

Lacey Township School District School Reopening Definitions and FAQs

Definitions

Asynchronous Learning: Asynchronous learning is a student-centered teaching method widely used in online learning. Its basic premise is that learning can occur in different times and spaces particular to each learner, as opposed to synchronous learning at a same time and place with groups of learners and their instructor, or one learner and their instructor. In asynchronous learning, instructors usually set up a learning path, which students engage with at their own pace.

One-to-One: The term one-to-one is applied to programs that provide all students in a school, district, or state with their own laptop, netbook, tablet computer, or other mobile-computing device. One-to-one refers to one computer for every student.

Remote Learning: Remote learning is something a district should be able to switch off and on based on need; however, the efficiency of transitioning to remote learning is dependent on preparedness, technology tools, or overall student support infrastructure. It is different from virtual school or virtual learning programs that typically have gone through an official process of establishing a school, adopting an online curriculum, and creating a dedicated structure to support students enrolled in the school. eLearning utilizes electronic technologies to access educational curriculum outside of the traditional classroom. Remote learning provides an opportunity for students and teachers to remain connected and engaged with the content while working from their homes. Opportunities for remote learning are typically linked to emergency situations that pose a threat to student safety.

Synchronous Learning: Synchronous learning refers to all types of learning in which learner(s) and instructor(s) are in the same place, at the same time, in order for learning to take place. This includes in-person classes, live online meetings when the whole class or smaller groups get together. In synchronous learning, students usually go through the learning path together, accompanied by their instructor who is able to provide support while students are completing tasks and activities.

FAQs

Can students who have opted for Full-Time Remote Only Instruction participate in co-curricular clubs and activities?

Yes. The scope and expectations of the district's full-time remote learning program will ensure that students receive the same quality of educational services as any other student. This will include participation in co-curricular clubs and activities.

When will co-curricular clubs and activities begin?

Our advisors will begin planning for clubs and activities to begin as soon as possible. However, we ask for patience as our teachers, as well as our parents, are embarking on a new system of delivering instruction. In some instances, our teachers will be expected to teach students who are in front of them in class, at home on a computer, while still providing instruction for those students who, for a variety of reasons, are not able to log into a live class, which is called asynchronous learning (learning that occurs without real-time instruction). With all of that said, if a club or activity can begin as early as September 8, it will, remotely. If more time is needed for planning and to ascertain student interest, it will begin a little later. We will do our best.

How will the school notify parents of positive cases?

On August 13, the NJ Department of Health issued guidance that outlines recommendations for school settings and is intended for use by the Ocean County Health Department. The guidance states that:

- As with any other communicable disease outbreak, schools will assist in identifying the close contacts within the school and communicating this information back to the Ocean County Health Department.
- With guidance from the Ocean County Health Department, schools will be responsible for notifying parents and staff of the close contact exposure and exclusion requirements while maintaining confidentiality. This will be done in writing.
- And finally, the Ocean County Health Department contact tracing team will notify and interview the close contacts identified by the school and reinforce the exclusion requirements.

How many positive cases before the school has to close according to the state?

This is also outlined in the guidance referenced above. We will use the scenarios presented to make decisions about whether school has to close for positive cases. The recommendation is that a school will close for 14 days when 2 or more cases are identified within 14 days that occur across multiple classrooms and a clear connection between cases or to a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 cannot be easily identified (outbreak involving multiple cohorts).

How are the schools going to ensure that students are able to socially distance in the halls while changing classes?

Creating Alphabetical Cohorts A and B was an effective strategy to limit exposure and contact between students because it allowed us to minimize the number of non-essential interactions between students and staff throughout the school day. At the elementary level in grades PreK through 6, movement is going to be minimal as students will be grouped as cohorts with their teachers. Additionally, special area teachers will be traveling to classrooms for specials, and students will be eating in their classrooms rather than going to the cafeteria.

Will students change classrooms in between classes?

At the high school and middle school level, students will be changing classrooms in between each class. The elementary schools will see much greater limitations in the hallway movements due to the assignments to a specific classroom teacher. Special area teachers will travel to the students' classrooms when possible. The hallways have been divided to promote students walking in one direction on either side of the hallway.

Will the Champions Childcare Program be available to parents for the 2020-2021 school year?

Yes. Information about Champions can be found on our website. You can also click [here](#) for the flyer.

If hybrid students are sick and kept home, but feel well enough to participate, would they be able to participate remotely?

Yes, your student can still participate remotely. If your child is sick and needs to be kept home, please follow the standard procedures of calling the school's main office.

Will there be fire drills and/or security drills during this current school year? If so, how will they be run safely?

Yes. NJ State Law 18A:41-1 states that every school shall have at least one fire drill and one school security drill each month. All students and staff will follow social distancing guidelines whenever possible throughout the duration of each drill.

Will students in the Hybrid Cohort Model be allowed to participate in sports activities? What will that look like on days that they are not attending in-school instruction?

Yes, students will be allowed to participate. Either model will have all students completing school at 12:05 and returning back to school for practice to begin by 2pm.

Will locker rooms be open?

Currently, the locker rooms are closed as per NJSIAA protocols and guidelines. There will be updates once fall sports begin on Sept 14th. The locker rooms will also be closed for PE.

Will students receive mask breaks?

Face coverings will be required for all students at all times while inside a school building regardless of social distancing unless doing so would inhibit the individual's health. Therefore, masks must be worn at all times unless there is a reason not to wear a mask, such as eating or drinking.

How many students will be permitted on board a 54 passenger school bus to accommodate social distancing?

Face coverings will be required for all students at all times while on board a 54 passenger school bus unless doing so would inhibit a student's health. Therefore, a maximum of 22 students will be permitted on board a 54 passenger school bus.

How will social distancing be accomplished in classrooms, hallways and restrooms?

Schools in the district will allow for social distancing within the classroom to the maximum extent practicable. This will be achieved by ensuring students are seated at least six feet apart. If a school in the district is not able to maintain this physical distance, additional modifications should be considered including using physical barriers between desks, turning desks to face the same direction (rather than facing each other), and/or having students sit on only one side of the table, spaced apart.

There will be markings in the hallways to remind students to stay to the right. The center of the hallway will be marked to separate students. Student access to restrooms will be staggered to prevent multiple students from congregating in the restroom.

Will the music programs continue?

There will still be general music classes for all grades both in-person and remotely. These classes will include music theory and opportunities for students to engage activities using virtual platforms supporting music. We are exploring the possibility of offering instrumental and vocal instruction, both in-person and remotely.

Special Education

What does all-remote look like for a student with an IEP or a 504 Plan?

Student IEPs will be implemented to the maximum extent possible in the context of current NJ State guidelines for reopening schools. Students' accommodations and modifications will be implemented during remote learning.

If I choose all remote for my child, will a special education teacher be instructing remotely? What will that look like?

Instruction will be provided via Google Meet and additional instructional assignments will be available through Google Classroom and Canvas. Student IEPs will be implemented to the maximum extent possible in the context of current State guidelines for re-opening schools. Students' accommodations and modifications will be implemented during remote learning.

If we choose to go remote, will it be like ESY is now?

Yes, the remote option will be structured similar to the Extend School Year (ESY) Program. Instruction will be given via Google Meet and additional instructional assignments will be provided through Google Classroom and Canvas. Student IEPs will be implemented to the maximum extent possible in the context of current State guidelines for re-opening schools. Students' accommodations and modifications will be implemented during remote learning.

What will the role of paraprofessionals be during remote and hybrid options?

Student IEPs that include paraprofessionals will be implemented to the maximum extent possible in the context of current State guidelines for re-opening schools. Program paraprofessionals will be assigned to classrooms based on State requirements.

If I choose to go with the hybrid option for my child, how will they be receiving instruction and related services since they're only in school 2 half-days and an additional half-day every other week?

In-person instruction will be supplemented through Google Meets and additional instructional assignments will be provided through Google Classroom and Canvas. Student IEPs will be implemented to the maximum extent possible in the context of current State guidelines for re-opening schools. Students' accommodations and modifications will be implemented when a student participates in the hybrid option. Related services will be provided in-person on the days that students are attending in-person instruction. It is possible that some related services may be provided remotely when a student participates in the hybrid option with consideration given to student needs, staff availability, and safety protocols.

Do I have the option to choose in-person related services if my child is participating in the remote option?

Related service providers will be working on their schedules the first week of school. We will attempt to accommodate parent requests but won't know for certain until that week. Parents will be permitted to submit individualized requests for remote or in-person related services prior to the school year by contacting their student's case manager. We plan to prioritize in-person students to receive in-person related services. If a student is participating in the remote learning option, their parent/guardian would need to provide transportation in both directions if they opted for in-person related services.

How are you maintaining social distancing? Are there barriers between the desks? Since they are going to be there every day will they have a separate entrance from the other kids?

The ratio of students in the classrooms has been reduced and seating arrangements have been re-configured to ensure social distancing is achieved during instruction (i.e. spacing of desks, tables, and other furniture), transitions in the classrooms and buildings will have specific traffic patterns that limit the amount of students transitioning between activities and throughout the building. Students are required and taught to wear masks during transitions and when social distancing is not possible.

If a student is not able to wear a mask, what should I do?

If a student has a documented medical condition and/or a disability which excludes the student from the requirement of wearing a face covering, the parent should reach out to their case manager so we can make the appropriate exemptions and arrange for them to be in school in a safe manner.

Meals

Where will meals be served?

Meals in the elementary schools will be delivered directly to the classrooms during designated lunch periods. Breakfast will be delivered to the classrooms according to each school's breakfast schedule.

Breakfast at Lacey Township High School and Middle School will be served throughout multiple points of service in the buildings; lunch will be "Grab and Go" at designated locations.

Where can school meal menus be found?

The school lunch menus as well as other information related to meal services can be found on the district website under *Departments & Programs > Food Services*. Additionally, you may contact each school's Cafeteria Lead at 609-971-2000:

Forked River: Joann Nicastro, ext. 7008

Cedar Creek: Joe Raimo, ext: 5156

Lanoka Harbor: Bryn Ernst, ext. 6010

Mill Pond: Denise Villanova, ext. 4012

Lacey Township Middle School: Jennifer Fischer, ext. 3019

Lacey Township High School: TBD, ext. 2045

How can families and staff pre order meals?

Families and staff may pre-order meals using the [LTSD PreOrder Meal Form 2020-2021](#).