






2021-22 Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan Maintaining Our In-Person Model

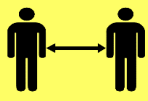







The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE), the Connecticut Department of Health (DPH), national experts, as well as the Office of the Governor have reinforced that access to in-person learning is a priority. We have experienced first-hand that in-person access to school is the best approach for students to be educated, have equitable and effective access to educational opportunities, access necessary support and nutrition, as well as engage in activities which promote social and emotional wellness. We would like families to feel comfortable and confident in sending all children back to in-person learning and we are prepared to keep our schools safe.



RSD17 plans to operate with full in-person schooling for 2021-22. The DPH and CSDE do not anticipate the need to mandate, due to public health necessity, that school districts provide a remote learning option for students and their families for the 2021-22 school year. Therefore, the remote learning option will no longer be in place in RSD17 after this school year. If public health circumstances or state requirements change, the district will revisit this. We will continue to make excellent use of technology for innovative learning, including providing avenues for personalized learning and enrichment, supporting learning acceleration, and for specialized courses at the secondary level.

We will also deploy layers of mitigation strategies (mask-wearing, social distancing, hand-washing) as required or needed depending upon COVID-19 circumstances as we return next year. Our experience this year was that the virus was not transmitted in school, likely due to these mitigation strategies. As a public health strategy, we also encourage families to consider vaccinating their children, when age-eligible.

The RSD17 Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan is summarized in the chart below.

Health and Safety Strategies	
	Stay Home If Ill Students and adults must stay home if they are feeling sick, have any symptoms consistent with COVID-19, or have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19.
	Morning Health Check at Home In order to prevent transmission among the school population, check to ensure temperature is below 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit and observe for symptoms associated with COVID 19 outlined by public health officials.
	Face coverings or Masks <ul style="list-style-type: none">Students and adults will wear face coverings or masks that completely cover the nose and mouth while inside the school and on the bus, with exceptions only for those students for whom it is not safe to do so due to a physician-verified medical condition."Mask Breaks" will be provided as needed. Schools will develop procedures to address mask breaks throughout the day.Students/staff will be allowed to remove masks while eating, drinking, during outdoor PE, or when outside effectively practicing social distancing and any other possible mitigation strategies.

	<p style="text-align: center;">Social Distancing</p> <p>Students and adults will maintain social distancing between individuals to reduce the transmission of the virus per the public health guidelines. Students and adults are expected to practice social distancing when entering and exiting the building, in classrooms, and moving throughout the school.</p> <p>Students will practice social distancing in classrooms of three (3) feet. Social distancing of six feet (6) will be practiced in the cafeteria and other areas where students have lunch.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Frequent Hand Washing or Hand Sanitizing</p> <p>Students and adults will engage in frequent hand washing and/or hand-sanitizing upon arrival, before and after meals, after bathroom use, and after coughing or sneezing.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Cohorting</p> <p>Cohorting is no longer required by DPH. Students will be allowed to use lockers and enjoy lunch in the cafeteria or other spaces where they can maintain six (6) feet of social distancing. Students will move to and from classrooms throughout the day while maintaining social distancing guidelines in hallways. Also, students will be able to participate in after-school activities.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If necessary, there will be increased cleaning and sanitization protocols for disinfecting frequently touched surfaces. • Ensure that the school air handling systems are configured according to state guidelines. • Review of building and classroom spaces such as gymnasiums and auditoriums will occur to maximize social distancing consistent with public health guidelines in place at that time.
	<p style="text-align: center;">Contact Tracing</p> <p>The definitions of a close contact are listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Student-to-student contact inside classrooms only:</i> Within three (3) feet for more than 15 minutes in a 24-hour period. • <i>Student-to-student contact outside of classrooms:</i> Within six (6) feet for more than 15 minutes over a 24-hour period. • <i>Adult-to-student or adult-to-adult contact inside or outside the classroom:</i> Within six (6) feet for more than 15 minutes over a 24-hour period. <p>Connecticut's contact tracing program is run by the DPH and uses recommendations that are based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">On-Site Testing</p> <p>RSD17 will work with local providers to provide onsite testing, if needed based on prevalence rates of positive COVID-19 cases in the Haddam and Killingworth communities.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Vaccinations</p> <p>RSD17 will work with the local Health District (CRAHD) and local providers to make staff and community aware of vaccination clinics and information available.</p> <p>Vaccinated staff and students identified as a close contact to a confirmed case of COVID-19 and are asymptomatic, do not have to quarantine.</p>
Continuity of Services	
	<p style="text-align: center;">Academics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver high quality in-person instruction aligned to priority standards • Maintain delivery of on-grade level instruction while remediating skill gaps and differentiate instruction based on student needs • Use diagnostic, benchmark, and screening assessments to identify strengths and next steps as well as students in need of intervention and enrichment • Review data systematically and adjust instruction as necessary • Support professional learning for educators

	<p style="text-align: center;">Social Emotional Learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Foster positive, safe, and supportive learning environment and school-communities ● Promote supportive adult-student and student-student relationships and a sense of belonging ● Implement PreK-12 research- based social-emotional curricula ● Identify strategies to re-engage populations and specific students who may be disengaged ● Address staff social, emotional, mental and other health needs, as needed
	<p style="text-align: center;">Health and Food Services</p> <p>RSD17 will provide age-appropriate and school-appropriate strategies for families about school meal service and options.</p> <p>Many families are still struggling with food insecurities during this pandemic. In April 2021, USDA released a Nationwide Waiver for schools to participate in the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) for the school year 2021-2022. Allowing schools to participate under SSO during COVID-19 operations facilitates the safe provision of meals by eliminating the need to collect meal payments at meal sites. This speeds up service of meals, thereby reducing contact and potential exposure to COVID -19. RSD 17 will be participating in the SSO and all meals will be free for the 2021-2022 school year.</p>