



North Bellmore School District

2020-2021 Reopening Plan

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ): Part 2

Please see the responses below to a list of common questions posed by the community:

Opening Model

1. What model is the District opening with in September?

- The North Bellmore School District plans to implement **full-day, K-6, in-person instruction** at the start of the 2020-2021 school year.
- The District will also implement the **Alternate Virtual Learning Model**, which allows parents to select virtual (remote) learning for their child(ren) if they prefer.
- *Please note:* should the Governor order schools closed at the beginning or any time during the school year, or if the situation warrants, the District will implement remote learning for all.

Alternate Virtual Learning Model

2. If my child begins the year in the Alternate Virtual Learning Model, I understand my child can transition to the in-person model for the 2nd or 3rd Trimester somewhere in the District. Why can't my child be guaranteed a placement in our home school building?

The District's full intention is to place students back in their home school; however, the feasibility of doing so will depend on the amount of students returning to an in-person model, as well as the number of students who may elect to transition to the Alternate Virtual Learning Model. This information will not be known to the District until parents submit their intent before the start of each trimester. In order to allow families the opportunity to change their desired model for instruction at the start of each trimester, class rostering will need to be a fluid process. The District did NOT want to force families to commit to either learning model for an entire year. The number of in-person class sections will depend on the number of students who have requested the Alternate Virtual Learning Model. For example, if 300 students district-wide enroll in the Alternate Virtual Learning Model, the number of in-person sections needed will decrease accordingly. Close attention will be paid to maintaining our current class sizes in both the in-person and remote models.

3. Why can't the deadline be extended for families to submit the Final Intent Form for the Alternate Virtual Learning Model?

As noted above, the number of in-person class sections and virtual class sections will depend on the number of students who have requested the Alternate Virtual Learning Model. We need this information **no later than 11:59 PM on Sunday, August 16** so we can begin the process of re-rostering and re-staffing all classes (both in-person and virtual) first thing on Monday, August 17. This is a very tight turnaround to determine class placements, to make staffing revisions, and to share class assignment information with families. Our goal is to share class assignments with families the last week of August, but no later than Friday, September 4.

4. Why can't all three parent discussions take place before we need to make a final decision regarding the Alternate Virtual Learning Model?

As stated above, the deadline for submitting the Final Intent Form cannot be extended. Please note, however, the information that is being shared at each of the three meetings will be the same. All families who are considering the Alternate Virtual Learning Model are strongly encouraged to participate in the Thursday, August 13 session at 7:30 PM via Zoom. While all three meetings will be the same in content, additional emphasis will be placed on the Alternate Virtual Learning Model during the August 13 meeting to accommodate our community. For those who cannot attend this session, the video recording will be posted to our District homepage the next day.

All information relative to the Alternate Virtual Learning Model is contained in the original guide ([click here](#)). Additionally, we are providing the answers to another set of common questions in this 2nd FAQ to help parents make an informed decision. If parents still have additional questions, they may contact an administrator regarding individualized questions.

5. If our child participates in the Alternate Virtual Learning Model and they are unable to be placed in their home building upon return to the in-person model, will they remain a student at that building for the remainder of their elementary career?

No, students will be able to return to their home school building next school year.

6. If there is not an in-person placement available for my child in their home school building, what are my choices?

You may choose to:

- Accept an in-person placement in another school building;
- Remain in the alternate virtual class until an in-person space becomes available in the home school building;
- Remain in the alternate virtual class for the duration of the year.

7. If we choose the Alternate Virtual Learning Model, will my children be paired with a teacher who normally teaches that specific grade?

All of our teachers are certified to teach grades 1-6; many have the Birth-2 certification as well. Teachers who are assigned to classes (in-person or virtual) are always certified to teach those respective grades. With respect to the virtual classes, the District will make every effort to staff each section with a teacher who has experience teaching the specific grade level.

Desk Shields

8. What will the barriers North Bellmore purchased be made of?

Our student desk shields are made of polyethylene terephthalate glycol or PETG.

Masks

9. Are the children required to wear masks during recess?

Outdoor Recess

Children will not be required to wear masks while outside for recess, so long as they are able to maintain appropriate distance between one another, which will be managed by the lunch recess assistants. If students choose to sit together for conversations, and are not socially distanced, wearing a mask will be required. Please be sure to dress your child properly as the colder weather approaches; the District will send the children outdoors for recess as frequently as possible to avoid indoor recess.

Indoor Recess

In instances where children cannot maintain appropriate social distance, a mask will be required. If a child chooses to engage in an individual activity (i.e. coloring at their desk behind their desk shield), a mask break will be provided.

10. Who will be providing the masks for all students?

Families are responsible for providing masks for their child(ren). Parents are required to send their child(ren) to school each day with an acceptable face covering. In the event a child forgets their face covering or it becomes soiled or damaged, the District will provide the child with a disposable face covering.

11. What does a “mask break” mean?

A mask break is when individuals are able to remove or lower their masks for a short period of time when they are safely able to do so (i.e. when they are seated behind their classroom desk shields or otherwise socially distanced). Teachers will schedule whole class mask breaks as well as individual mask breaks for those students who may need one at certain points of the day.

Mental Health

12. Has the school district provided training to teachers and administrators to help them cope with the anxiety caused by COVID-19? Has training been provided to teachers and administrators to help students who may feel anxiety in a socially distant learning environment?

The District mental health and wellness training started prior to the pandemic. We will continue to provide professional development opportunities for faculty and staff on a variety of mental health topics, particularly how to talk with and support students during and after the on-going COVID-19 public health emergency. In addition, the District will implement screening tools, questionnaires, and/or surveys to measure any mental health issues and concerns among our staff and students’ upon reentry to school. As always, our teachers will strive to foster a safe, nurturing, and joyful environment for our learners.

Special Education

13. How will IEP services work? Will therapists be coming to the students’ classroom or will students be going to their offices?

The District is currently working on the plan for the provision of special education services. Small groups of students will work with providers in spaces in which social distancing can be observed. In the event the provider’s learning space is not sufficient to meet the group’s needs, an alternative larger space will be designated for small group service. Small group learning spaces will be cleaned between student groups.

14. What is the plan for mainstreaming students from the ILP classes into the general education classes?

The District will make determinations about how students with disabilities will receive access to the least restrictive environment through mainstreaming opportunities while adhering to health and safety protocols, including the use of creative measures such as virtual experiences.

Instruction

15. Can physical education classes be done outdoors (if weather permits)?

All K-6 physical education classes will be held outside, weather permitting.

16. Will the students be given instruction/practice on using the virtual programs while in school? That way in the event of full remote or hybrid model they are already familiar with the virtual platforms the district will be using to provide instruction?

While in-person, teachers will prepare students for possible remote instruction in the event of future school closures (i.e. build independence, become familiar with the digital learning tools, etc.).

17. If a student is enrolled in in-person instruction, but is absent due to an individual quarantine, can that student engage in virtual instruction?

Yes. The student will engage in virtual instruction during the period of absence due to being quarantined.

Health and Safety

18. Why are student temperatures being taken at the point of entry? Can parents take the students' temperatures at home before school and use an app for submittal?

Parents should take their child(ren)'s temperature at home, and keep students home who have a temperature 100° or higher. All students will also have their temperature taken upon entry to the building to ensure that all students have their temperature measured by the same instrument. In addition, taking each student's temperature at the point of entry ensures accountability that all students have in fact had their temperature taken.

19. Will the practice of a child escorting another child to the nurse when he is not feeling well be stopped for the current school year? I don't want my child to be exposed because he was buddy walking someone else.

Students will no longer escort a "buddy" to the nurse. Building specific protocol regarding student travel within the building, including to the Nurse's Office, will be devised by the respective principals.

20. Are you allowing outside groups to use your facilities?

The District is restricting the use of the indoor facilities until further notice and limiting the use of outdoor facilities. If any external community organizations are permitted to use District facilities, we will require such organization to follow state and locally developed guidance on health and safety protocols.

21. How are the schools improving ventilation in addition to opening windows?

The District will maintain adequate, code required ventilation (natural or mechanical) as designed. This includes routine assessment of the HVAC equipment, and any related repairs. The District had a complete assessment of the entire ventilation system conducted by Cardinal Controls in July of 2020. All recommended repairs and replacements are currently being addressed, and will be completed prior to the start of the school year.

22. Will the District be spraying students or their belongings with any type of disinfectant?

No, the District will not be spraying students or their belongings with any type of disinfectant at any time.

Lunch

23. Will students be allowed to use a reusable lunch box?

Yes, reusable lunch boxes are acceptable.

24. How will you address severe food allergies now that lunches are being eaten in the classroom?

In any classroom where there is a child with a food allergy, that specific food/ingredient will not be permitted in that classroom, and all families will be informed accordingly. Forthcoming guidance will be shared by the building principals relative to managing food allergies in the classroom.