



INFORMATION ABOUT SCHOOL REOPENING PLAN

COMPLETE BY July 24: Please take a few minutes to complete this survey at www.kippnj.org/backtoschool letting us know whether you prefer the hybrid model for your child or the 100% remote (virtual) model.

July 20, 2020

Dear KIPP Families,

We hope all of you are staying healthy and gearing up for the 2020-21 school year, even though it will be a very different year for everyone amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

We know many of you have questions about our current reopening plans, especially in light of recent [guidance](#) that the New Jersey Department of Education has released over the past few weeks. While it is not certain that the State of New Jersey will be in Phase 3 of its [reopening plan](#), we are planning for the likelihood that the public health situation will allow us to open our school buildings in the fall.

The state guidance on school reopening calls for reopening school buildings for in-person instruction to the greatest extent possible. We know that there is no risk-free plan until there is a vaccine for COVID-19, but we have been reviewing other cities' reopening plans, closely following the schools that have reopened during the pandemic around the world, reading papers and articles on how the virus spreads and how to minimize risks especially among children, and we are encouraged by what we are seeing. In spite of the uncertainty, we believe we can open our school buildings to provide a rich and engaging educational experience for your children that is both safe and nurturing.

We will continue to hold the health and safety of our students and staff as our number one guiding principle for any reopening plans.

This letter provides updates on where we are with our planning, and how we intend to reopen our schools safely. While we have made lots of progress on reopening planning, the health situation continues to evolve in our state, and our reopening plans are very much contingent on where the State is with its reopening process. As a result, we aren't considering any of these plans final until we're closer to the date of reopening and the state has approved our reopening plan.

If it's safe to do so, we will start the school year with a hybrid model (including both in school and virtual learning) and an option for parents to opt into 100% online learning with the opportunity to re-evaluate their decision quarterly. Additionally, as part of our commitment to our students we will be providing personal technology devices to every KIPP student enrolled for the 2020-2021 school year.

What is a hybrid model?

We are planning for a hybrid learning model for 2020-21 in accordance with State mandates that all schools must offer in-person instruction as part of their model. A hybrid model means your children will receive a combination of in-person

instruction in our school building and remote instruction from home each week. In our hybrid model, your children will attend school in person two days per week, receive live remote instruction two days from home, and receive a combination of live teaching and independent learning from home on Fridays.

Why did we choose this model?

We explored several different options and surveyed KIPP families back in the spring about which would work best for your schedules. We chose to move forward with two days per week in the building because it best enables us to provide your children with as much live instructional time as possible while also reducing the number of children in the school building at any one time, which we believe is critical for keeping our students and staff members safe. The model provides for:

- **Safety:** This model keeps students in small groups and allows for minimal transitions of students on a daily basis, and we will deep clean school buildings every Tuesday and Friday.
- **Instructional Time:** This model provides the most instructional minutes for a group of students in a given week; students will receive the equivalent of 4 days of live teaching.
- **Consistency:** This model allows for several touchpoints between teachers and students weekly.
- **Flexibility:** In our hybrid model, we will also be able to serve families who choose 100% remote learning. Every quarter, families may opt into 100% virtual learning.

What does this hybrid model look like?

Our hybrid model of instruction means that students will attend school two days per week in person, have live instruction online two days per week from home (where they will log onto their laptop at specific times to join a “live” classroom), and have one day of assignments at home to complete on their own time.

Here’s an example of what this looks like for two student groups:

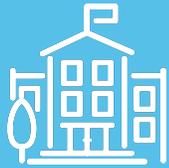
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Student Group 1	In school building learning	In school building learning	Remote live learning	Remote live learning	½ day Remote combo live/ independent learning
Student Group 2	Remote live learning	Remote live learning	In school building learning	In school building learning	½ day Remote combo live/ independent learning

What if I want my child to attend school 100% virtually?

We know you want to make the best choice for your child, and we understand that some of you may not feel comfortable sending your child back into school buildings right away. We are committed to providing your children with an excellent education no matter what, so we are also providing the option for families to choose a 100% virtual option for the first quarter (10 weeks) of school. The remote option will also provide your child with four days of live instruction from home and one day of independent learning. There is a survey link at the end of this email for you to let us know how you want your child to start the first 10 weeks of school - either hybrid or 100% virtual.

How are we opening our school building safely?

Our main guiding principle in our reopening efforts is to keep your children and our staff safe. We are following the CDC, State and local health guidelines for safety and are taking a number of measures to ensure that our students and staff return to buildings as safely as possible. These steps are aimed at reducing the risk of spreading COVID-19. If there's a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the building, then we will share with families using our regular methods of communication.



Safety Measures in Classrooms and Buildings

- Implement simple and quick daily wellness screening for all students as they arrive at school or board buses; Any student with a temperature of 100.4 or higher will be sent home
- Face coverings are now a part of our school uniform. All students will receive 2 opaque, cloth masks at the beginning of the school year and will be expected to wear them to school every day.
- Separate students by 6 feet in classrooms and school grounds
- Maintain students in the same group all day and limit the group size based on the social distancing measures
- Limit student transitions as much as possible (teachers switch classrooms and students stay in place)
- Maintain 6 feet of social distance for recess and transitions.
- Limit number of students on buses to half capacity and require masks
- Not hold student assemblies or other groupings where cohorts mix with other cohorts
- Cancel all extracurricular activities, after-school programming, and field trips for the first quarter and revisit quarterly



Safety Measures for Teachers/Staff

- All staff will be required to wear a mask during arrival, dismissal and while in the school building
- Teachers will rotate to children instead of cohorts of students rotating through the building
- Limit the number of different teachers who teach each group of students per day
- Limit the number of adults in a room to 1 as much as possible
- Require staff to wear masks and implement daily wellness checks with temperature checks



Updated Routines and Procedures

- Staggering arrival and dismissal
- Serving meals in classrooms
- Instituting hand-washing and sanitizing procedures at numerous points during the day
- Minimizing sharing of student classroom materials and wiping down desks and objects at the end of each day
- Limit non-essential visitors and require all visitors wear a mask
- Visitors will be restricted to the main office unless they are a vendor performing an essential function or maintenance for the school building
- Not hold in-person family events

Family Survey: Please Complete by July 24th

Please take a few minutes to complete this survey www.kippnj.org/backtoschool letting us know whether you prefer the hybrid model for your child or the 100% remote (virtual) model. **If you opt to have your child in the fully remote option, you can revisit that decision in October and opt to move your child to the hybrid model for Quarter 2. You can opt for 100% virtual learning at any time.**

We recognize this is a tough decision -- we all want children back in buildings learning five days a week, and we are committed to making that a reality as soon as it's safe to do so. We also know that the health situation continues to evolve and want to stress that no plan is final until we are closer to the start of school. In fact, we may need to open and close school buildings periodically throughout the year. Our team has developed robust remote learning plans for live remote instruction for all children should we find ourselves in that situation. In any of these events, we will continue to communicate with you often and strive to maintain as much consistency as possible.

As we have learned in these past few months, the landscape can change and evolve quickly. We will continue to communicate any changes to dates, restrictions, or plans, and appreciate your flexibility and patience in the weeks ahead.

Thank you,

Drew Martin
Executive Director, KIPP: Cooper Norcross Academy

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