted our original ReOpening Plan on July 24<sup>th</sup> and are now pleased to release this new iteration. As such, the EHPS ReOpening Plan 2.0 utilizes a “phase in approach” to return educators and students to school in a manner that is responsive to evolving public transmission data, is cognizant of significant community/faculty fear regarding school return, and is flexible enough to transition to an alternate delivery model as needed. In alignment to the original principles of the [EHPS ReOpening Process](#), this 2.0 plan offers a path to meet the needs of the EHPS community as we look to safely return to a state of normality.

*EHPS ReOpening Principles:*

- **Safe:** Our plan is guided by current health care data centered on community transmission rates. With transmission rates hovering near 1% in CT, we are within the current parameters of being able to safely bring students and staff back into our buildings. Matched with the comprehensive mitigation strategies detailed in [our initial plan](#), this plan provides a complete approach to school re-entry informed by local and national research.
- **Incremental:** The following phase in, sequential approach accounts for the “immersion” needs of our community, students and faculty. Based on the feedback we have received from our community, we are aware of significant fear and anxiety regarding the physical return to school. This phase in approach offers a structural way to move back into the environment and respond quickly to potentially deteriorating public transmission data. By individually introducing populations to the learning environment and then building up scale and duration, this model helps our community and faculty successfully complete the transition back to school.
- **Adaptive:** As we continue to move forward, this model provides a high level of flexibility that will allow the organization to quickly respond to public transmission data and community will. EHPS ReOpening 2.0 is a strategic approach that addresses the need for normality of operations while maintaining sensitivity of all stakeholders.

As this phase in model largely centers on the ReOpening EHPS schools, the [original plan requirements/mitigation process remain active and in place](#). **The changes come with respect to re-entry.**

Phase 1: Faculty Re-Entry/ Orientation/Training	
8/24-8/28	<p><i>Faculty Training:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All staff are expected to return to buildings with the exception of those who have been documented as members of the ‘vulnerable population’ or received special exceptions with the Human Resource (HR) Office. During this phase, extensive professional development will be provided for faculty regarding health and safety protocols, technology supports, instructional training (in person/remote). In addition, focused trainings will also be</li> </ul>

	<p>offered on trauma-informed practice/Social Emotional Learning (SEL) support. This training will be structured to be delivered in small group settings or virtually to maintain appropriate standards for social distancing.</p> <p><i>Parent Orientation/Conference:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Virtual School Orientation:</i> Using a video/virtual format, Principals will engage families in the ReOpening process by showcasing new protocols including classrooms, hallways and common areas to highlight changes made to the school environment that have been designed to protect the safety of students and staff.</li> <li>• <i>8/27-8/28 Parent Conferences:</i> Using a virtual format, teachers will contact families and engage in a Welcome Back orientation. This orientation will be designed to introduce themselves to parents as well as to orient families to new learning expectations including securing parent emails for communication (e.g. Google Classroom weekly summaries). These conferences will resemble the format of more traditional parent conference days, but in a virtual format.</li> </ul> <p><i>Technology Distribution:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Families will report to school by appointment and receive technology device in an outdoor/large indoor common space.</li> </ul>
Phase 2: Remote Learning Experience (RLE)/Student Orientation	
<p>Anticipated Timeline: 8/31-9/11 (full days)</p> <p>*Please note that the anticipated timeline will be dictated by the maintenance of public health transmission data allowing the safe implementation of the preceding phase.</p>	<p>All EHPS students will begin the school year in an RLE experience. This opening phase will focus on developing the norms and habits of remote learning and building strong virtual teacher-student relationships. As a part of this experience, significant efforts will be made to engage families and work through technology issues to ensure all students have access to online learning.</p> <p>Staff who are teaching in the EHPS RLE Program are expected to provide instruction to students on a full-day schedule from their assigned school building unless they have been authorized to work from home by the Director of Human Resources.</p> <p><i>9/10-9/11 Student Re-Entry Orientations:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schools will design orientation program for students whose families have elected to return to the school. These orientations will have a heavy emphasis on reviewing health and safety protocols as well as addressing relationship building/SEL needs. In an effort to limit the numbers of students attending orientation sessions, schools will split returning students into two groups alphabetically. Orientations will run on a reduced Early Dismissal Schedule including full transportation runs. Following Student Orientation Sessions, all staff will spend the remainder of the day work as a building to reflect on lessons learned from the orientation sessions in an effort to improve student re-entry protocols. During Student Orientation days, students participating in the RLE will continue to receive programming as planned.</li> </ul>
Phase 3: ½ Day Learning: In-Person/RLE Learning	
<p>Anticipated Timeline: 9/14-9/18 (student half-days)</p>	<p><i>In-School Learners:</i></p> <p>Students whose parents have elected to return to school will return to school for ½ day sessions. At this time, our teachers will begin working with students on the first unit of study. Following student dismissal, staff will participate in building based professional development sessions focused on reviewing health</p>

	<p>and safety protocols, improving re-entry routines and making additional contact with families.</p> <p><i>RLE Learners:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students whose families have elected to participate in the RLE experience will continue to participate in ½ day remote learning.</li> </ul>
Phase 4: Full time In-Person/RLE Learning	
<p>Anticipated Timeline: 9/21-1/25/21</p>	<p>Starting on Monday, September 21, all students and staff will participate in a full-time instruction. This includes both the RLE and In-Person programs.</p> <p>Staff who are teaching in the RLE Program are expected to provide a full day of instruction to students from their assigned school building unless they have been authorized to work from home by the Director of Human Resources.</p>

We realize that this is a wealth of information that will certainly stimulate ideas, questions and concerns. As we work to improve this plan and move into implementation, we ask that you continue to carefully review this draft and send any questions or comments to our ReOpening Task Force at ([ReOpenEHPS@Easthartford.org](mailto:ReOpenEHPS@Easthartford.org)). In addition, we have scheduled the following virtual Town Hall to provide our parents and guardians an opportunity to provide feedback and respond.

EHPS Community Group	Date	Time	Zoom Link
Parents/Guardians	8/11/20	5:00-6:00 pm	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/94076079530">https://zoom.us/j/94076079530</a> Phone: +1 929 205 6099 ID: 940 7607 9530

Thanks for your continued focus on how we can keep our kids safe and back to school,



Nathan Quesnel  
*Superintendent*  
 East Hartford Public Schools