

Questions from Brookfield Parent Meeting 8/11/20

Instruction/Learning Questions

Hybrid

How much advance notice will parents receive weekly as to the lessons they are required to be in for planning purposes as many parents as well are working full time?

Students would arrive at school together whether in-person or remotely. The idea is to have students get up as they would going to in-person school on the remote weeks and follow that schedule. Assignments would directly come from the teacher.

What are the start and end school times for the remote week and the in school week? Will they be the same?

Yes, times would be the same.

To clarify, siblings will follow the same hybrid cohort weeks? I'm just trying to envision the competing required for a remote curriculum with multiple children doing remote in different grades.

Siblings would be given priority to be in the same cohort, unless parents request separate cohorts.

Are the teachers who provide live lessons for remote learners exclusively teaching the remote learners or are they in a classroom environment with hybrid learners while they provide the lesson? Also, what time are remote lessons as we have a need to shuffle siblings to day care?

Each team at Brookfield will divide the instruction based on numbers of students in each model and each teacher's capacity or instructional format. A quiz may be given through GoMath to all 6th grade students by a single teacher. But another teacher may give additional practice to a specific group of students based on need. Lessons will be the same time as the in-person school.

Will a teacher teach week 1 and week 2 in-person, because if she or a student is exposed or infected, now both groups are exposed?

Most classroom teachers will be the primary in-person instructor for their assigned students regardless of cohort.

Will students that are attending school each week be separated from hybrid students? If not, this would lead to potential cross contamination between Cohort A and B.

If a student is in Cohort C, in most cases he or she would be in both cohorts?

Will the school be able to provide devices? Cost?

There are devices available depending on the number of requests. We could potentially have to collect and sanitize devices from each cohort when they are doing in-person learning in order to have enough technology available.

What happens if we don't attend or don't meet minutes required on virtual weeks/or all virtual?

The student will need to make up the assignment given as with any absence.

In-Person

While students are in class will that be 1/4 normal in person capacity? (Assuming half choose to not go at all and half are in the other cohort)? I'm using rough numbers that I thought I saw in that survey result report. Would that mean about 10 kids in the classroom at a time (first grade class)?

The number of students will vary from grade to grade based on the number of remote vs. hybrid numbers. Current trend data looks like cohort sizes are likely to have approximately 7-10 students.

What will learning breaks and free time look like?

This will vary by grade, but our goal will be to get students outside when the weather is good for mask breaks. Free time will be a question to ask your classroom teacher once she returns on August 31st.

What will recess look like?

We are waiting for guidance from the Department of Education. Our goal will be to get students outside for fresh air and distancing that will allow for mask removal.

Will there be breakfast?

We will have a breakfast program but it may be delivered in a bag to the classroom to be eaten before the school day begins.

Nothing in classrooms but desks? what will younger kids do/have to play?

Students will be provided with individual sets of materials. These will be kept at their desks.

What are you doing to make sure teachers/staff know what student is supposed to be where when, especially students getting off buses but that can't meet in the cafeteria/library like usual?

All staff (35 people) will be responsible for being in hallways or receiving classrooms during the entrance and exit process.

I'm wondering if there will be staggered drop-off and pick-up.

These logistics have not been worked out yet, but the current thought is that bus students would be dropped off at one time and drop-offs would be at another, which would allow us to use multiple entryway doors.

How will drop-off and pick-up work?

See Above.

Will we get a supply list of needed school supplies?

Teachers will receive their class lists and student mail and email addresses at that time. Following that, they have been asked to send out their welcome back letters and supply lists.

If students are staying in their room all day and teachers move from class to class to teach those kids, isn't that mixing the groups? Groups are supposed to be separate on purpose. If the teacher or a child is exposed or develops Covid, everyone has then just been exposed. This question was brought up at the meeting this past Friday. The question was just kind of skirted around.

With required spacing, we may choose to continue with departmentalization. If this occurs, and to reduce close student contact during transitions, our teachers, not students may change classrooms. We will use assigned seating because it effectively creates even smaller groups within cohorts, which minimizes transmission. Assigned seats can also assist with contact tracing. Staff will adhere to the strict safety protocols for handwashing, hand sanitizer use, wearing masks and distancing. Guidance related to special education teachers and related service providers who need to provide services in the classroom on an itinerant basis is included in the [Comprehensive Special Education Guidance for the 2020-21 school year](#)

Will students in Cohort A have their desks moved off to the side when Cohort B comes in the following week and vice versa?

Desks will act as placeholders to ensure distancing remains consistent. Desks will be sanitized throughout the day as well as deep cleaned at the end of the week. The next cohort will not use the desks of their opposite cohort classmates.

Remote

What happens if we don't attend or don't do ALL the minutes required on virtual weeks/or all virtual? (1st grade time learning per day is 280 minutes or almost 5 HOURS!???)

Attendance will be tracked in the same way that it is for in-person instruction and missed assignments will have to be made up. The structure of the time on learning is divided by direct instruction, independent practice, small group support, and other

How will the staff help those students that choose remote learning for the first trimester versus hybrid learning to transition into the protocol already in place when they enter hybrid learning?

At this time we don't know what the protocol will be during Trimester II. Any planning, changes, modifications, to the current plan would need to be shared with all students regardless of changes to their learning format. Any possible changes will be based on the current public health data.

Am I understanding that if we choose 100% remote, we may have non-BES teachers teaching our kids? Will those classes be only for BES kids or will it include kids from other schools that the non-BES teachers are teaching?

Only students participating in the Department of Education Learning Platform will not be taught by BES staff members.

In the hybrid model will the remote week be supported by school personnel or could the remote piece be performed by non-school personnel determined by the DESE.

All hybrid students will only have the option of instruction being provided by BES staff when in a remote week.

Could you clarify the schedule of the fully remote student? Are they going to be following the Brookfield classroom teacher's lessons and DESE remote platform?

There are two options for fully remote---with BES teachers or using the DESE platform. With BES teachers, instruction will be live (as well as

individual assignments, project work, etc.) during regular school hours. The DESE platform is self-paced and on your time schedule.

What will the schedule look like for the remote learning students? How many hours a day will they be required to be online?

Time will vary by grade but as per DESE guidance the day is expected to look like a typical school day. The Time-On-Learning worksheet for Tantasqua/Union 61 is on page 18 of the following linked document: http://www.tantasqua.org/superintendent/docs/finaldraft_reopening.pdf

What is the second full remote option?

This option will be offered by DESE. This is a virtual stand-alone, self-paced LMS populated with full K-12 content that can be used by students to cover the basic curriculum standards on a largely asynchronous basis. While this platform would not have synchronous live teaching, it would require assigned and targeted educator check-in/coaching support from the district/school. The LMS partner sought by DESE would provide all technical support for districts and families that opt-in.

Will remote learning require school books be picked up, or is everything going to be from the computer?

Some school books may need to be picked up in certain circumstances. That will be determined by the grade and materials used for instruction. Classroom teachers will coordinate with families.

If 2 children from different households but the same grade are being "taught" by one parent for remote learning will those children have the same assignments and daily schedule? can we request it to make it easier on the teaching parent?

Cohorts must be divided by family first due to bussing needs. Additional considerations can only be made as transportation space allows.

Safety/Wellness Questions

Safety

Will there be a specific hand sanitizer used? checked to see if on the list of harmful ones?

Tantasqua/Union 61 placed the order from the Central Office level to ensure we would all use the same sanitizer. Before ordering we confirmed that the product was FDA approved and appropriate for school use. The name of the sanitizer is Germs Be Gone. It is quick drying and contains Ethyl Alcohol, Vitamin E, and Aloe. It is classified as an Antiseptic.

Is there a specific type of masks that are required? Or just face coverings?

Recommended face coverings include:

Disposable “surgical” masks, which are now readily available in stores. Of note, these are most likely not medical grade surgical masks, but are acceptable face coverings.

Homemade masks that are made of cotton, polypropylene, or polypropylene/cotton mix, preferably with 2 or more layers

What about “buff” style masks? recent studies show that those may be worse than no masks at all. Can those be banned?

Not recommended:

Any type of mask with a valve. This filters particles the wearer is breathing in, but does not filter the particles the wearer is breathing out.

Bandana’s

Gators or other “buff” style covering.

Can we know about the number of students in a class wearing a mask?

This information will not be provided on a daily basis. A teacher may inform a parent, if they inquire, of the number of student’s unmasked, but may not divulge the name or reason that student is excluded from the mask

policy. Unless there is a needed accommodation (with medical or IEP documentation), all students grades 2 and up will have a mask on except during lunch or mask breaks.

Will parents receive notification if there is a positive case of covid within the school, not just the cohort?

No. Contact will be made to parents/staff of a student who is in the same classroom/cohort or has been in close contact (as defined by the CDC and per BOH guidance) with the infected student. If any additional or updated information comes from the BOH or DPH, we will follow those regulations.

Will parents be notified if a student/family member (not by name of course) is tested positive for Covid in their same cohort?

Yes if a student tests positive, no if a family member of a student tests positive.

Yes, contact will be made to parents/staff of a student who is in the same classroom or has been in close contact (as defined by the CDC and per BOH guidance) with the infected student.

No, contact will not be made with parents/staff if a member of another student's family has tested positive. According to CDC guidelines, the student of an infected family member should be quarantined for 14 days.

Will we be allowed to have our children bring in their own soap and hand sanitizer for their classroom? This would be related to an increase of chemicals in the air. We are very sensitive to chemicals in our home.

Your child may bring their own soap to school. The student must keep this with their personal belongings and must be able to independently take out, use, and replace it back to their personal belongings.

School provided hand sanitizer must be used, we are unable to monitor if other hand sanitizers being used are at least 70% alcohol, which is needed to be effective

Wellness

****Students/staff may not return to school with just a negative COVID test result.****

It is proven through studies that symptoms can occur up to 14 days following exposure and an early negative test result may be false security.

If symptomatic: Parent/Guardian/Staff should contact PCP and be tested.

- **If positive COVID result:** the student/staff may return after remaining out of school for a minimum of 10 additional days after a positive test result is returned, be fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication, and symptoms have much improved without the use of medication.
- **If not tested or negative COVID result:** the student/staff may return after 14 days of quarantine, regardless of a negative test result, and may return if fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication, and symptoms have much improved without the use of medication OR provide documentation such as an MD note explaining why the child can return to school or Board of Health (BOH) note recommending return.

If you have been a close contact of a positive individual, and remain asymptomatic:

- Contact your PCP and be tested 4-5 days after your last contact with the infected individual.
- You must quarantine for 14 days, regardless of a negative test result. It is proven through studies that symptoms can occur up to 14 days following exposure and an early negative test result may be false security.

If a child is sent home with symptoms what is required for their return?

If a child is sent home by the Nurse OR stays home due to symptoms, it is recommended the child's PCP is contacted and the student gets tested. In order to return to school the student must quarantine for 14 days, regardless of a negative test result, be fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication, and symptoms have much improved without the use of medication OR provide documentation such as an MD note explaining why the child can return to school or Board of Health (BOH) note recommending return. If there is a positive result, the student must remain

out of school for a minimum of 10 days after positive test results and fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication, and symptoms have much improved without the use of medication.

When a student stays home sick with (runny nose, cough, headache) symptoms will they be required to have a negative covid test to return?

A child may not return with just a negative COVID test. It is proven through studies that symptoms can occur up to 14 days following exposure, hence an early negative COVID test may be false security. In order to return to school the student must quarantine for 14 days, regardless of a negative test result, and may return if fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication, and symptoms have much improved without the use of medication OR provide documentation such as an MD note explaining why the child can return to school or Board of Health (BOH) note recommending return.

Will substitutes be required to show a negative test within so many days of entering the school?

No. As with the students, if a staff member is symptomatic it is recommended they consult with their PCP and be tested. In order to return to school the staff member must quarantine for 14 days, regardless of a negative test result, and may return if fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication, and symptoms have much improved without the use of medication OR provide documentation such as an MD note explaining why the child can return to school or Board of Health (BOH) note recommending return.

Will the nurse have more help? how can she assess sick kids and help the kids in the school that currently need her attention?

This will be evaluated on an ongoing basis. With the separation of students into Cohorts A and B there will be fewer students per day in the school. It is also anticipated that basic first aid needs (minor scrape, lost tooth, chapped lips, minor bloody nose) will be addressed in the classroom by teachers, with appropriate supplies and guidance.

How quickly will you move down the emergency list for a sick child to be picked up?

Sick children will need to be picked up within a 45 minute time frame. Knowing parents/guardians work and may not be able to answer, and also may work outside of a 45 minute radius of the school, if the primary contact does not answer the phone I will move directly on to the next emergency contact, and so on.

If Nurse Julie is exposed from a child who then goes home and then tests positive. Nurse Julie may have been infected and then that gets transferred to other students. What happens then?

Contact tracing will begin to determine who the Nurse has been in close contact with (as defined by the CDC and per BOH guidance.) Parents/staff of those close contact students will be notified. A substitute school nurse will be procured.

If Quarantined for 14 days or until negative results are determined, or staying home out of caution due to symptoms... what happens with the missed school time? How does it get made up if they're supposed to be in person that week?

Students who are sick should stay home and rest until well. Any individual situations would be worked out with teaching staff who support that student's learning. If a student is asymptomatic and home because of quarantine regulations only, he or she will participate in remote learning during that self quarantine window.

If the student does exhibit 2 or more symptoms and we have to test or quarantine during an in person week would the student then just do remote learning to make sure not to miss too many days of school? Are the same rules in place for absences?

If a student is asymptomatic and home because of quarantine regulations only, he or she will participate in remote learning during the self quarantine window.

If someone in an elementary classroom tests positive for COVID-19, is the whole class required to self-quarantine? If so, when is the earliest students can return to school?

Yes, if a student/staff member tests positive for COVID: Parent/guardian of other students as well as staff in the infected students Cohort will be notified to be tested and quarantine for 14 days, regardless of a negative test result. The earliest a student/staff member may return is 14 days.

Yes, the student will participate in remote learning during that time.

Logistical Question

Will this slide show be made available after the meeting?

We are working on the slide show and hope to have it posted before Friday.

When will we have more information about what cohort c will look like? I can't make a decision without more information.

Students will receive all services documented in their IEPs through in-person instruction, remote instruction, or a combination of both, with a strong emphasis on providing in-person instruction to the greatest extent possible, while abiding by the current necessary health and safety requirements. In particular, the Department urges schools and districts to prioritize in-person instruction for two particular groups of students with disabilities: preschool-aged students, and students with significant and complex needs. Cohort C is determined by the IEP level of need, placement type. Through a hybrid model, students will receive special education instruction and related services necessary to provide FAPE through an Instruction and Services model of delivery (e.g., structured lessons, teletherapy, video-based lessons, etc.)

Will Grandparents be able to get some help with learning platforms as parents who are more electronic savvy need to work?

We are happy to allow an agent of our parents to participate in any training provided by their children's teachers.

When we commit to a plan, is this just for Trimester 1? If we opt for full remote, is this a full year commitment?

This depends on the plan selected. Anything provided by Brookfield will be a commitment for the first Trimester. If you are selecting the DESE platform, that commitment is for a half year or a full year.

How long will remote students stay remote? Will parents have a choice for all year or can we change our mind if hybrid changes to full in person.

A learning model commitment will be for the first Trimester for all choices other than the DESE platform. That has a half-year or full-year commitment.

Will there be a new/updated version of the handbook to cover all these ins and outs and new protocols

Due to protocols changing rapidly and the fluid nature of changes to state regulations we will keep parents informed through our weekly White Tiger Newsletter. If there is a change of immediate importance, a ConnectEd voicemail, email, & text will be sent.

Will volunteers or visitors be allowed in the school this year?

At this time we will not allow any visitors or volunteers other than for specific required meetings, IEP, 504, etc.

Will students be able to still get on and off the bus at a babysitters house?

As long as space is available and student transportation is consistent we will be able to plan for these transportation requests. Parents will no longer be able to change bus transportation through a daily or weekly request. Parents needing to change bussing for their children on a given day or week will need to provide their own transportation.

What will happen with kids that may get on Bu 1 on M, W and F, but Bus 2 Tu and Th?

As long as space is available and student transportation is consistent we will be able to plan for these transportation requests. Parents will no longer be able to change bus transportation through a daily or weekly request. Parents needing to change bussing for their children on a given day or week will need to provide their own transportation.

Can we request to be in a cohort with another family?

Cohorts must be divided by family first due to bussing needs. Additional considerations can only be made as transportation space allows.

Could a virtual tour be given?

Following the return of our teachers you will be able to work with them specifically to ask for what you would like in the way of classroom pictures. During the 10 day planning window we will work as an entire faculty to make decisions about corridors, traffic patterns, etc. and get signage up. We can put pictures in the White Tiger News for parents of the hallways, cafeteria, etc.

Can we choose to use our own homeschooling program without disenrolling our students? In other words.. Is there a way for parents to receive the curriculum and teach on our own terms?

Our curriculum needs to be delivered by certified teachers. If a family wants to instruct their children on their own terms then a homeschool application needs to be filed and approved by the district.

Will After School be happening?

Our current plan is to have an afterschool program. It will look different in that students will be required to socially distance at different tables, and masks will be required.

What happens if Covid numbers spike again and Governor shuts the school down again, do they all go to DESA plan or their consistent teams of teachers?

If the Governor shuts down the schools, those in the DESE Platform would remain there, all others would go to a Brookfield Remote Model.

What is happening with teachers and staff that travel to different schools within the district?

There are very few Brookfield staff who transition between buildings. Educators or related service providers will schedule services in a manner that maintains physical distancing requirements and avoids overlapping with other staff in the classroom or physical setting. Staff will adhere to the strict safety protocols for handwashing, hand sanitizer use, wearing masks and distancing. Guidance related to special education teachers and related service providers who need to provide services in the classroom on an itinerant basis is included in the [Comprehensive Special Education Guidance for the 2020-21 school year](#)