

Dear Parents,

I am writing with information regarding the specific plan under which the Clinton Public Schools will reopen schools. District leadership has examined all aspects of reopening, consulted with local and state health departments, and evaluated the processes and protocols that must be implemented to keep all of our students and staff safe. All decisions have been based on health and safety, with the implementation of plans that will allow for students to return to our school buildings for in-person learning with their teachers.

We all want to have students learning in our classrooms and we are working diligently to ensure that we can realize this while adjusting to new environments and requirements in our buildings. We are committed to supporting our students in this transition and building a positive learning environment, while implementing the safety measures that are required.

Therefore, the school district intends to reopen all schools under a 2-Phase Transition Plan as outlined below:

Phase 1 (Weeks 1-5): Schools will reopen under the Hybrid Model which is shown in the table below.

HYBRID MODEL				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<u>Cohort A</u> In-Person	<u>Cohort A</u> In-Person	All Students Distance Learning	<u>Cohort A</u> Distance Learning	<u>Cohort A</u> Distance Learning
<u>Cohort B</u> Distance Learning	<u>Cohort B</u> Distance Learning		<u>Cohort B</u> In-Person	<u>Cohort B</u> In-Person

Cohort A will include students with last names A-K. These students will attend school in-person on Monday and Tuesday and engage in distance learning on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

Cohort B will include students with last names L-Z. These students will engage in distance learning on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, and attend school in-person on Thursday and Friday.

**Siblings with different last names will have the opportunity to be part of the same cohort by arrangement with the building administrators.*

Considerations for inclusive preK programs and some specialized programs are still underway, and parents in these programs will be contacted next week with more information.

Phase 2 (Week 6): Schools will transition to a full, in-person model as determined by the Board of Education and Superintendent.

The determination will be based on the current public health metrics related to transmission rates in Connecticut and in our local community, as well as the successful implementation of mitigation strategies such as mask wearing, cohorting, social distancing, and cleaning protocols.

In making the decision to reopen in a phased approach, we are taking measured steps to bring our students back into our buildings and classrooms, while also ensuring that we can successfully implement our safety protocols. Staff will work with students in the first few weeks of school when they are in the building to understand the new ways of learning and working together to protect our school community. On the days that students are working remotely, they will be provided with lessons that will extend and support their learning until they return to the classroom and meet with their teacher in-person.

Each school is developing schedules and models of quality in-class and distance learning. The details and information related to the models will be shared with families in the next two weeks.

IMPORTANT: PARENT RESPONSE REQUIRED

In order for the district to plan properly, it is imperative that all families complete a survey, one for each of their children, to notify the district of the intent for their child to return to school in-person. ***The survey will close on Saturday, August 15th, so please take a few minutes this week to click on the survey link at the end of this letter and submit your responses.***

Parents who do not intend to have their child return under the district's plan, have the option to temporarily choose to participate in the *Voluntary Remote Model of Learning* that will be provided by the district. While the model is still in development, final details will be dependent upon the number of families who choose this option. Parents who choose this option for their children can expect additional information regarding this plan in the next two weeks.

This voluntary family choice is not intended to be the same as the opportunities provided during the district's in-person or district remote plan which would be utilized when classes are cancelled for a broader population, should public health data require it. The *Voluntary Remote Model of Learning*, as required by the State Department of Education and stated in the [Adapt. Advance. Achieve Plan \(Addendum #1\)](#), assumes greater expectations for the

family to supervise and support student attendance and engagement, with less access to district staff and resources.

In addition, the survey asks about your intent to utilize school bus transportation. As we plan our routes and attempt to provide the safest environment on the bus that is possible, we need to understand which students will be utilizing bus transportation.

Every day brings new guidance, information, and challenges in working to reopen our schools safely. I am committed to providing our students and families with as much information as possible to make an informed decision that is best for you. Each school will also provide more specific school-based information for families over the next couple of weeks, and school principals are also available to answer questions you may have.

Please know that we will continue to work with our local health department and state department of education to navigate this unprecedented time and will always make our decisions in an effort to safely provide a quality education to our students, even in the face of this pandemic. We are hopeful that our state and town will continue to work together to minimize the impacts and transmission of COVID-19 and allow our students to fully learn within the walls of our schools.

Thank you in advance for your support and for completing this important survey.

[Parent Response Survey](#)

Sincerely,

Maryann O'Donnell