

December 11, 2020

Dear East Hartford Community,

I am writing to you today to continue to update you on our ReOpening plan as we eagerly look forward to 2021. As always, I want to thank you for your partnership as we work to provide a high-quality education for East Hartford children, despite the challenges of the pandemic. The district designed the original ReOpen EHPS plan to be three things: *safe*, *incremental*, and *adaptive*. This communication reviews a new adaptation that is a part of our continued efforts to deliver on our promise.

ReOpening 3.0: Transition to a Concurrent Instructional Model

As you are aware, the district transitioned to our Remote Learning Experience (RLE) for all students from 11/30/20-1/15/21. While we carefully monitor data regarding our staffing profile and community virus transmission, we have developed the next phase of our plan to bring our In-Person Learners (IPL) back into the school building on January 19. This next phase, ReOpening 3.0, captures our latest learning around operating in COVID conditions and enhances our ability to consistently engage students. In this new iteration, EHPS will implement a "Concurrent Instructional Model" in which PK-12 classroom teachers will teach "in-person" (IPL) students at the same time they are hosting virtual instruction for students learning from home. This structure enhances our current offering by providing necessary support and personal connection for IPL students on their assigned Virtual Learning Days. In addition, we are taking this mid-year opportunity to revise our elementary and secondary RLE schedules, improving consistency and increasing the time our students spend with their teachers.

ReOpen 3.0 Details:

- *Maintenance of Current Model Selection:* In August, EHPS asked families to select a model (IPL/RLE) for their child's learning for the fall semester and commit to this for the entire first semester. Should you desire to make a change to your student's current status for the spring, **please contact your child's school principal directly by Wednesday, December 23, 2020.** Changes that are requested will become effective on Tuesday, January 26, 2021. Any changes requested after this date will not take place on time for the start of the second semester and unfortunately may not be granted.
- *Reduced Enrollment Model (REM) Calendar:* To enhance the district's ability to socially distance students in our schools, ReOpen 3.0 will begin by following the previously implemented [REM \(A/B day schedule\) calendar](#). Of note, the district is currently working to re-evaluate the ability to transition the elementary (PK-5) level out of REM for 2/1/21. This decision will be communicated to the community based on virus transmission data. At this time, there is no plan to transition the secondary (Grs. 6-12) model out of REM.
- *Special Education/Programmatic Exemptions:* Based on guidance provided by the Bureau of Special Education, EHPS will maintain five day/week in person schedules for Synergy School, Woodland School, all Autism/Medically Fragile Programs, Elementary Panda Pride program, EHMS SOAR program and all self-contained programs at EHHS.
- *Impact on Remote Learning Experience (RLE) Schedules:* In ReOpen 3.0, all secondary RLE students will transition to a full five day/week schedule. At the elementary level, the RLE schedule has been

enhanced to provide for a greater level of consistency across the district as well as align with the IPL schedule. These modifications will be important as we consider the full return of all students to In-Person Learning for Fall of 2021.

- *Concurrent Instruction Description:* As the highlight of ReOpen 3.0, “concurrent instruction” will greatly enhance students' learning during Virtual Learning Days. Designed to resemble In-Person Learning Days, students will log into Google Classroom from home and click on the ‘banner’ to gain virtual access to their class. Following a 20-30-minute concurrent learning session, students will be released to complete an assignment independently which will likely be due that day (or a date to be determined by the instructor). In accordance with [guidance](#) from the CSDE, attendance will be collected based on active participation on each student’s In-Person **and** Virtual Learning Days. The following bullets provide key expectations for families and students around this model:
 - *Elementary:* On assigned Virtual Learning Days, students will participate in five sessions of concurrent teaching each assigned to various topics/content areas (morning meeting, reading, Foundations, writing, math). In addition, students will virtually engage in a sixth session with Specials teachers according to their weekly rotations.
 - *Secondary:* On assigned Virtual Learning Days, students will participate in approximately 20-30 minutes of each class period/teacher. During this time, participation will likely include a review of the learning target(s) and agenda, a warm-up activity or a “Do Now,” a mini-lesson, and small group work, guided and/or independent practice.
- *Transportation:* Students and families should expect identical arrival and pick-up times at their assigned bus stop for the start of semester 2. The change to a concurrent instructional model will not impact the bus pick-up or drop-off times.
- *Meals for RLE/IPL students (on assigned Virtual Learning days):* Free breakfast and lunch will be provided for anyone 18 years of age and under at four district meal sites: Meals will be served between 11:00 am-12:00pm. For additional details please consult our [website posting](#).

Changes to the District Calendar:

As the district prepares to implement this new model, it will provide training for teachers in the afternoon on the three days leading up to this transition. **As such, the district calendar has been changed to reflect a half-day schedule: Wednesday, January 13, Thursday, January 14 and Friday, January 15.** Additionally, midterm exams, originally scheduled for January 19-25, 2021, will not be administered to high school students. Accordingly, the district calendar on **these five days has been changed to reflect a full day schedule for students enrolled at CIBA, EHHS, Synergy and Woodland.**

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child’s school principal or my office directly. Thank you for your continued support of East Hartford Public Schools.

Sincerely,



Nathan D. Quesnel
Superintendent

East Hartford Public Schools