

Wyoming City Schools 2020-2021 Plan for Return

Frequently Asked Questions

This [Wyoming City Schools 2020-2021 Plan for Return](#) in its entirety can be found [here](#). This Frequently Asked Questions document has been prepared to address questions submitted multiple times through the Wyoming City Schools 2020-2021 Plan for Return Questions Form distributed with the plan. We are hopeful that this supplementary document provides some greater detail that may be useful to our parents and caregivers. Though some grade-level or building-level answers are shared here, greater detail specific to each grade band (K-4, 5-9, & 9-12) will be available to families during Zoom sessions on Wednesday, July 29: Wyoming High School at 5 p.m., Wyoming Middle School at 6 p.m., and Wyoming Primary Schools at 7 p.m.

Questions specific to individual students are not shared in this document. If you continue to have questions specific to individual students after reading the plan and FAQ and attending the building-level Zoom sessions, please direct them as follows:

High School: Principal Adam Reed - reeda@wyomingcityschools.org

Middle School: Principal Jennifer Klein - kleinj@wyomingcityschools.org

Primary Schools: Principal LaDora Hill - hilll@wyomingcityschools.org

Special Education/Gifted Education: Director of Pupil Services Dr. Tracy Quattrone - quattronet@wyomingcityschools.org

They will work to answer your questions and/or connect you with the individual best-suited to provide answers. If you are in need of assistance with determining the best next steps, please contact Director of Communications Suzy Henke at henkes@wyomingcityschools.org.

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Instruction: Both Learning Options



What does instruction look like with staff teaching students in-class and at home simultaneously? Wyoming teachers will be providing in-class instruction and online instruction concurrently by utilizing Zoom during instructional times. This allows for all students to have consistent and aligned learning of Wyoming curriculum from Wyoming teachers under all of the scenarios for which we need to be prepared during the pandemic (in-person when possible, online, hybrid, groups or individuals in quarantine, etc.). Students will follow their schedules for “real-time” instruction in-person or online. Online learners will have the option of accessing instruction outside of their schedule, if needed, through the use of recorded Zoom videos and Canvas, our learning management system. Online learners unable to follow their schedule in real-time, must access lessons daily to complete assignments under the teacher-assigned time frame. *More specifics on this topic are shared in the Instruction: All-Online section.*

How can I understand the use of video more? With video recordings, the focus will be on the teacher; however, there are times when a student’s image or voice may be seen or heard. Although we have tested the technology to ensure audio is clear for online learners, the teacher may have to repeat questions or comments from in-person learners at times. Online learners can participate in class in various ways (chat feature, raising their Zoom hand, small group breakout rooms, etc). The teacher will outline clear expectations and processes for how online learners should participate in real-time lessons.

How will Canvas be used? Each teacher will use Canvas, our learning management system, to help with the delivery of content, materials, and all assignments. Students can expect all assignments to be posted on the Canvas calendar to make it very clear what assignments need to be completed each day. All students, regardless of in-person or online, will retrieve and submit assignments and assessments via Canvas. All handouts distributed to in-person learners will be available to on-line learners. Additionally, teachers will provide feedback via Canvas and all grades will be entered into Canvas. Canvas and/or school email will be the mode of communication for teachers with students and families. Teachers will also utilize the announcement and notification features of Canvas to help remind students of upcoming class information. Canvas should essentially be a one-stop-shop for students. It will be critical that all students and families understand how to use and interact with Canvas. The first few weeks of

school will be spent navigating and understanding how to use Canvas and Canvas parent resources will be shared.

Will there be grades? Unlike during spring’s emergency distance learning, grades will be taken. Grading scales will be the same as any normal school year. Just like in a normal school year, teachers will communicate how a grade is determined in their classes (e.g. quizzes, writings, tests, etc.). Starting for the 2020-2021 school year, all grades will be entered into Canvas; parents and students do not need to check both Progressbook and Canvas anymore.

How will testing/assessments be handled? Assessments will be done through Canvas and will be teacher-specific and aligned to classroom instruction.

How will state standardized testing be administered this year or will it even be focused on? The administration of these tests is directed by the state. We have not received direction from the state in this area at this time.

This semester, is it possible for my student to participate in some classes on-site and some classes all-online? Unfortunately, that is not an option. To simplify tracing, minimize contacts, and maximize distancing, students have a choice of all-online or in-person, when possible.

How much time will be spent teaching curriculum missed last spring? Remediation needed for content not covered last spring has been identified and teachers will integrate it into their curriculum as appropriate, in conjunction with new material.

Are there any more specifics at this time about specials and electives for in-person or online students? Students participating in “specials” or electives such as band, choir, orchestra, art, physical education, and World Language might have adjustments made to the content and/or location of the class to allow social distancing in the school and appropriate learning activities if learning online. Specific details of the instructional program in these areas will be communicated by individual teachers. Part of our district mission is educating the whole-child. We are working to continue safe student participation in these content areas.

Instruction: Both Learning Options



Why is the choice for semester not quarterly? Families who opt for their students to attend in-person when possible may move to remote learning at any point in the semester. For us to plan for, set up, and maintain the most social distancing as possible in our school, families who choose all-online must remain all-online for the entire semester. During winter break, we will have the time needed to reset for changes to class sizes for the second semester.

Homeschooling (as opposed to the Wyoming All-Online Option):

I have questions about homeschooling. Where can I get information? [Ohio Department of Education guidance and information on homeschooling can be found here.](#) If moving forward with homeschooling, please contact Director of Pupil Services Dr. Tracy Quattrone at quattronet@wyomingcityschools.org.

Staff Professional Development:

How are teachers preparing for these instructional changes? Teachers are

receiving professional development on providing synchronous instruction with students in-person and online and the use of Zoom to share instructional resources to students in-person and online as well as ways to facilitate student engagement and discussions. We have created district-wide Canvas expectations so that teachers utilize Canvas in a consistent way for students and families. Teachers are realigning their Canvas pages and continuing to receive Canvas professional development.

With any new teaching and learning model, there will be a need to continue learning as we go and to work alongside students and families to ensure their academic, social, and emotional growth.

Technology:

What if students experience technical issues? Students should alert their teacher to any technical issue they are having. Teachers will then assist in troubleshooting with our technology department.

Instruction: All-Online Option



Who will be providing the online instruction - Wyoming teachers or an outside vendor? Wyoming teachers. Though considered, a separate all-online program was not chosen to allow for continued alignment with Wyoming curriculum and seamless flexibility between changing settings.

Were online teaching experts consulted? Yes. Additionally, we are working with experts to provide professional development on our instructional model of providing instruction to students in-person and online simultaneously.

Will material be posted weekly, with weekly goals/assignments, or day-by-day? Materials and assignments will be posted daily on Canvas. This model is very different from spring's emergency distance learning and follows a more traditional school schedule with daily instruction, student work and assignments, and assessments. Teachers may require students to be "present" or log-in at specified times during their class period due to specific activities, discussions, or assessments.

Will online students be able to see the board or what the teacher is writing or whatever tools are being used in class for examples or explanations? Online students will be able to view teacher materials, whether that is shared on the board or through the computer.

Will they be able to hear the teacher clearly or any students in class that may ask a question? Students will be able to hear the teacher clearly through the use of built-in or Bluetooth microphones. We anticipate that sometimes a teacher will need to relay information between students that are in-person and online.

Will students learning online be able to get extra help if needed? A designated staff member will be assigned and responsible for checking in with students that are participating in all-online learning multiple times per week. The purpose of these check-ins are to identify any concerns related to academic and/or social-emotional needs for students and families. Students that are learning online will have the ability to ask questions, receive clarification, and get assistance as they normally would from their teacher(s) if participating in the classroom. As always, students can also reach out to their teachers and make an appointment for extra assistance.

Will they be enrolled in their regular classes that they signed up for? Yes

Will all-online option credits count the same as in person credits? Yes

How will all-online option students get books and tools needed for their class? Teachers will supply instructional materials that accommodate both in-person and online learners. Our goal is for materials to be online accessible and fillable, not requiring parents or students to print materials. If textbooks are traditionally given for a class, students that are in-person and online will receive textbooks. If materials are provided as part of the daily instruction from teachers, these will be uploaded to Canvas for student use. If needed, supply and material pickup processes may be used.

Will my online learner be able to participate in extracurriculars? Yes

Calendar, Schedules & Start of School Year



Calendar:

What is the new start date? We will start the year with orientation days for 1st-12th grade students. The week of August 24, we will run a Hybrid Plan Week. The week of August 31, we will begin to align our In-Person Learning Level with the Ohio Public Health Advisory System. [Click this link for more information.](#)

When does the first semester end? The last day of the first semester of the 2020-2021 school year is Friday, Dec. 18.

Schedules:

When will my student receive their schedule/teacher placement? Students will receive their schedule or teacher placement approximately one week before the first day of school. Opportunities for primary students to meet their teacher and receive back-to-school information are being scheduled. Middle school and high school students will receive their class schedules via their school Google email accounts on August 7th. If a schedule change needs to occur, this would follow the same process as a normal school year with students contacting their counselor.

Will daily schedules/school hours change? Start and end times will be impacted minimally, if at all. Due to the needs to socially-distance, staggered arrival and dismissal times are being considered. Any changes will be communicated as soon as they are available. Bell schedules within the school day are being adjusted to accommodate safety precautions (social distancing during passing time, hand hygiene protocols, etc.).

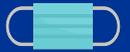
Start of School Year:

Will the school year start in-person, hybrid, or online for all? Our plan is aligned with the State of Ohio's county-based Ohio Public Health Advisory System. Any move from in-person to hybrid or online for all would begin the Monday after a change in the public health advisory. Currently, the state has been updating the advisory on Wednesdays or Thursday. The advisory level on the week prior to August 17 will determine whether our school year begins in-person, hybrid, or online.

Why not delay the start of school until after Labor Day to buy a few more weeks of precaution following the recently announced orders for use of masks in Hamilton County? Future community spread (in August or in November and December) will be an ongoing, unknown variable. Because community spread is an important safety factor to consider, our plan is aligned with the state's county-based public health advisory system in as close to real-time as possible. Due to the educational and developmental needs of our students and families, we are not planning to delay the start of school further. Our initial weeks of school will be filled with activities addressing the additional needs of this school year, including providing instruction on better use of online tools, focusing on our new structure of learning so that students feel comfortable with these new protocols, and building community.

Will orientation for grade levels entering a new building and start-of-the-school year events take place? We are currently working on plans for orientation for incoming kindergarten, fifth-grade, and ninth-grade classes. Plans for back-to-school events are being evaluated with the hopes that events that are unable to happen in-person might happen online.

Health & Safety: Multiple Layers of Protection



Face Coverings:

Is a face shield ok? For most students and staff, use of a face shield would need to be in conjunction with a cloth face covering. For questions regarding the use of face shields or cloth face coverings due to specific health conditions, please contact your child's principal.

Will students have scheduled mask breaks or is this at the teacher's discretion? Mask breaks will be at the discretion of the teacher or staff member and will only take place when and where students are at least 6 feet apart.

I have heard about the "personal barriers". If students are sitting behind one of them, can they remove their mask even if they are closer than six feet from another person? No, masks are used in combination with personal barriers.

Do they need 3 masks with them at school? No. Students will need one mask with them each day.

Social & Physical Distancing:

How will young students be soothed and comforted? How will this impact their learning and development, which is largely based on play, connection, hands-on learning, and relationships? Teachers are discussing finding new ways for students and teachers to show appreciation and care for one another as we work to create community in our socially-distanced classrooms.

Why are the desks only 3 feet apart? Three feet of distance is the minimum amount we can provide if all students are in-person. As we have a better understanding of the number of students who will be attending in-person, we will be able to finalize how much additional space, beyond three-feet, we can provide in individual classrooms.

Will children be reassigned to a different building in order to space children out as much as possible? No. Students will continue to use the school building and facilities to which they are assigned.

Will the 6 ft. distancing CDC guidance be followed at lunch? At recess?

Individual buildings are designing their processes to maximize social distancing. Independent play will be encouraged. Other options under consideration for recess include specific zones and specified activities.

Cleaning & Disinfecting:

How often will the school be cleaned? The school will be cleaned on a daily basis with high-touch surfaces cleaned throughout the day.

Will students be responsible for wiping desks down? Students are not responsible for cleaning.

Protocol for COVID-19 Diagnosis:

What is the response plan when there is a positive case in a school building?

If we have a confirmed case of COVID-19, we will follow direction from the Hamilton County Public Health Department (HCPH) regarding specific instructions to the impacted student/family, contact tracing for staff and other students, actions regarding our school facilities, and communication protocols. This may include closing a classroom, school, or schools for a period of time and may require shifting quickly to remote learning at home for students who are impacted. The structure of our plan should allow students to make this transition without loss of instructional time. [The most current direction from HCPH can be found here.](#) We are expecting to receive additional direction of HCPH at the end of this week.

Will all students and staff need to test prior to returning to school since we are seeing asymptomatic COVID-19 cases though they are still infectious?

No. At this time, per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): *Universal SARS-CoV-2 testing of all students and staff in school settings has not been systematically studied. It is not known if testing in school settings provides any additional reduction in person-to-person transmission of the virus beyond what would be expected with implementation of other infection preventive measures (e.g., social distancing, cloth face covering, hand washing, enhanced cleaning and disinfecting). Therefore, CDC does not recommend universal testing of all students and staff.*

Building Operations & Transportation



Busing:

I would like to transport my child myself but hope to utilize busing later. Is it possible to add busing later? There will be an opportunity to register for busing at the start of each semester.

I understand that the busing will be masked and two per seat-reserved. Are there any other protections in place such as loading a certain way to reduce passing by people? Yes. To minimize passing, loading will be from back to front and unloading will be from front to back.

Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning:

Has the district investigated improvements to the school building HVAC

systems? Yes. We have a service that monitors our systems 24/7 and we make adjustments as needed. We are considering increasing the percent of outside air we draw and the associated costs (increased energy for heating or cooling, increased air filter use, etc.). This increase in draw would also increase building humidity which is less hospitable to the virus. Currently, our systems use MERV level 9-11 filters. We have investigated hospital-grade filters, though they are not expected to be available until October.

Lockers:

If lockers are not being used, will students be allowed to carry backpacks/bags? Yes.

Equity & Access



Individualized Needs/Special Education:

My child requires additional assistance. How will this work? Students receiving services, based upon a 504 plan, Individualized Educational Plan, or Gifted Plan, will continue to receive services through the day to ensure that their plans are followed for both the in-person when possible option and the all-online option. Intervention that would normally occur in the school building will be provided remotely, if needed. Additional access to buildings may be provided for some students when needed during hybrid plan or all-online plan days. Please reach out to your child's intervention specialist, assistant principal, or the director of pupil services for additional information.

Will Section 504 plans be updated to address issues related to learning remotely? Individual needs for students can be discussed in a team meeting. Parents can contact their child's counselor or assistant principal to request a meeting. The Ohio Department of Education has released guidance that 504 or IEP plans should not be modified, amended, or created specifically for remote instruction. The district is offering in-person instruction in line with plans and free and appropriate education (FAPE). In the event the district is all-remote, accommodations and modifications, along with services from a plan, will be implemented in a best faith effort.

Will the posted materials be in an accessible format for students with learning disabilities? Canvas allows for materials to be posted in accessible formats for various learners.

Social & Emotional Health



How will this assistance be offered - will it be online or in-person and will there be certain days that it is offered? Counselors are available in school for assistance and phone calls will be made to remote learners multiple times per week by staff members.

Will private counseling through Cincinnati Children's Home continue to be available to students? Yes, Children's Home counseling will be available at all grade levels with both in-person when possible and all-online options.

Parent Partnership



Daily Health Assessment:

What's the daily parent sign off procedure? An app? Each parent will receive paper slips, which will need to be completed each day and will be submitted by students as they enter into the building. If a student forgets this slip, a greeter will record the temperature and ask the student a few questions to complete the task.

Since runny nose and congestion are now listed as COVID-19 symptoms, will any cold/allergy/etc. result in being sent home? Not necessarily. A

combination of factors will be used by the health specialist to determine if a student needs to be sent home.

Is it true that kids would have to quarantine/stay home even if they have cold symptoms? No.

I read about the daily health assessment that families with in-school learners will conduct. Will there be additional temp checks throughout the day? If occasions arise throughout the day where a temperature check is needed, it will occur in the school.

The pandemic shifts rapidly and we don't know what the rest of the school year may bring. We will continually reevaluate our procedures and may make changes based upon current conditions.

Please complete and submit this [Return To School Form](#) by Friday, July 31. We MUST have your response to prepare for the new school year.

