



# **Shelton Public Schools Fall 2020 Reopening Model Due to COVID-19**

**Adopted by the Shelton Board of Education  
on August 12, 2020**

**The *health and wellbeing*  
of our students, staff, parents  
and the community  
is and will remain  
our top priority.**

The District will follow the **standard public health practices used to prevent the spread of diseases**. These practices include, but are not limited to:

- **Cohorting**
- **Social Distancing**
- **Face Covering over the nose and mouth**
- **Cleaning and Sanitizing**

**On Monday, August 3, 2020, during the Governor's briefing, Dr. Anthony Fauci indicated that social distancing in classrooms should be at least “three feet with good ventilation.”**

**After careful consideration, at this time, we believe that operating in a Hybrid Model for grades Pre K through 12 with an early release schedule is in the best interest of the health and safety of our students, staff, parents and the community.**

# The **Hybrid** Decision: Class Sizes

**Class sizes over 24 (data as of August 3)**

- **Sunnyside 4**
- **Mohegan 3**
- **Booth Hill 4**
- **Perry Hill 30**
- **SIS 88**
- **SHS 47**

**(schedules not finished; new enrollments)**

## The **Hybrid** Decision: Alternate Sites

Repurposing alternate sites (i.e. library, auditorium, gymnasium, lecture halls, etc.):

- not feasible with number of classes over 24 per building
- not good for SEL
- disrupts other activities

## The **Hybrid** Decision: Lack of Air Conditioning

- All elementary schools are not air conditioned.
- We cannot use fans for the sole purpose of moving air.
- Our current electrical service in each elementary school will not support individual units in each classroom. We would need an electrical upgrade in order to do that.



*Health data is  
changing every minute.*

**The District will be prepared to adjust our approaches due to shifting public health data or evolving understanding of COVID-19 disease, including transmission.**

# Staying At Home

- The district will provide information to parents and staff regarding performing a self-check for COVID symptoms, including taking one's temperature, each morning prior to leaving the house.
- Staff and students **must stay home when they are sick**, especially if they have COVID-19 symptoms such as fever and cough.

**(temperature threshold is 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit)**

# Reporting COVID-19 Symptoms

- **Parents are strongly encouraged to inform the school** if they are sick with COVID-19 related symptoms, particularly if they had a known contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 and have also had contact with the school population.
- **Staff are strongly encouraged to inform Human Resources** if they are sick with COVID-19 related symptoms, particularly if they had a known contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 and have also had contact with the school population.

# Per the Governor and Commissioner of Education

The **hybrid plan** must:

- reduce student populations
- offer a combination of in-school and Distance Learning
- allow parent/guardian choice to temporarily opt into voluntary full Distance Learning due to COVID-19

## Hybrid Reopening At A Glance:

- **All students in grades Pre K through 12 will receive *in-school instruction* two days per week.**
- **All schools will operate on *early release schedules* for the month of September. Once the weather is consistently cooler full day schedules will resume.**

## Hybrid Instruction - Monday

- **Distance Learning takes place on Mondays and days not in school.**
- **Staff will report to work on these days.**

## Hybrid Instruction: Tuesday through Friday

- ***Students with last names A through L will report to school on Tuesdays and Thursdays.***
- ***Students with last names M through Z will report to school Wednesdays and Fridays.***
- **The building principals will be placing *children from the same household* in the same classes or in the same daily rotation.**

# Hybrid Instruction: Student with Disabilities

## Special Programs

*Students with disabilities who participate in special programs offered by the District (Alternate Learning Center, Therapeutic Learning Center, Life Skills) will receive in-school instruction on an early release schedule Tuesdays through Fridays.*



# Cohorts

- Cohorts are defined as groups of students and educators with consistent members that stay together throughout the school day.
- Cohorts within the school populations will be implemented when feasible.
- The mixing of established cohorts will be minimized.
- Cohort members will be logged for the purpose of contact tracing.

## Hybrid Weekly Structure

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	<b>Last Names A-L</b> <u>in-school</u> <u>instruction</u>	<b>Last Names M-Z</b> <u>in-school</u> <u>instruction</u>	<b>Last Names A-L</b> <u>in-school</u> <u>instruction</u>	<b>Last Names M-Z</b> <u>in-school</u> <u>instruction</u>
<b>All students</b> <b><u>Distance Learning</u></b> from home	Alternate Learning Center; Therapeutic Learning Center, Life Skills in-school instruction	Alternate Learning Center; Therapeutic Learning Center, Life Skills in-school instruction	Alternate Learning Center; Therapeutic Learning Center, Life Skills in-school instruction	Alternate Learning Center; Therapeutic Learning Center, Life Skills in-school instruction
	<b>Last names M-Z</b> <u>Distance Learning</u>	<b>Last names A-L</b> <u>Distance Learning</u>	<b>Last names M-Z</b> <u>Distance Learning</u>	<b>Last names A-L</b> <u>Distance Learning</u>

## Classroom Layout

- **Social distancing** will be maximized between individual student workstations to the greatest extent possible.
- **Desks** will face in the same direction.
- Some **furniture/materials** (i.e. rugs, couches, bean bag chairs, etc.) will be removed from classrooms in order to maximize social distancing.
- Some **spaces within the schools** (i.e. gymnasiums, cafeterias, lecture halls, libraries, etc.) may be **repurposed** for classrooms in order to maximize social distancing.

## **Classroom Materials**

**The District will, to the greatest extent possible, minimize the need to have multiple students **sharing high touch materials**, including books, computers, calculators, writing utensils, computer keyboards/headphones, and art supplies.**

# Face Coverings

- **The use of face coverings that cover the nose and mouth are required of all staff, students in grades K through 12 and visitors to the building when they are inside the school building.**
- **Masks with exterior vents will not be allowed.**

## Time Without Face Coverings

- **Scheduled *mask breaks***
- **Lunch**
- **Adults working alone in private offices**

## Social Distancing

***Social distancing*** will be practiced at all times in all buildings during all school related activities and in hallway transit to the greatest extent possible.

## **Building/Facilities: What you will see**

- **Signs/messages/floor markings** to stop the spread of COVID-19 (i.e. face masks, social distancing, hand washing) and for direction
- **Water fountains** for bottle filling
- Increased **cleaning and sanitization** by custodial staff
- Increased **central ventilation system ventilation rates**
- Increased **percentage of outdoor air** that circulates in the system where possible
- Some building offices using **plexiglass-type barriers**



## **Building/Facilities: What you will NOT see used**

- **Free-standing fans** that only serve to circulate existing air around a room
- **Lockers/cubbies/student wall hooks** (backpacks are encouraged)

# Bathrooms

- **Social distancing** in multi-stall shared bathrooms, including avoiding the use of some sinks and stalls
- **Disposable towels** in lieu of hand dryers
- **Personal items** removed
- **Additional cleaning**

## Food Distribution Plan

- Whitsons will provide on-site meal service as a grab-and-go. Lunch prices will be the same as 2019-2020.
- Students will eat lunch in their classrooms.
- **All buildings will be nut free.**
- Garbage will be disposed of via large garbage cans placed in the hallways.
- A food distribution plan for students temporarily opting into voluntary full Distance Learning due to COVID-19 will be communicated.

## Technology/Materials Distribution Plan

The District will communicate a *technology/materials distribution plan* to those students temporarily opting into voluntary full Distance Learning due to COVID-19.

# Hybrid Transportation

- ***Bus transportation*** will operate at a reduced capacity with mask requirements and loading/unloading restrictions and spaced seating between unrelated riders.
- Parents are encouraged to provide transportation for their child to and from school when possible.
- The Shelton Public Schools Community and Outreach Worker and Shelton Public Schools security officers transportation of students will be suspended until further notice. Emergency transportation of students will be addressed in another manner.

## Hybrid Transportation

- All students and transportation personnel will be **required to wear a face mask or cloth face covering that covers the nose and mouth during transit**. The passenger's face covering must be in place prior to boarding the bus and must be kept in place until they are completely off the bus.
- Passengers should **load into the bus from the back row to the front** (where the first passengers onto the bus sit in the back row) and then unload the bus in a controlled manner upon arrival at the school from front to back by seat.
- Passengers will be spaced with family members sitting together and non-family members will be **spaced 6 feet apart utilizing alternating diagonal seating**.

## Activities

- The District will ensure that schools minimize exposure to *playgrounds and equipment*.
- The District will **restrict, and possibly suspend activities**, including but not limited to, *field trips, physical education, physical activity (including recess), athletics, fine and performing arts and extracurricular activities*.

## Sick Students/Staff

- **Sick staff** will be immediately dismissed from main office. Do not go to the nurse's office.
- **Sick students** will be monitored in a separate isolation room until pick up.
- Upon notification, parents or emergency contacts will be expected to **pick up ill children within one (1) hour.**



## Volunteers/Visitors/Building Use

- ***Nonessential volunteers and visitors* at the buildings will be limited and restricted.**
- **Only district-approved before and after school programs** will be allowed access to the building. If granted building use, all groups must abide by the **Shelton Public Schools Fall 2020 ReOpen Guidelines**, as well as the state and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines, including but not limited to requiring the use of face coverings that cover the nose and mouth, and maximizing social distancing.

## Students with Special Needs

- The District will, to the best extent possible, accommodate students with **special health care needs or disabilities** whose learning (i.e. direct instruction) or other needs (i.e., assisting with toileting or ambulation) may require closer proximity and/or direct contact.
- **Evaluations** that were not completed due to the shutdown last year will be scheduled.
- **Planning and Placement Team meetings** will be held virtually or telephonically until further notice in order to minimize visitors in the building. Extenuating circumstances may require in-person PPT meetings.

## **Staff Working with Students with Special Needs**

- The District will assess when **face shields** may be appropriate for staff and should be worn with face masks for additional protection. Face shields protect the eyes, nose, and mouth from contamination from respiratory droplets, along with masks. When necessary, the district will provide face shields for staff.
- The District will assess when **barriers** may be necessary for meeting with individual students. When necessary, the district will provide barriers for staff.
- The District will provide state recommended **PPE** for any staff members who participate in Physical & Psychological Management Training (PMT).

# Distance Learning

There are two models for distance teaching and learning:

- **Synchronous**: Direct teaching and learning takes place **between the students and instructors at the same time.** (i.e. in person instruction, live-video, interactive webinars, online discussions, etc.)
- **Asynchronous**: Students complete their work assigned **on their own time.** (i.e. pre recorded-video, emails, Google Classroom-posted assignments, etc.)

The district will utilize the **Google Platform.**

# **Distance Learning: Students with Disabilities**

**We continue to await guidance from the Connecticut State Department of Education related to the implementation of IEP hours for students with disabilities. Our plan may be revised based on receipt of this information.**

## **Art, Music, Media and PE in grades PreK - 4**

- **Art, Music and Media** will be taught in the student's classroom to minimize movement.
- **Modified instructional practices** will be used for **PE**.

## Emergency Drills

- **Emergency drills** (i.e. fire drills, lockdowns, shelter in place, etc.) will be held.

## **Social and Emotional Learning**

**The District recognizes that *social and emotional learning (SEL)* will be an important component of reopening in building learning. As such, the first several days of school and future activities will be devoted to **social emotional learning, and re-establishing routines and relationships.****



## Shelton Public Schools Opt Into Voluntary Full Distance Learning Due to COVID-19 Plan

- Plan will be posted on the **district website's COVID-19 Quick Link** on August 17.
- Parents must fill out the form and submit it to their child's building principal by **August 21, 2020**.
- If no form is received by August 21, 2020 **the district will assume the child will be attending in-school instruction.**

# Shelton Public Schools Opt Out of Bus Transportation

- Plan will be posted on the **district website's COVID-19 Quick Link** on August 17.
- Parents must fill out the form and submit it to their child's building principal by **August 21, 2020**.
- If no form is received by August 21, 2020 **the district will assume the child will be riding bus transportation.**

## Next steps for SPSS Staff

- Administration will post plans adopted by the Board of Education on the **district website's COVID-19 Quick Link** by the end of this week.
- Staff will be able to **pick-up personal belongings/furniture** from classrooms on Thursday, August 20, from 8:00-3:00.

## Next steps for Parents

- Parents must fill out and submit the **Opt Into Voluntary Full Distance Learning Due to COVID-19 or Opt Out of Bus Transportation** to their child's building principal by **August 21, 2020**.
- **Thermometer distribution** to parents who do not have them will be on Thursday, August 20, 2020 from 5:00-6:00 p.m. in the SHS bus loop. Five hundred thermometers will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis.

## Follow Up

### Information that is forthcoming:

- **Meet the Principal Nights**
- **Kindergarten orientations**
- **Transition grade (5, 7, 9) orientations**
- **Bus safety information**