

CGSD Frequently Asked Questions on School Reopening

Updated August 18, 2020

When these questions are updated, this date will be changed to reflect the new date. Also, the updated material will be temporarily in blue, so it is easy to identify.

Although this document cannot possibly answer all questions related to school reopening, hopefully it can give some answers and a perspective regarding the school reopening process.

Additional questions should be forwarded to your child's building principal. Specific special education questions should be forwarded to the Director of Special Education.

The district's plan became final after the vote of the school board at its meeting on Tuesday, July 28, 2020 when they voted on the district's Health and Safety Plan.

Will the district's original school calendar change as a result of this process?

- Yes. The school calendar changed. The first day of school was moved to Thursday, August 27, 2020.

Why was this change in the school calendar necessary?

- This change added more days of preparation for our teaching staff so they can prepare to offer our students the best education in this new environment as possible.

Will the district be opening 5 days a week to all students?

- No. The district will open in a hybrid style. Approximately ½ of the students will attend at a time. When ½ of the students are learning face-to-face, the rest will be learning in a virtual environment.

How will the students be divided?

- The students will be divided alphabetically. Students whose last names begin with the letters **A-K will be in GROUP A or the RED GROUP**. Students whose last names begin with the letters **L-Z will be in GROUP B or the BLACK GROUP**.
- **Group A RED GROUP will attend on Mondays and Tuesdays.**
- **Group B BLACK GROUP will attend on Thursday and Fridays.**
- Everyone will be virtual on Wednesdays.

Will my child, who is in Group A RED, miss the first week of school because it is on a Thursday and Friday?

- No. For the first week of school, Thursday, August 27, 2020 and Friday, August 28, 2020, each group will take a turn. **GROUP A RED** will attend school on THURSDAY August 27 and **GROUP B BLACK** will attend school on FRIDAY

August 28. The regular routine will begin the following week. Parents will be receiving a letter in the mail from the school district outlining the correct days for attendance for the months of August and September.

All of the children under my roof do not have the same last name. I want my family on the same schedule. What do I do?

- Send your children to school based on the last name of the oldest child. Follow the schedule (**Group A RED Group** or **Group B BLACK Group**) based on the last name of *the oldest child under your roof*.

How do you expect my student to learn virtually/online? My student does not have a device!

- The district will be providing EACH student with a device.

I do not like this option. I want my child to stay home and learn 100% online.

- The school district is prepared to accommodate you! Students in grades 7-12 have always had our own cyber option available to them. Students in grades K-6 can and will be taught fully online by their own classroom teacher.

When my child learns online, will they learn by the teacher live streaming the instruction?

- The board is in the process of passing a policy permitting live streaming of instruction. Some teachers may choose to live stream and some may not. It is their preference. Some may live stream while others may record their lessons for play back by their students. We trust in the judgment and talents of our teachers to use live streaming in their instruction as they see fit.

If my child has an IEP, GIEP, or a 504 plan, will we still be able to have meetings?

- All meetings for initial evaluations, IEPs, GIEPs, or 504 plans will be held virtually via zoom, phone calls, or a combination of both.

I was not impressed with the learning my child received during the fourth quarter of the last school year. I want an even higher quality of education. What is the District planning on doing?

- At the end of the last school year, our teachers spent three full days being trained on Google Classroom, the platform that we are using for our online instruction. Many of them went a step beyond the training to obtain Google Certification. The online experience your child received last year will be much more enhanced this year since the training was consistent and very robust.

What can I do to help prepare my student for this new schedule?

- Discuss and model health behaviors like the important of social distancing, the value of proper facial coverings like masks and shields and the importance of washing hands and using hand sanitizers.
- One week before the start of school, start to use consistent bedtimes and wake times.
- Be sure the district has your current email addresses and phone numbers.

If I start with the hybrid option and decide I don't like it and want a fully online option will that be complicated?

- Our goal is to be as seamless as possible. Communication with your building administrator is the first step in what should be a very fluid process to transition your student into the other program of your choice.

It is my understanding that my child has to wear a mask to school. Does that rule still apply under this hybrid option?

- This is a state rule at this time, *not* a district rule. [The rule was updated on August 17, 2020. Now students must wear masks AT ALL TIMES WHILE IN SCHOOL. Here is a link to the information https://mailchi.mp/b446b32838bd/guidance-on-covid-cases-2485556?e=994103eb44](https://mailchi.mp/b446b32838bd/guidance-on-covid-cases-2485556?e=994103eb44)
You should send your student to school with a mask until the order is lifted by the Department of Health and/or the Department of Education. This order was NOT put into place by the school district and therefore cannot be lifted by the school district.
- Accommodations for students requiring them should be made in partnership with the student's health care provided, school nurse, and IEP/504 team.

If mandatory, what will happen if a student refuses to wear a mask?

- All students and staff in attendance at school are expected to follow all CDC and PA Dept. of Health guidelines regarding masks/shields.

Will my child's temperature be taken every day when s/he comes to school?

- No. Students will be seen by the school nurse or health care professional if they are not feeling well. Material that we are currently preparing to send home will indicate that parents should check the health of their students daily before sending them to school, and that includes checking their temperature. This printed material is forthcoming in the US Postal mail.

If school is closed on Monday for a holiday, would my child attend on Wednesday to make-up for Monday?

- No. The District will be sending out a schedule of Group A RED and Group B BLACK days in advance so each family is aware which days are which. It is our

goal to keep the number of Group A Red and Group B Black days as even and possible. It helps for grading purposes as well.

So my child will only need to attend school for two days a week?

- No. Certainly not. Your child needs to attend school five days a week. Two of those days will be face-to-face in person with the teacher. Three of those days will be virtual. The teacher must take attendance on each of those five days to validate that your child is present. We are mandated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education to provide instruction for 180 days. Five days a week is mandated.

If a student is struggling, can s/he attend Monday/Tuesday and Thursday/Friday?

- No. Students must stick to their A Red/ B Black schedules. Supports, like students are used to in our brick and mortar schools, are available to students in this hybrid method as well. For example, school counselors, social workers, and special education teachers are all available to your student.

If my child is absent on a virtual day, do they still need to bring an excuse to school?

- Yes. Attendance still counts on virtual, learn from home days. Send an excuse to school as you would have done “normally” in the past.

How will lunches be served to children every day?

- We are awaiting direction from the USDA and the Pennsylvania Department of Education regarding the providing of lunches for all of our students. To date, no specific guidance has been provided to us. When that guidance is given, we will follow it. Your children are our priority.

I know that thorough cleaning has been done in all the buildings since March, but will the cleaning be kept up?

- A part of the philosophy to have Wednesday as a virtual day is to allow the staff to deep clean between the Red group and the Black group in the building. The District has purchased the appropriated EPA approved cleansers and machines to continue to keep our buildings clean and safe.

Is the cleaning material you are using safe for my child to be around? Will it be toxic to my child?

- We are using material recommended by the EPA. We would not put your child in danger. With our hybrid schedule, Wednesday is a virtual learning day because deep cleaning is to be done in the buildings, when the children are not present. Most of the other major cleaning that will be completed when the students are in the school will be not done in their presence.

What if a student becomes symptomatic during school hours?

- As of now, our direction is for the student to leave the classroom immediately and report to the nurse's office or designated office/room.
- The nurse will assess the student, do a temperature check and ask pertinent questions about any pre-existing conditions that may explain the symptoms that are manifesting.
- If warranted, the nurse will contact the parent to arrange for off-site transportation.
- Students with elevated temperatures will leave the building regardless of cause.
- The student's desk area will be sanitized prior to further usage.
- The student would need to follow the CDC and PA Dept. of Health's guidance on returning to school.
- The school would continue to operate and normally as possible until additional information becomes available on the student's status as there are many common reasons other than the Coronavirus that could explain someone not feeling well. Notifications would not be warranted unless specific details arose.

What if a student tests positive for the Coronavirus?

- We will do our best to trace potential contacts between the infected person and other persons with whom that person had contact.
- We will work with PDE and local health agencies to determine the extent of the needs to isolate/quarantine.
- All necessary policies regarding confidentiality will be followed and all steps to protect our students will be implemented.

Will attendance rules apply as they did in the past? What if a student is positive for the Coronavirus and need to exceed 10 days of absence?

- If a student tests positive for the Coronavirus, we will work with the family to obtain medical documentation that shows the need for the absence.
- We will work with the Pennsylvania Department of Education and our solicitor to determine what our legal mandates are.
- We will continually seek updates in this area.

What if I have additional questions that are not answered here?

- Additional questions should be forwarded to your child's building principal. Specific special education questions should be forwarded to the Director of Special Education.

What is my family has traveled outside of Pennsylvania prior to the start of the school year?

- This information is being provided to give you as much advance notice as possible, with respect to the fact that the School District may require you to quarantine for 14 days upon your return from traveling.
- Please note that this is based on the latest recommendations and guidance issued by Governor Wolf and/or the Pennsylvania Department of Health, and thus is subject to change should those recommendations and guidance change, or should those recommendations and guidance become requirements.
- At this point in time, anyone who travels out of the United States, and/or to, any of the following states must quarantine for 14 calendar days before returning to school:
 - Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Utah
As of the week of August 10, North Carolina has been removed from the list
 - (watch for updates on state listings at:
 - <https://health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/pages/Travelers.aspx>)
 - People who travel to other areas not yet on the list, where COVID 19 case numbers are increasing, may be required to self-quarantine for 14 calendar days before returning to school, OR provide at least two COVID-19 tests with negative readings at least 48 hours apart, before returning to school/work.
 - Please note that if you are not able to complete your school/work remotely during the quarantine period, you must contact your building administrator.
 - If you have any questions, please also contact your building administrator.