

Warren Consolidated Schools



A Parent's Guide to the Return to In-Person Learning Framework

2020-2021 School Year

WCSKIDS.NET

Introduction

As the 2020-2021 school year moves into October, this is a formal framework to bring students back to school. It includes a disclaimer, some important background information, a reminder about state policy, updated safety protocols, and proposed schedules for elementary and secondary schools. Please note, while this framework focuses on bringing students back to school, our district will continue to offer a virtual option for families.

Disclaimer

As has been the case since March when our schools were closed due to the spread of COVID-19, our plans remain fluid to respect the pandemic, as well as the politics. As we began to formalize this document, the Michigan Supreme Court overturned all Executive Orders from the Governor since April. The following week, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Service issued a range of guidelines intended to replicate the safety items outlined by Executive Orders from the Governor. Our district continues to stay informed about developments, adjusting our plans accordingly.

With that in mind, this framework represents our best thinking based on the current conditions.

Background Information

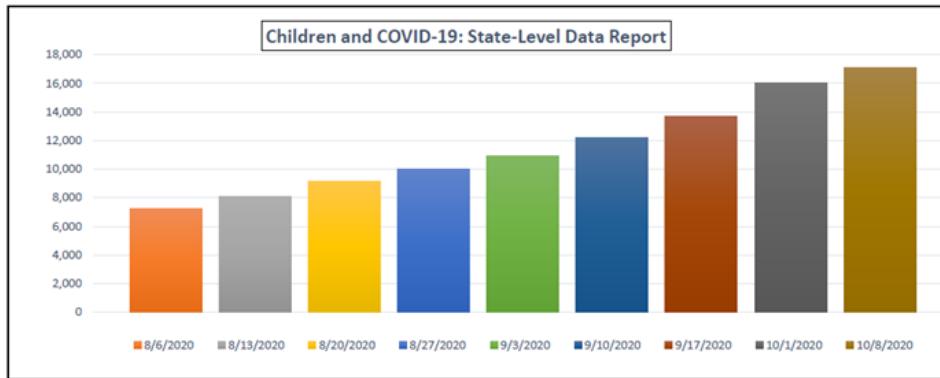
Before reviewing a framework of tentative schedules, timelines, and logistics, a look at the status of COVID cases across the state as well as locally, along with a review of what other districts in our county are doing is important.

COVID-19 Spread in Michigan:

The American Academy of Pediatrics maintains a count (updated weekly) of reported COVID cases in children. Our office has monitored this report weekly since July. You will find a chart below, developed internally using this data:

Date	Cumulative Cases (age 0-19)	Amount of New Cases	Difference from previous week	Cumulative Total Cases (all ages)	Percent children of total cases	Cases per 100,000 Children	Hospitalization	Mortality	Cumulative Total Confirmed Deaths (all ages)	Percent of children of total deaths
7/30/2020	6,275			88,974	7.1%	260.6	n/a	4	6,422	1.00%
8/6/2020	7,260	985		93,893	7.7%	301.5	n/a	0	6,478	0.00%
8/13/2020	8,121	861	-84	98,689	8.2%	337.3	n/a	0	6,539	0.00%
8/20/2020	9,149	1,028	+167	104,091	8.8%	380	n/a	0	6,618	0.00%
8/27/2020	10,044	895	-133	109,480	9.2%	417.2	0	0	?	0.00%
9/3/2020	10,958	914	+19	114,468	9.6%	455.1	0	0	?	0.00%
9/10/2020	12,229	1,271	+357	119,863	10.2%	507.9	0	0	?	0.00%
9/17/2020	13,657	1,428	+157	125,752	10.9%	567.2	0	2	6,680	0.00%
9/24/2020	14,770	1,113	-315	131,259	11.3%	613.5	0	0	6,781	0.00%
10/1/2020	16,042	1,272	+159	138,014	11.6%	666.3	0	0	6,816	0.00%
10/8/2020	17,072	1,030	-242	145,092	11.8%	709.1	0	0	6,898	0.00%

American Academy of Pediatrics and the Children's Hospital Association
<https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/children-and-covid-19-state-level-data-report/>



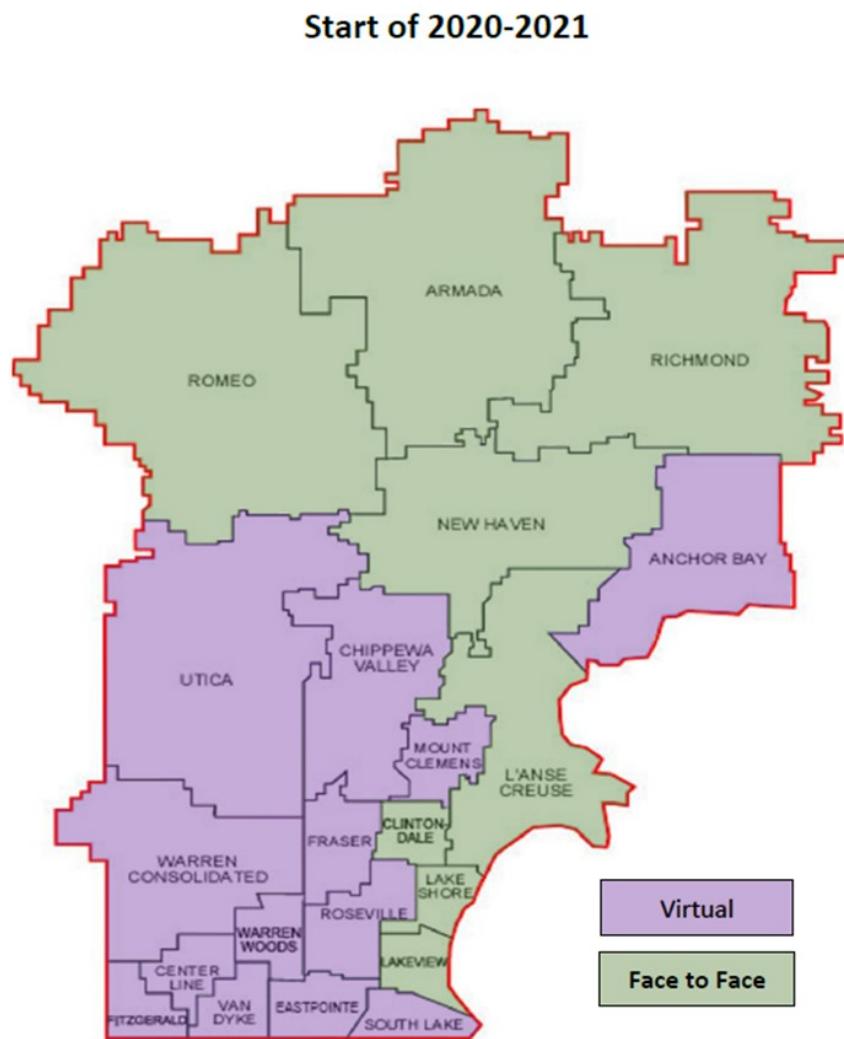
You will notice that while overall cases of COVID have grown since late July, which corresponds to an increase in the percentage of total cases of children, “new cases” have not gone up each week, even after school started across the state.

For these purposes, “children” are defined as ages 0-19, which does include some young people in their first year beyond high school.

Background Information

Approaches to Opening School in Macomb County:

To follow developments from around the county, our office has monitored School Board meetings, public messages, and regular contact with colleagues and parents from other communities. Below is a map, showing how districts in Macomb County opened the school year:

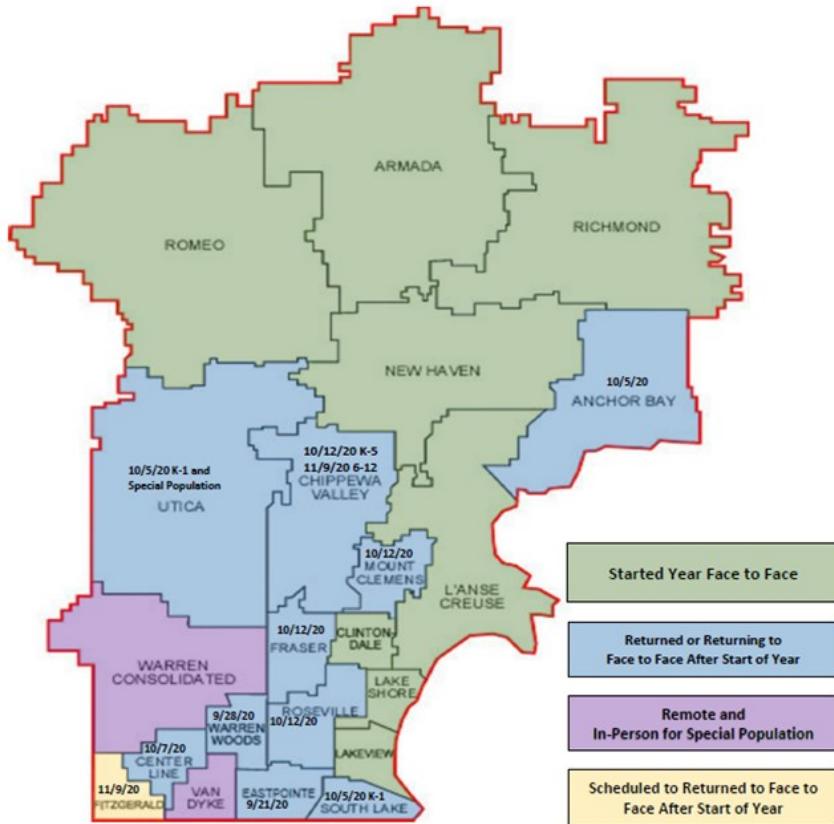


You will notice eight of 21 districts in our county opened the school year with some form of Face-to-Face instruction. All districts in Macomb County offered a virtual option for families who were uncomfortable with their children returning to school.

Background Information

Below is the latest update of our county map, updated on October 12, 2020:

SCHOOL STATUS AS OF 10/12/20



You will notice most districts in Macomb County have returned to some form of Face-to-Face after the start of the school year. As an important point of context, while some district such as Chippewa Valley have plans for a K-12 return, others such as Utica are beginning with smaller groups such as K-1 and Special Education students. “Face-to-Face” represents a true mixed bag; most districts are pursuing a hybrid model with small groups of students attending partial days. To our knowledge, very few districts in the northern part of Macomb County have all students who wanted in-person instruction present at school each day.

An important consideration is potential enrollment loss to other districts around Macomb County. Should infection rates remain steady, and as schools continue to bring students in and programs continue to evolve, families choosing Schools of Choice options becomes a stronger possibility.

State Policy Information

The recent decision by the State Supreme Court prompted a response from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Service issued a range of guidelines intended to replicate the safety items outlined by Executive Orders from the Governor. Considering the similarities between the Governor's Plan and the MDHHS guidelines, the "Safe Schools Roadmap" from June remains a strong way to organize logistics. This guidance created the framework of our District Crisis team response to COVID. As a refresher:

	Phase 4 In-person instruction permitted with required safety protocols	Phase 5 In-person instruction permitted with minimal required protocols
Personal Protective Equipment	Face Coverings are required for: All staff PreK-12 students in hallways and common areas TK-12 students in classrooms All people on a bus	Face Coverings are strongly recommended, but not required , for: All staff Pre-K-12 students in hallways and common areas.
Hygiene	Schools are required to: Provide supplies including soap, hand sanitizer, paper towels, tissues, and informational signs Procure portable handwashing stations to be set up throughout school buildings Teach and reinforce proper handwashing procedures Wash hands or use hand sanitizer before entering the cafeteria or school buses	It is strongly recommended, but not required , that: Schools provide supplies including soap, hand sanitizer, paper towels, tissues, and education about healthy behaviors Students wash hands or use hand sanitizer when changing classrooms, entering the cafeteria, or getting on a bus.
Spacing, Movement, Access	Schools are required to: Prohibit indoor assemblies with more than one class It is strongly recommended, but not required that: Desks, students, and teachers be spaced 6 feet apart Guests are limited in buildings Signage, floor markings, and seating encourage distancing and proper hygiene.	It is recommended that: Desks, students, and teachers be spaced as far apart as possible Guests are limited in buildings Signage, floor markings, and seating encourage distancing and proper hygiene

State Policy Information

	Phase 4 In-person instruction permitted with required safety protocols	Phase 5 In-person instruction permitted with minimal required protocols
Testing Protocols	<p>Schools are required to:</p> <p>Cooperate with the local health department regarding implementing protocols for screening students and staff</p> <p>It is strongly recommended that:</p> <p>Schools identify a space and designate it as a quarantine area</p> <p>Send symptomatic students and staff home until they have a negative test or have recovered according to CDC guidelines.</p>	<p>It is strongly recommended that:</p> <p>Schools identify a space and designate it as a quarantine area</p> <p>Send symptomatic students and staff home until they have a negative test or have recovered according to CDC guidelines.</p>
Responding to Positive Tests Among Staff and Students	<p>It is required that schools:</p> <p>Cooperate with the local public health department if a confirmed case of COVID-19 is identified, and in particular, must collect the contact information for any close contacts of the affected individual from two days before he or she showed symptoms to the time when he or she was last present at the school.</p> <p>It is strongly recommended, but not required, that schools:</p> <p>Notify local health officials, staff, and students immediately of any possible case of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other applicable federal and state privacy laws.</p> <p>It is strongly recommended, but not required, that the health department:</p> <p>Initiate contact tracing, following regular public health practice. Anyone who was within close contact of the case (less than six feet apart for 15+ minutes) will be asked to self-quarantine for up to 14 days after exposure.</p>	<p>It is strongly recommended, but not required, that schools:</p> <p>Notify local health officials, staff, and students immediately of any possible case of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other applicable federal and state privacy laws.</p> <p>It is strongly recommended, but not required, that the health department:</p> <p>Initiate contact tracing, following regular public health practice. Anyone who was within close contact of the case (less than six feet apart for 15+ minutes) will be asked to self-quarantine for up to 14 days after exposure.</p>

State Policy Information

	Phase 4 In-person instruction permitted with required safety protocols	Phase 5 In-person instruction permitted with minimal required protocols
Cleaning	Schools are required to: Clean frequently touched surfaces including light switches, doors, benches, bathrooms at least every four hours Clean libraries, computer labs, arts, and other hand-on classrooms after every class period Wipe down student desks after every class period Playground structures must continue to undergo normal routine cleaning	It is strongly recommended, but not required , that: Clean frequently touched surfaces including light switches, doors, benches, bathrooms at least every four hours Clean libraries, computer labs, arts, and other hand-on classrooms after every class period Wipe down student desks after every class period Playground structures must continue to undergo normal routine cleaning

Logistics

Currently our region is in Phase 4 of the Governor's Roadmap. This served as the basis for our plans to return Special Education students, our plans for in-person SAT testing, and remains the basis for this framework. With that in mind, our framework to bring back all students includes:

Personal Protective Equipment

Face Coverings are **required** for all staff and TK-12 students in hallways, common areas, classrooms, and on buses. Face coverings may be homemade or disposable level-one (basic) grade surgical masks. Homemade facial coverings must be washed daily, and disposable facial coverings must be disposed of at the end of each day. For those who do not bring a face covering from home, WCS will provide disposable face coverings. Any staff or student who is unable to medically tolerate a facial covering must not wear one. Our district will require documentation for those unable to wear a facial covering.

Hygiene

Regardless of the Phase of the Governor's plan, our schools will provide supplies including soap, hand sanitizer, paper towels, tissues, and informational signs. We will also teach and reinforce proper handwashing procedures and ensure students and staff wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before entering the cafeteria or school buses.

Spacing, Movement, and Access

Work stations/desks for students and teachers will be spaced 6 feet apart, and all work stations/desks will face the same direction. Furniture that cannot be easily sanitized or does not allow for spacing will be removed from classrooms and not available for use. Guests will have limited access to our buildings.

Hallways and Common Areas

Schedules will be staggered to limit the number of students in hallways at one time. We will adjust lunch schedules to maximize spacing, and students can expect assigned seating in our cafeterias. Recess will be held outside as often as possible.

Logistics

Responding to Positive Tests Among Staff and Students

As has been our practice, should a staff member or student test positive for Covid-19, our School Nurse and COVID manager would notify local health officials, staff, and students immediately of any possible case of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other applicable federal and state privacy laws. We would follow Health Department recommendations on cleaning and sanitizing any areas.

Cleaning

Custodians will continue to follow our daily cleaning protocols that staff was trained on last spring. You will notice in the proposed schedules below, Wednesday is reserved as a “Remote Learning/Teacher Collaboration” day. This approach will give our custodians extra time to ensure our buildings stay clean.



Proposed Elementary Schedule

A Cohort Model

This framework splits students into two groups, or cohorts. To ensure proper spacing and logistics, our plan assumes all students will return to in-person learning, realizing many families will choose to remain virtual. This approach allows us to be prepared for the eventual reality that some families who choose to remain virtual will return to school at some point.

Context

Our goal is to bring students back to school for full days. However, as a first step, due to the challenges of spacing in our cafeterias, the mask fatigue we are currently seeing in our elementary special education students, and to minimize asynchronous remote learning, I am proposing students come to school for a half-day in person. To allow us to properly space students, we will have two cohorts of half the students per class.

Cohort A and Cohort B both participate in the “Remote Learning” in the afternoon on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.

Nutrition Services

Our approach to feeding students (Wednesday distributions) would remain intact as we bring in elementary students. Operating lunch periods at the elementary level, even with reduced numbers of students, requires extra staffing, which would be part of our future planning. The community food distribution schedule is subject to change based on how many students return to in person learning.

Days of the Week

An important lesson learned this summer was the importance of the Health Department’s recommendation on contact tracing. When there is a positive case, people who were within 6 feet of the individual for more than 15 minutes during the 48 hours before symptoms first developed must quarantine. Our cohort schedules found below were constructed with this 48 hour period in mind.

Proposed Elementary Schedule

Elementary Schedule

Cohort A:					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00 – 11:30	In-Person Instruction	Asynchronous Learning	Intervention Groups SEL Supports	In-Person Instruction	Asynchronous Learning
12:30 – 1:10	Specials	Specials	Specials	Specials	Specials
1:15 – 3:30	Remote Learning	Remote Learning	Teacher work time	Remote Learning	Remote Learning

Cohort B:					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00 – 11:30	Asynchronous Learning	In-Person Instruction	Intervention Groups SEL Supports	Asynchronous Learning	In-Person Instruction
12:30 – 1:10	Specials	Specials	Specials	Specials	Specials
1:15 – 3:30	Remote Learning	Remote Learning	Teacher work time	Remote Learning	Remote Learning

Proposed Secondary Schedule

Context

Much like the elementary framework, the Secondary School Schedule has a cohort model, which allows us to space students in classrooms. Being that our secondary students are older, can tolerate masks longer, and our district has to balance the programs at Butcher (MMSTC, MS2TC and MSVPA), as well as CPC, this framework is for a full day of school.

While not marked on this sample schedule, students will eat lunch each day in our cafeteria. The number of students in the building will determine if students are spread over 3 or 4 lunch periods. Times will be adjusted accordingly.

Cohort A and Cohort B both participate in the “Remote Learning” on Wednesday mornings.

Secondary Schedule

Cohort A					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Hours 1-6	In-Person Learning	Asynchronous Learning	Connect Class	In-person Learning	Asynchronous Learning
			Remote Learning, 30 minute classes (8 am until 11:30 am) Teacher work time 12 pm until 3 pm)		

Cohort B					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Hours 1-6	Asynchronous Learning	In-Person Learning	Connect Class	Asynchronous Learning	In-Person Learning
			Remote Learning, 30 minute classes (8 am until 11:30 am) Teacher work time 12 pm until 3 pm)		

Proposed Timeline

Start Dates

To prepare for this change, we need every family in WCS to do the following by October 23, 2020:

- Review this Parent Guide to “Return to In-Person Learning Framework” and the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).
- Complete the [“WCS Return to In-Person Learning Survey”](#) at wcskids.net to let us know your choice.
- Please submit additional questions to info@wcskids.net, and we will update our FAQs to keep you informed.

It is very important to note that we cannot set a start date for in-person learning until families complete the survey and we develop a schedule for students and staff.

Though the final timeline will be entirely dependent on the survey to determine the needs of the community, and being able to work out final staffing and logistics, we have established a target of bringing students back beginning in November. We have identified, however, the order of the return. Our Pre-K - 2 would be included in the first group; 3 – 5 next; followed by 6 and 9; and the remaining secondary grades as the final group.

