

Edgefield County School District

2020-2021 **REOPENING** **PLANS**



Edgefield County Schools

Message from Dr. Kevin O’Gorman, *Superintendent*



Students, Teachers, Parents, and Community Members:

I hope this letter finds everyone safe, healthy, and happy during the summer break! Today, I’m sharing with you the decisions that have been made as we move closer to the first day of school on August 24th and beyond. It will come as no surprise to anybody that we are navigating through uncharted waters in the wake of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) global pandemic. Considering instances of COVID-19 in Edgefield County are rapidly increasing along with other areas across the Palmetto State, we are taking no chances in terms of student and staff safety.

The first thing you should know is that we strongly believe that the best learning environment for students is to meet with teachers face-to-face. However, based on current guidelines, we will not be able to return to full-time school, Monday through Friday. Although we miss our students greatly, we are met with the reality that social distancing is necessary beginning in the fall and, therefore, we will adopt a hybrid model of reentry. I also want to let parents know that we have provided the option of remote learning for children for consideration - if you do not believe a hybrid model is best for your child. In this document you will find information to help clarify the hybrid-learning model, remote learning, wellness precautions, future options, instructional strategies, and more.

While learning about this information will bring some answers to you, I expect you will still have a lot of questions. We will continuously update our plans as we receive new information about the spread of the virus and receive further guidance from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (*DHEC*) and the South Carolina Department of Education (*SCDE*). Updates will be provided on our district webpage [HERE](#).

Our plan will remain adaptable to ever-changing conditions; we will make the best decisions we can based on the most current information we have; we will anticipate a need to change; and we will continue to seek guidance from both the SCDE and DHEC in the weeks to come.

Before I close, I must give a shoutout to the amazing workers here at your Edgefield County School District! They have been working tirelessly to ensure the safest and most efficient reentry plan for the 2020-21 school year.

Please know that we appreciate your patience as we continue to work through developing educational opportunities for our students. We look forward to Engaging, Empowering, and Enriching our students through the learning process in the very near future.

Sincerely,

Kevin L. O’Gorman, Ph.D.
Superintendent Edgefield County School District

Edgefield County School District

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Our Process

Edgefield County School District gathered information from **parent and student surveys** regarding their experiences with the instructional packets and choice during distance learning. Thanks to everyone who completed these!

District administrators formed a **Wellness Task Force** charged with researching and learning everything they could about the ways other states and districts were approaching the next school year while carefully protecting student and staff health and safety.

District administrators and the Wellness Task Force are working a fluid situation and will continue to seek guidance from the South Carolina State Department of Education (*SCDE*) and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (*DHEC*). **Contingency** plans for opening in the Fall will be published with the most up-to-date information.

District administrators met with each school's **School Improvement Council (SIC)** members to discuss and receive feedback in regards to contingency plans for opening in the Fall. Additionally, district administration **collaborated with SCDE and other districts** around the state to plan for reopening.

Finally district administrators gathered information from **parent and staff surveys** regarding their desires to potential reopening options.

Adaptability

“School is not going to look the same regardless of what shape and form of in-class or distance learning model is adopted. Contingencies will need to be made. Acceptance and understanding will need to be universal. The discipline and habits of people will need to change.”

Wellness

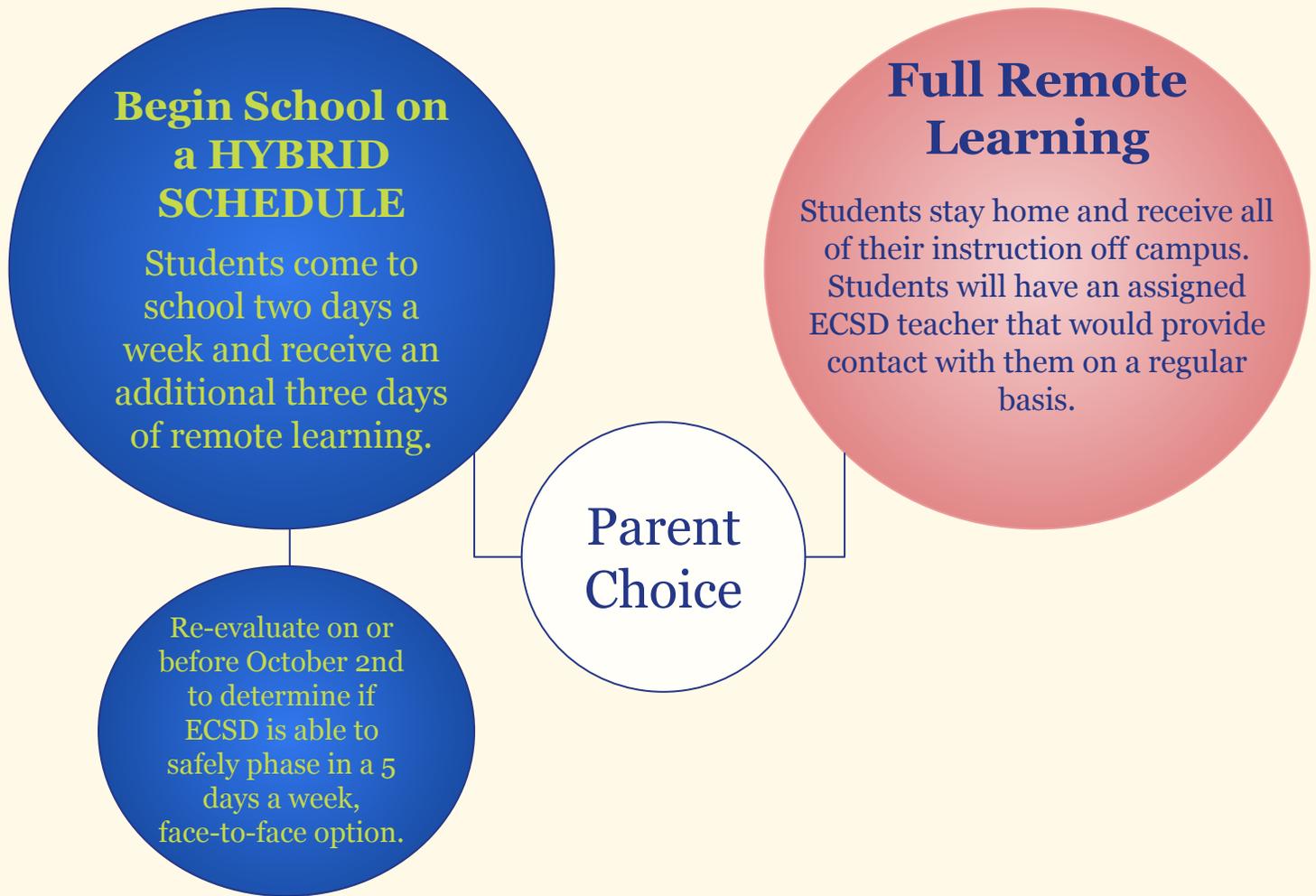
Our priority during the pandemic will continue to be the social, emotional, and physical wellness of our students.

Prevention Practices, Social Distancing and Capacity

Actions that will be taken in response to COVID-19 are:

- Follow the [CDC's Consideration for Schools](#) and [DHEC guidelines](#) where feasible.
- Daily temperature checks for staff.
- Daily screening of students and staff for COVID-19 symptoms.
- ECSD will provide and encourage the wearing of masks/face shields throughout the day, with mandatory use during transitions or when social distancing cannot be followed.
- Daily classroom sanitation and disinfection of the school building.
- Classes will be at a greatly reduced capacity.
- Designated drop off and pick-up areas.
- Seating will be socially distanced to the greatest extent possible.
- Students should keep their belongings at their desk.
- Recommended hand washing schedule.
- Encourage students to wash hands with soap and water before eating.
- Recommend staggered dismissal with appropriate personnel to monitor social distancing.
- Develop staggered entry and dismissal plans at the school-level to minimize the number of students in communal areas.
- Accommodate transition time between classes at each school to allow for social distancing and staggered class changes.
- Develop a schedule at each school to accommodate break opportunities for students.
- Custodians will follow appropriate guidance for cleaning building and restrooms throughout the day to include high touch areas like door knobs and restroom handles.
- Educate and encourage students to clean (tidy) and safely secure their individual area before dismissing daily.

Returning Schedule Option



The high school will adjust to a 4 x 4 semester schedule this year in order to help students manage classes in the event of another school closure. This means that students will only have to manage 4 classes at a time instead of the traditional 8. ECSD expects this to be a temporary change while we continue to face the challenges of COVID-19.

What Does the Hybrid Schedule Look Like?



	Cohort A	Cohort B
Monday	Face to Face	Remote Learning
Tuesday	Remote Learning	Face to Face
Wednesday	Remote Learning	Remote Learning
Thursday	Face to Face	Remote Learning
Friday	Remote Learning	Face to Face

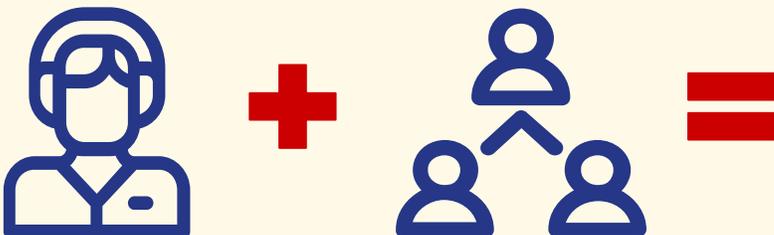
Remote Learning Days

- Students lead their own learning through Google classroom and remote learning opportunities regardless of connectivity.
- Teachers will be available during set times throughout the day to respond to student needs.

Face-to-Face Days

- Differentiated grouping based on student needs
- Targeted instruction with reduced class size

Remote and Face-to-Face Blend



Combine best practices from remote and in-person instruction to create robust teaching and learning experiences in both environments.

What Does Remote Learning Look Like?

Students stay home and receive 100% of their instruction through full Remote Learning.



Please know the full remote learning option this Fall will differ from the remote/virtual learning experiences that students had in the spring of 2020 during the schools' closure. Remote learners will have a **dedicated ECSD teacher** who will be in **direct contact with students on a regular basis** - and will establish the teacher-student relationship that we consider to be vital to a student's education. Remote teachers recognize the lack of internet connectivity for many families and **will adapt engaging learning experiences** to meet student needs in both **offline and online** settings.



Available Devices

The district is planning and preparing to have available Chromebook devices for all students in grades 2-12. Devices may be assigned to students once a technology agreement has been signed by the parent or guardian. Additionally, Chromebook tablet devices will be purchased for grades K-1.

Personal Touch

Remote learning would involve an assigned teacher who will provide contact with students on a regular basis. This teacher may also provide work on a thumb drive or by a paper/pencil packet.



Offline Access

Even if you're not connected to the Internet, you can still do lots of things with a Chromebook.

You can read, respond to, and search your Gmail messages

You can take notes offline using Google Keep.

You can view, create, and edit documents, spreadsheets, or slides using Google Drive.

You can view and edit photos with the Chromebook's built-in photo editor.

You can read web pages: Right-click the page, select Save as, then save the page as an HTML file.

You can access teacher created videos.

Students or families may need to visit the school parking lot to download or upload new information.



What if I want to change the instructional delivery for my student?

Pending the Governor's Executive Orders and SCDE recommendations, parents will have the option to choose remote learning no matter the risk level. Additionally, parents will be able to transition to full remote instruction after the **school year starts upon a written request and with administrative approval.**

However, parents will **only be able to transition from full remote to the face-to-face environment** at the end of the nine weeks at the elementary and middle level and at the end of the semester at the high school level if allowed by the SCDE and the Governor's Executive Orders.

What about provisions of services for students with disabilities?

Please refer to the Edgefield County School District's website for additional information regarding the provision of services to students with disabilities during COVID-19.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (*IDEA*) requires school districts to provide a Free and Appropriate Public Education (*FAPE*) for students with disabilities ages 3-21, and for the District to ensure that provision of FAPE through general supervisory authority, including the use of monitoring, dispute resolution, technical assistance, and corrective action, if needed.

For more detailed information, please click [HERE](#) or contact Jerrilyn Harmon, Director of Exceptional Children, at 803-275-4601 or jgharmon@edgefield.k12.sc.us.

This Q&A will be updated frequently to reflect current guidance as it is released.

Instruction

Whether school is conducted face-to-face, remotely, or a hybrid of the two, teachers are strongly encouraged to implement a Flipped Learning model, including the use of teacher-created *Screencastify* videos and other digital content to assist in developing dynamic lessons for students to access while maximizing time for personalization and application.

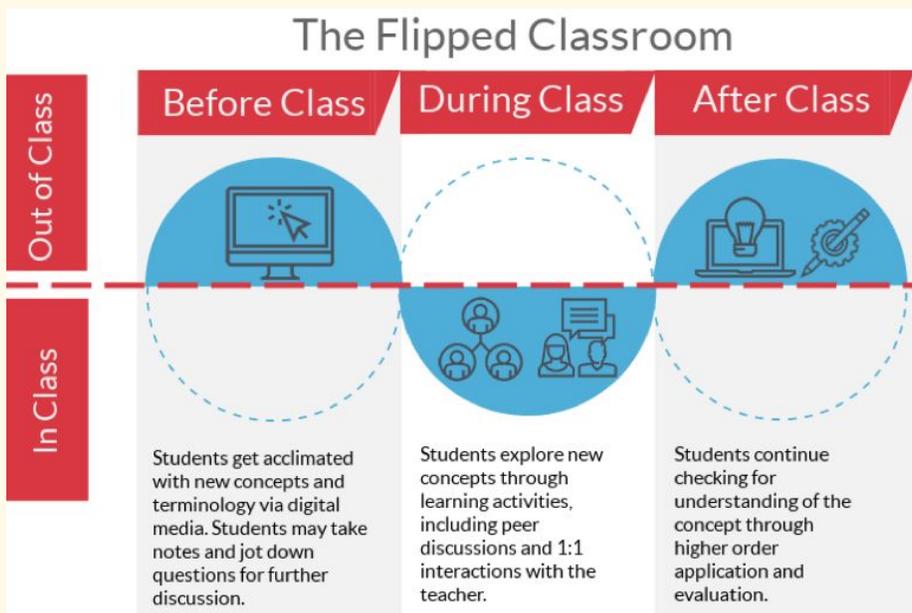
Teachers will be asked to use either a *Google Classroom* or *Seesaw* platform for instructional delivery to limit the platforms that students (and families) need to manage regardless of the instructional delivery model.

What's a *Flipped Learning Model*?

After researching various instructional models and strategies, the *Flipped Learning Model* appears to be the most universal regardless of learning mode, age of learners, and connectivity to the internet. Flipped Learning shifts the focus from the teacher at the front of the room directly instructing or lecturing the whole group to a focus on the students using class time to discuss, collaborate, and apply information. The Flipped Learning approach recognizes that instruction can take place in different mediums. "Learning is no longer limited to a class period or a physical classroom. Teachers have the opportunity to match the instructional activity with the learning environment that makes the most sense (Tucker, 2014).

Some of the benefits of a *Flipped Learning Model* include:

- Allows students to control the pace of their learning
- Helps students of all abilities to excel
- Creates more time for students to engage with information and concepts together in class where they can support and learn from one another
- Students can pause, rewind, and rewatch a video as much as they like or need
- Creates more time for teachers to personalize and differentiate in small groups
- Increases classroom transparency and learning environment flexibility
- Provides an efficient and effective technique for absent teachers



****The Flipped Learning approach will be modified to appropriately meet the needs of diverse learners and age groups. ****

Transportation

Actions that will be taken in response to COVID-19 are:

- Under current DHEC guidance in our state, school buses should not be filled beyond 50-percent capacity, where practical
 - Protocols will be in place to promote social distancing of students from different families at bus stops, during loading, during transport and while unloading
 - Hand sanitizers will be provided for students and drivers
 - Face shields/masks will be provided and required for bus drivers
 - Face shields, masks, and face coverings are optional for students
 - Cleaning and disinfection of high-touch areas will occur every day
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Positive COVID-19 Test

In the event students and/or staff test positive for COVID-19, the school will follow state and district guidelines regarding exposure and quarantine upon notification.

Instruction will continue in a modified format during any quarantine.

LEAP Days

Per new legislation and funding approved by the General Assembly, Learn, Evaluate, Analyze, and Prepare (*LEAP*) days are mandatory for all districts. LEAP refers to five additional days before the start of the school year for students in grades 4K through eighth grade. These days will not be typical instructional days and will be used as an orientation opportunity to begin building relationships while establishing routines and procedures, regardless of the instructional option chosen by families.

All educators know the value of establishing strong relationships as well as clear and consistent routines at the start of the school year. This will be critically important in the coming year due to the introduction of new wellness routines and procedures in response to COVID-19 as well as addressing the social emotional needs of students and staff.

- ECSD will use the LEAP days as an orientation time for students in grades 4K-8th.
- Hand sanitizer and masks will be available on these days.
- Students will not come every day but all students will be invited.
- Individual schools will create a schedule to stagger students and families being on campus, so that only 20% of the school population will be on the campus in any one day.

Schools may use this time for a variety of things including but not limited to:

- Meeting and greeting with the teacher and other school staff
- Team Building Activities
- Establishing routines and procedures
- Administering Interest Inventories
- Issuing Textbooks
- Issuing Chromebooks (grades 2-8) and completing agreement forms

**Please note- When students are issued a device, it doesn't necessarily mean they will be able to take it home on the same day.

For any student who cannot attend the LEAP Orientation due to transportation, health reasons, etc., schools will develop a plan to make contact with those students prior to the start of the year.

This will be a great opportunity to *LEAP* into the new school year!

Parent/Guardian Responsibilities

- Assess the health of your child(ren) prior to them coming to school. If your child is running a fever or has signs of sickness, keep them at home.
- If the student is a car rider, ensure the student is at school on time.
- If the student is a bus rider, ensure the student is at the bus stop on time.
- Ensure that your student(s) completes and returns their remote learning activities.
- Communicate with the school staff if anyone in your family has been exposed to COVID-19 or demonstrates COVID-19 related symptoms.
- Communicate with your student about the importance of staying six feet apart and washing their hands frequently.
- Ensure the student protects, keeps safe, and returns their Chromebook fully charged, if possible, each day.

Student Responsibilities

- Engage in learning with a positive and respectful attitude.
- Try their best in completing assigned remote learning or face-to-face activities.
- Return all of their assigned learning activities. (*Grading will not be the same as it was in the spring.*)
- Protect, keep safe, and return their Chromebook fully charged, if possible, each day.
- Follow all school rules, routines, and procedures.
- Have fun and learn!

Teacher/Staff Responsibilities

- Assess their health prior to coming to school to include checking their temperature.
- Ensure all students sanitize hands and proceed directly to the assigned classroom.
- Wear a mask or face shield.
- Follow recommended district and state safety guidelines.
- Provide engaging and impactful instructional lessons for students.
- Ensure that the cleaning and disinfecting of all spaces occurs before, during, and after each day.
- Ensure that social distancing is followed during all transitions, breaks, and instructional time to the best extent possible.
- Communicate transparently with families via various platforms.
- Have fun and be supportive and encouraging of all students and each other!

A Deeper Look Into Our Reality

No one knew this would be our District's direction for the 2020-21 school year. However- at the heart of everything we do- we believe this is what is best for our students given the circumstances.

In thinking about our current reality differently, we believe this proposal creates opportunities for our students to be engaged in empowering and enriching learning environments that foster world class citizens.



[Click here](#) for a separate slide presentation with some additional information.

Edgefield County School District

Engaging

Empowering

Enriching

