



www.d11.org/returntolearn

RETURN TO LEARN PLAN

Fall 2020

Our plan for keeping our students, staff and community safe during the COVID-19 pandemic

Publication Date: 7/24/20

Plan Subject to Change

Forward: Superintendent's Message

To Our D11 Community,

Since the onset of COVID-19, our world has been carefully navigating through the challenges of a global pandemic. In Colorado Springs School District 11, our top priority remains the health and safety of our students, families, teachers, staff, leaders, and community. We remained steadfast in our commitment to health and safety last spring, ending our year of instruction in a distance learning format with very little time to prepare. Our staff demonstrated swift, adaptive leadership to ensure we provided the highest quality education possible given the realities we all faced.

Over the summer, many of our staff have been working tirelessly every day. In an effort to develop the best possible plan for returning to school in-person in August, our staff consulted with various officials from El Paso County Public Health, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, the Colorado Department of Education, elected officials to include our Board of Education, the Governor, and community stakeholders (e.g., staff, parents and students). We closely monitor the infection rates of COVID-19, specifically as it pertains to El Paso County.

It is clear, that with the increased social integration throughout our community, we are continuing to see the rise of COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations. We know this is very alarming and concerning for our community.

I, along with our Board of Education and many staff, continue to receive a lot of varied communication from multiple stakeholders, expressing concern of returning to in-person instruction, eagerness to return to schools, ideas and strategies to ensure safety, and an overwhelming amount of empathy and understanding for the challenges we are facing as a PK-12 community. Additionally, this proves to be challenging in a rapidly evolving public health crisis; **what we know and do today could be drastically different tomorrow.**

As we approach the start of the 2020-2021 school year, we will continue to work closely with all of our employee groups, students, parents, guardians, and community stakeholders to ensure we have plans in place that will welcome students and staff as safely as possible back into our schools. Additionally, we acknowledge that we must offer comprehensive online options for those who are not yet ready to return to physical instruction. Lastly, though our desire is to return in-person this fall, we remain open to the possibility of needing to open our entire district virtually for a period to ensure the safest physical return to our schools.

Our District 11 vision states, "We are a dynamic, collaborative community of energized educators, engaged students and supportive partners with a passion for continuous learning." We will not waiver from this and we will continue making the best decisions grounded in data while adhering to all applicable health guidelines.

Thank you for your continuous support and grace as we lead through these challenging times. Together, we will empower our students to profoundly impact our world!

Yours in partnership,

Dr. Michael J. Thomas

Executive Summary

Colorado Springs School District 11 anticipates opening all PreK-12 schools the week of August 17, **however that date could very well change depending on the health data from El Paso County Public Health**. We will be in communication with our families over the next several weeks when plans may change. Students in K-8 have the option of attending school in-person, five days a week, Monday through Friday, or may choose Inspire Online, a fully online learning program while remaining enrolled at their original school (a “school within a school” model). High school students have the option of attending on a hybrid schedule or opting into several online opportunities (please see the Online section below). While schools will provide in-person learning five days a week, mandatory safety, health, and hygiene protocols, aligned with local and state health guidance, will contribute to a different school experience. The District will continue to provide ongoing business and support services to all sites to maintain an environment supporting the student educational experience. **By attending in-person learning, students, families, and staff agree to follow all school safety, health, and hygiene practices.**

Social Emotional Well-Being

Colorado Springs School District 11 is committed to supporting students’ social emotional wellness and offering resources to ensure students transition back to school smoothly.

Plans have been established to provide Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) for all students in concert with modified in-person, hybrid, and distance learning models. Staff members will embed consistent, scheduled opportunities to check and connect with students in order to build community, teach SEL strategies, monitor wellness, and identify individualized needs. In addition, every school has multiple assigned mental health providers who have the expertise to support individual student needs.

Support may include social emotional learning, building relationships, and increased access to mental health/wellness services. Families and schools will work together to understand how students are feeling and assess their individual needs to provide essential services to students during these challenging times.





Thank You!

Thanks to the following teachers, staff, parent/guardians, students, and community members who helped shape our Return to Learn Plan Fall 2020:

| | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
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Return to Learn Plan Fall 2020

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The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), along with the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) have provided guidance to opening schools based on these three phases:

Stay at Home

- Widespread closures except for critical functions to reduce hospitalizations and deaths.
- Gatherings prohibited.
- All D11 students will attend school remotely (see Tier III below), no in-person learning will be conducted during a Stay at Home order.

Safer at Home

- Partial reopening, around 25%-50% with capacity caps, to give public health and healthcare systems ability to scale their testing, tracing, and treatment capabilities.
- Small gatherings are okay, but large gatherings are prohibited.
- Depending on local health data, students may or may not be learning in-person (this could be a mix of Tier I, II, and III).

Protect our Neighbors

- Expanded reopening, around 50% without caps, as local outbreaks are managed by strong local systems.
- Larger gatherings are okay, but mass gatherings are prohibited until there is a treatment or vaccine.
- Students will continue with in-person learning under this order unless they have opted into an online learning environment.

Tier 1: 100% in person learning

Open schools as traditionally as possible adhering to recommended health and safety guidelines. This traditional school environment includes socially distancing to the extent possible, masks worn by both students and staff wherever and whenever possible, and other health standards implemented in all buildings.

Tier 2: Hybrid of in person/online learning

Open schools following an alternating A/B schedule allowing students to attend class both physically and virtually on alternating days. This model will likely only be implemented at the secondary levels and will be individualized by the schools.

Tier 3: 100% Remote learning

A virtual and/or remote school experience, supported through the SeeSaw platform in elementary grades, and Schoology for higher elementary and secondary grades, and supplemented through other instruction methods when online is not a family option.

In-Person Learning

- Students learn at school, in person.

Online Learning

- Families choose this fully online learning option regardless of whether in-person or remote learning occurs (this is the D11 Inspire Online program for K-12, Achieve Online School for grades 6-12, or the Digital High School for credit recovery).

Remote Learning

- Schools are closed, or students are absent due to illness or quarantine, so learning must take place at home.

Hybrid Learning

- Students will engage part of the time online, and part of the time in person. Please see the high school example on pages 14, 15 and 16.



Classroom and Educational Spaces

- Students will be responsible for cleaning (soap and water) their own space. No chemical cleaners will be used by students. They will only be allowed to use soap and water and the stabilized aqueous ozone.
- Classrooms will have adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors, including soap, paper towels, hand sanitizer, etc.
- Signs will be posted on how to stop the spread of COVID-19, properly wash hands, promote everyday protective measures, and properly wear a face covering.
- D11 facilities will ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible by opening windows and other methods that do not pose additional safety or health risks.
- Everyone is asked to implement physical distancing at all times and to the greatest degree, wherever and whenever possible.
- The use of additional barriers (e.g., plastic sneeze guards, face shields) will be installed for employees working directly with younger children or where spacing and masking may be more difficult for either staff members or students.
- Frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned, sanitized, and disinfected multiple times per day (e.g., playground equipment, door handles, sink handles, drinking fountains, refillable water stations).
- When shared objects are required, they will be cleaned between use.
- Education tools will be disinfected and sanitized regularly (e.g. books, whiteboards, computers).
- Adequate supplies will be ensured to minimize sharing of high-touch materials.
- Each child's belongings will be kept separated in individually labeled storage containers, cubbies, or taken home each day and cleaned.
- Students and staff will avoid the use of items not easily cleaned, sanitized, or disinfected (e.g., upholstered furniture or soft or plush toys).
- Locker use will be limited.



Hallways

- Hallways will be divided to accommodate flow of traffic on each side of the hallway.
- Everyone is required to wear facial coverings in the hallways.

Cafeterias

- Breakfast and lunch options will be provided. Students could possibly eat in the classroom, outdoors, or socially distanced in the cafeteria.
- Students will generally attend lunch in grade-level cohorts.
- While students will be allowed to bring their lunch, students and parents will be discouraged from bringing outside food into the schools. This includes food for parties and social events.
- Food will be available in the cafeterias and will include a limited menu in order to allow students to quickly get through the cafeteria, while maintaining social distancing.
- Cafeteria tables will be cleaned and sanitized between lunch periods.
- Lunch tables will be placed to encourage social distancing.

School Bus Transportation

- All bus riders will wear a face masks at all times. Drivers and bus assistants will use face masks and shields when assisting riders (e.g. buckling seat belts).
- Windows will be open two to three inches at all times.
- Students will be assigned seats. Siblings will be asked to share seats. Single riders will be seated individually. Classroom cohorts will be allowed to sit together.
- In the morning, buses will be loaded from the back to the front to prevent students from passing other students via the aisle. Afternoon bus loading will be first on, last off to enable safe and efficient unloading at bus stops.
- Hand sanitizer will be secured in the driver pouch on the school bus for staff use only. CDE prohibits transportation staff from providing hand sanitizer to students due to health concerns.
- Drivers will spray stabilized aqueous ozone (a mild water-based cleaner) after every run.



Playground/Recess

- Recess will take place outside as weather permits. Playground equipment may be used by small cohorts of students as long as they wash their hands upon returning into the school. Recess may also be used as a mask break as long as students are socially distanced.

Students

- Students will be required to wear masks whenever and wherever possible. All facial coverings must be appropriate for the school environment with no graphics or verbiage violating standard dress code policy.
 - All students will need to supply their own masks and if students forget or lose their mask, they will be provided with a disposable mask.
- Students will be responsible for cleaning their own spaces with provided soap and water.
- Students will be encouraged to not share materials (i.e. crayons, scissors, etc.). If materials are shared, they will be cleaned between use.
- Students will avoid immediate contact such as shaking or holding hands and hugging.
- Students will be given scheduled mask and hand hygiene breaks.
- Students will implement physical distancing at all times and to the greatest degree, wherever and whenever possible.
- Students belongings need to be separated in individually labeled storage containers, cubbies, or taken home each day and cleaned.

Staff

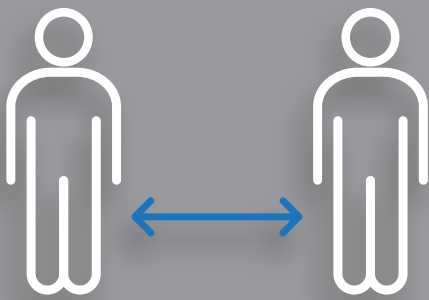
- Staff will be required to wear masks whenever and wherever possible. Staff are encouraged to teach and reinforce hand hygiene, mask wearing, and covering coughs and sneezes among children and staff.
 - All staff will be provided one cloth mask and one facial shield.
- Staff is encouraged to teach and reinforce appropriate use of cloth face coverings among staff and students (when age and developmentally appropriate) when in the vicinity of others, particularly in indoor settings.
- Staff will avoid immediate contact such as shaking or holding hands and hugging.
- Staff will take scheduled mask and hand hygiene breaks.
- Staff will implement physical distancing at all times and to the greatest degree, wherever and whenever possible.
- Staff will encourage both students and adults to stay home if they or a family member is experiencing symptoms.
- Schools will limit assemblies, gatherings, events, and activities to those events that can maintain adequate social distancing, support proper hand hygiene, and adhere to local and state health mandates.
- Schools will consider keeping classes/cohorts together, as often as possible, to include the same group of students each day.
- For additional staff questions including questions regarding leave time, sick leave pay, and more, please contact D11 Human Resources.

Cleaning and Safety Measures

- The D11 facilities team is currently updating our District 11 cleaning standards. These standards will be published on the www.d11.org/returntolearn website after August 10.
- Custodial staff will continue to use a variety of techniques and supplies to ensure that our schools are as clean and sanitized as possible. Most of this work will take place after students are dismissed for the day. Please see the District 11 Cleaning Procedures mentioned above after they are posted for specific procedures.
- Building managers and other school staff, to include teachers, will clean heavily trafficked areas using a Stabilized Aqueous Ozone (SAO), when available, or simple soap and water. SAO is non-toxic to humans and its byproduct is water. Chemical disinfectants will not be used when students are present.

We are working to increase the ventilation level in our schools by 150%. This work includes evaluating and repairing every Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system within the District. We are reprogramming our building automation systems to allow extended system operation before and after the school day to ensure that “fresh” air is in the buildings at the start of the school day.

Moveable plexiglass shields will be in place in various locations in all schools based on need and appropriate requirement.



Elementary School

We anticipate elementary students K-5 will begin the year attending school face-to-face, five days per week, unless families choose to enroll their student in the D11 Inspire Online program. An overwhelming majority of younger students learn better with an in-person teaching model and our youngest learners need consistent face-to-face learning in a physical setting. Not only do our youngest students need in-person support, they are in an age group that require adult supervision all day, every day. To better adhere to best practices for student spacing, we will minimize movement throughout the school. Students will be placed and kept in group cohorts and will spend most of their day within their cohort. We anticipate students having access to specials such as arts and music; however, those classes might not look exactly like they have in the past. An elementary schedule could look like the following:

- 90 minutes literacy for K-3, 70 minutes for 4-5
- 30 minutes intervention for reading
- 30-45 minutes for writing
- 70 minutes for math
- 45 minutes for specials classes
- 30 minutes for science/social studies
- 30 minutes for lunch/recess
- Time will specifically be set aside for daily social emotional learning
- Time will be specifically set aside for hand washing and mask breaks
- Time specifically set aside for recess (this can include mask breaks if students are socially distanced).

Specific school schedules will be released by your student's school prior to the start of the school year.



Middle School

We anticipate all middle school students will return to in-person learning, five days per week, on a block schedule consisting of four, 90-minute classes per day.

- Middle school cohorts will be grouped by grade level, which allows students to experience core and exploratory classes.
- Scheduled hand washing/sanitation and mask break times will be built into schedules.
 - Cleaning protocols will be followed.
- Transitions will be staggered by grade level.
 - Only one grade level will be in the hallway at a time.
 - Block scheduling allows time between classes to properly wipe down surfaces and supplies.
- Lunchtime will be designed to allow social distancing.
 - When weather allows, we will use indoor and outdoor space for lunch.
 - We will stagger lunch schedules.
 - Special student populations will be served with their grade level cohorts.
- A classroom contact tracing sign-in sheet will be placed outside of all classroom doors for adults entering throughout the day.
 - Limited adults and visitors in the building (follow district guidelines)
- Instructional day may include the following:
 - 90-minute classes, four times a day (core classes, exploratory classes)
 - Intervention and acceleration part of 90-minute block
 - 30 minutes for lunch/outside time
 - 20-30 minutes for Social Emotional Learning/checks
 - Mask and hygiene breaks will be built into the schedule along with outdoor learning time, when possible.
 - Hand washing, restroom, and other sanitizing breaks will also be scheduled.

Specific school schedules will be released by your student's school prior to the start of the school year.



High School

We anticipate high school students will return with a hybrid alternating block schedule. This will help create a safer environment by reducing student interactions, while maintaining a comprehensive and diverse course offering. Students will be divided into two groups: Group A and Group B. All school days, except Wednesdays, will be formal instruction days. On Wednesdays, half the day will consist of staff professional development, and half will be used for teachers to check in with students and offer additional support. During this time, teachers will contact students individually, hold virtual office hours, and host small group meetings with students, among other things. These activities will be designed to meet the individual needs of our students in order to increase overall student achievement.

Under this model, each day will be a different set of four 90-minute periods. For example, day one consists of periods 1-4, and day two consists of periods 5-8. Teachers will be assigned a new 8th period block of students. This block of time will be flexible and can be used in the following ways: social emotional learning, ICAP, internships, study hall, advisory and intervention, or study skills. All students who remain on campus will be enrolled in an 8th Period Block.

Specific school schedules will be released by your student's school prior to the start of the school year.



High School (continued)

The following high school schedule **example** is a hybrid alternating block schedule and may vary slightly from school to school. This model provides the opportunity for a full in-person model, a hybrid model, as well as a distance learning model.

**Regular Schedule Hybrid Model for Monday and Tuesday
(Student Group A at school while Student Group B is at home)**

Lunch is tied to your third block teacher

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 7:40 | Warning Bell |
| 7:45 - 9:15 | Student Group A Monday 1st period / Tuesday 5th period |
| 9:25 – 11:00 | Student Group A Monday 2nd period/ Tuesday 6th period (5 minutes for announcements) |
| 11:10 - 12:40 | Student Group A Monday 3rd period/ Tuesday 7th period |
| 11:00 - 11:30 | First Lunch |
| 11:35 - 1:05 | Student Group A Monday 3rd period/ Tuesday 7th period |
| 12:40 - 1:10 | Second Lunch |
| 1:15 - 2:45 | Student Group A Monday 4th period/ Tuesday 8th period |

**Regular Schedule Hybrid Model for Thursday and Friday
(Student Group B at school while Student Group A is at home)**

Lunch is tied to your third block teacher

| | |
|---------------|--|
| 7:40 | Warning Bell |
| 7:45 - 9:15 | Student Group B Thursday 1st period/ Friday 5th period |
| 9:25 - 11:00 | Student Group B Thursday 2nd period /Friday 6th period (5 min announcements) |
| 11:10 - 12:40 | Student Group B Thursday 3rd period/Friday 7th period |
| 11:00 - 11:30 | First Lunch |
| 11:35 - 1:05 | Student Group B Thursday 3rd period/Friday 7th period |
| 12:40 - 1:10 | Second Lunch |
| 1:15 - 2:45 | Student Group B 4th Period/8th Period |

Instructional Plans (continued)

High School (continued)

Wednesday- Students work from home with teacher availability/instruction for ½ the day.
Teacher professional development ½ day.

Possible Schedule

| | |
|---------------|--|
| 7:45 - 9:15 | Teacher PD – 60 minutes of PLC time (On-going) 30 minutes of Schoology training/ 30 minutes of PBL training/ 30 minutes of Content Specific Tech Tool Training/ 30 minutes of ICAP Training Etc. (On-going) |
| 9:25 - 11:00 | Teacher PD –45 minutes of SEL Training/ 45 minutes of MS Teams Training/ 45 minutes of Block Instruction Training/1.5 hours of Cross-Curricular PBL work time/ 45 minutes of Distance Learning Best Practices/ Etc. (On-going) |
| 11:00 – 11:30 | Lunch |
| 11:35 - 1:05 | Teacher Schedule six –15 minutes individual meetings with students/ (Webex) three 30-minute lessons for 3 different classes/ Etc. |
| 1:15 – 2:45 | Students meeting with a teacher and small group through MS Teams/ virtual math tutoring meeting/ capstone project consultation/ Etc. |

Online Menu of Opportunities

The Inspire Online program is a unique “school-within-a-school” opportunity for any D11 family. Families will maintain enrollment and important connections to their school and teachers in a fully online environment. Students will be engaged as co-creators of their learning as they ask relevant questions, seek answers to their questions, and propose solutions to real-world problems. Students will master and apply their learning with teachers, students, and community members within the safety of their virtual space. Learning will be measured through approved state and district protocols.

Students opting into the Inspire Online program are asked to make the commitment to stay with the program until the end of the first semester. Families may then evaluate and choose to stay with the program or have their child return to in-person learning. **To enroll in the Inspire Online program, please contact the D11 Enrollment office at (719) 520-2297.**

In addition, District 11 offers the Achieve Online School (grades 6-12) for families who are interested in a fully 100% online school which also includes a hybrid option for students (if they choose) to come into the building and meet with their teachers. Digital High School is a program for students to accelerate credit for graduation. Digital High School is recommended for students ages 17 and older. Both Achieve Online and Digital are located at the Roy J. Wasson Academic Campus. To enroll in the Achieve Online or Digital, please call (719) 328-2000.

At the comprehensive high schools, Gradpoint is a self-paced online learning platform available to students.

U.S. Department of Education

CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

El Paso County Public Health

Colorado Department of Education

Colorado Public Health and Environment

Metro Denver Partnership for Health School Guidance June 2020

