



Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

June 23, 2021

The success of the 2020-2021 school year is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the Ellington Public Schools' staff, students and families. It also comes from a deep collaboration with our partners at the North Central District Health Department and the Town of Ellington.


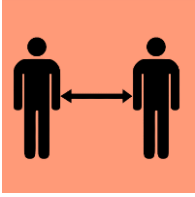


As we approach the 2021-2022 school year, the COVID-19 pandemic is in a different phase. The Ellington Public Schools is planning for a year that looks mostly like what you would have seen in our schools prior to March of 2020.

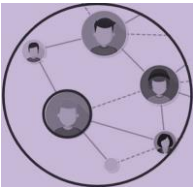



We will take what we learned from running a successful in-person learning program through most of the 2020-2021 school year and scale it back appropriately to meet the current public health need.

Of course, as we have throughout, the Ellington Public Schools will continue to communicate effectively and make appropriate and measured decisions on best course of action for the holistic safety of our students, staff, and their families.

I. Health and Safety Strategies

The Ellington Public Schools adopted its Reopening Plan 2020-2021 in July of 2020 which provided the broad framework for a successful school year operating in-person. However, the details of policies and procedures implemented during the school year needed to follow changing guidance from Governor's Executive Orders, CSDE/DPH, CDC, and our local public health agency. EPS will continue with the same methodology, using this as a broad outline, but adapting as needed as conditions change.

	Mitigation strategy	EPS Plan
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Universal and correct wearing of masks 	<p>For the 2021-2022 school year, students, staff, and visitors will not be required to wear masks. Of course, students, staff and visitors may make their personal decision to wear a mask if desired.</p> <p>Should public health conditions change and universal masking is required by state or appropriate agencies, EPS will respond accordingly.</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Physical distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts /podding) 	<p>The Ellington Public Schools will encourage the use of physical distancing for the 2021-2022 school year and provide flexibility for teachers to determine the best classroom layout and pedagogical approach to accomplish this task.</p> <p>Should public health conditions change, EPS may increase the use of these strategies.</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Handwashing and respiratory etiquette 	<p>The Ellington Public Schools will continue to encourage and allow for the use of proper hand-washing and sanitization for the 2021-2022 school year.</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation 	<p>The Ellington Public Schools will continue enhanced cleaning procedures during and after the school day.</p> <p>HVAC systems will be checked regularly with filter changes and other maintenance as required.</p>

	Mitigation strategy	EPS Plan
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with health departments</p> 	<p>The Ellington Public Schools will follow the protocols developed for contact tracing, isolation and quarantine used during the successful 2020-2021 school year.</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Diagnostic screening and testing</p> 	<p>The Ellington Public Schools will follow the protocols developed for screening and testing used during the successful 2020-2021 school year. Families will be asked to perform daily health screens and students with symptoms of COVID-19 may be subject to required testing.</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible</p> 	<p>The Ellington Public Schools already made great strides at providing vaccinations to eligible staff & students.</p> <p>As needed, EPS will continue to work with public health partners to assess the need in this category.</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies</p> 	<p>The Ellington Public Schools will follow federal and state laws, regulations, and guidance with respect to appropriate accommodations for children that qualify under this section.</p>

II. Continuity of Services

The Ellington Public Schools will continue to operate full in-person for the 2021-2022 school year. Remote options provided in the 2020-2021 school year (Silver) will not be available for families.

The district will continue, as it has, to provide non-congregate meal access during the summer of 2021 and will participate in the Summer Seamless Option for the 2021-2022 school year.

III. Public Comment

The Ellington Public Schools will provide opportunity for broad public input on this plan by providing it on our website along with a comment form. It will also be shared with key stakeholder groups for additional feedback. Such feedback shall be considered during the review process, or as needed.

IV. Periodic Review Process

The Ellington Public Schools are required to periodically review and, as appropriate, revise their Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan at least every six months through September 30, 2023. Each review must include seeking public comment on the plan and developing the plan after taking into account the public comment.

Review/revisit Dates:

- June 23, 2021
- December 23, 2021
- June 23, 2022
- December 23, 2022
- June 23, 2023

V. Understandable and Uniform Format

Federal regulations require that this plan be in an understandable and uniform format, to the extent practicable; is written in a language that parents can understand or, if not practicable, orally translated; and upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability, provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent.

If the Ellington Public Schools is aware of any need regarding accessibility of this document, we will provide individual or broad accommodations to ensure all have access to the contents contained within.