



School Year 2020-2021 RCSD Reopening Plan

Dr. Lesli Myers-Small, Superintendent
August 2020



Reminders

- If you have a question during this meeting, please submit it to reopening@rcsdk12.org
- Questions will be answered in the order they are received to the extent time allows
- You can e-mail questions in Spanish
- Please visit www.rcsdk12.org/reopens for more details and future updates on the District's reopening plans



School Year 2020-21 RCSD Reopening Plan

- A reopening plan was submitted to NYS on July 31
- NYSED directed districts to base plans on its guidance document provisions:
 - Teaching and Learning
 - Communication/Family and Community Engagement
 - Health & Safety
 - Child Nutrition
 - Transportation
 - Social Emotional Well-Being
 - School Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities
 - Attendance and Chronic Absenteeism
 - Special Education
 - Technology and Connectivity
 - Bilingual Education and World Languages



Teaching and Learning

We prepared for three scenarios per NYSED:

- In-Person Learning
- Hybrid (Remote Learning and In-Person Learning)
- Remote Learning





Criteria from New York State

August 7: Governor Cuomo announced levels of COVID-19 are low enough to open schools in NYS

Districts Must Also:

- Post remote learning, testing, and contact tracing plans online
- Schedule five discussion sessions with parents and caregivers before August 21
- Discussion with staff: Wednesday, August 19





Health and Safety

- Given the criteria around testing and contact tracing, the District has elected to utilize the remote learning model for the first ten weeks of school.
- This decision was made out of an abundance of caution to ensure the health and safety of all students and staff.





Health and Safety

- Understanding that many parents have concerns about sending their children to school at this time, we offered the choice of a 100% remote learning option.
- Based on this feedback, a majority of parents (60%) chose the remote learning option rather than the hybrid model of learning.



Health and Safety

- An urban district of this size has many unique challenges (e.g. transportation)
- Buses are an extension of the classroom which leads to challenges when socially distancing the number of students we typically transport
- Most notably, the CDC has indicated there is increasing evidence that some racial and ethnic minority groups are being disproportionately affected by COVID-19



Remote Learning

Synchronous Learning:

- Learning that happens “in-sync” with your audience via live conferencing with tools like Teams or Zoom.

Asynchronous Learning:

- Learners proceed through the materials and work at their own pace/schedule





Remote Learning

Pre-K to 6

- Weekly instruction provided using a modified schedule, including large and small group and independent learning opportunities.
- Large and small group time focused on direct instruction in ELA, mathematics, and social emotional development, with social studies and science embedded.
- Independent learning experiences will supplement group learning experiences.
- Elementary teachers will communicate the schedule to students and families prior to the start of each week.
- Every effort will be taken to be as flexible as possible, while maintaining the equity of access to the instructional program.



Remote Learning

7 to 12

- Students follow typical class schedule to ensure consistency and continuity of instruction, eliminate conflicts, build natural breaks (lunch) into the day, and retain planning time for teachers.
- Class periods adjusted to allow for a “screen time break” and transition time between classes.
- Combination of large and small group instruction and independent learning each week.
- Related services and social emotional supports provided either real time versus independent learning



Remote Learning

7 to 12

- Each class begins with a group experience that includes a community building time, attendance, and setting expectations for learning (Learning Targets).
- Group learning opportunities for students can be recorded for families to access at a later time if their schedule prevents students from participating during the scheduled time.
- Independent learning experiences will supplement group learning experiences.
- Every effort will be taken to be as flexible as possible, while maintaining the equity of access to the instructional program.



Remote Learning

- First day of school for students is September 14
- Elementary School Hours: 9:00AM – 3:30PM
- Secondary School Hours: 8:30AM – 3:30PM
- All Superintendent's Conference Days moved to the beginning of the school year (September 8,9,10,11)



Technology and Connectivity

- To date RCSD has made Chromebooks available to students in grades 5 – 12 for the '20 – '21 school year and has provided MiFi devices to families without internet availability
- RCSD will assure that every K-12 student who lacks reliable connectivity has the opportunity to access high-speed broadband with MiFi devices.
- RCSD plans to distribute Chromebooks to students in grades K-4 from their home schools through the start of the school year
- MiFi's will be distributed to students in grades K-12 that lack reliable internet service.



Communication/Family and Community Engagement

- The most updated information shared on www.rcsdk12.org/reopens
- RCSD utilizing robo call system and social media to share information with families
- New PowerSchool Parent Portal App
- Please reach out to your child's school to update contact information if needed





Child Nutrition

School meals are still available for students at the following locations:

- School No. 5, 7, 8, 17, 28, 42, 45, 50, Jefferson, James Monroe High School, and Wilson Foundation
- Nine Rec Center Sites: Flint Street, Adams Street, Avenue D, Carter, Tyshaun Caldwell, Frederick Douglass, David Gantt, Trent and Pamela Jackson, and the Thomas Ryan Center

Continue to offer food distribution to students at selected sites to be determined





Social Emotional Well-Being

Resources and referrals are available to address mental health, behavioral, and emotional needs of students, faculty, and staff when school reopens

K-6: Social emotional learning/morning meetings (Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri)

6-12: Social emotional learning check and connect (Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri)





School Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities

- Athletics events/practices are cancelled until further notice





Attendance and Chronic Absenteeism

Attendance will be taken daily, period by period on PowerSchool, and a student will be marked present:

- If a student completes their daily assignments, either online or offline
- If a student has a daily check-in, a two-way communication, with the appropriate teacher(s)
- Simply not logging in virtually is not a sufficient reason for considering a student absent
- If there is no contact with a student/parent or no evidence of engagement, the student should be marked absent



Attendance and Chronic Absenteeism

Attendance will be taken daily, period by period on PowerSchool, and a student will be marked present:

- When students are unable to participate in live instruction, teachers can use other methods of contact for counting attendance
- School personnel must attempt to make contact before marking students absent
- A teacher may change a student's attendance based on evidence of work by the student



Special Education

Department of Special Education

- Each Student With a Disability (SWD) in the District will have an individualized Distance Learning Plan written to reflect how the District will implement the student's special education programming and related services in the remote learning model.
- Case Managers will develop the individualized distance learning plans in collaboration with parents/guardians.



Special Education

Distance Learning Plans Will Contain Critical Information About the Student's Current Performance, and it will:

- Outline programming and services during remote learning
- Describe any accessibility or assistive technology needs included in the student's IEP that are needed for the student to access virtual learning
- Outline special education accommodations, modifications, and supports included in the student's IEP will be provided for the student during distance learning.



Special Education

- Students With Disabilities will receive daily synchronous instruction provided by both the special education and/or general education teachers
- Additional asynchronous instruction will be provided and supported to address IEP goals and objectives. A DSE Parent/Student Support Line for Remote Learning will be available on a daily basis to assist with asynchronous learning activities and troubleshoot individual learning needs
- Students with Disabilities will be provided related services as outlined on their IEP through Telepractice.



Bilingual Education and World Languages

- RCSD will continue to support Bilingual students and English Language Learners by providing remote learning models, consistent with the student's grade level and the instructional plan.





Partnership with the City of Rochester

R-Centers will be opening as Learning Labs for students in grades K-6

- Adams Street - 85 Adams Street – School #3
- Ave D - 200 Avenue D
- Carter-500 Carter Street
- Tyshaun Cauldwell - 524 Campbell Street
- Frederick Douglass – 999 South Ave – School #12
- Edgerton - 41 Backus Street – Jefferson Campus
- David Gantt - 700 North Street – Dr. Freddie Thomas Learning Campus
- Trenton and Pamela Jackson - 485 N. Clinton Ave – School #9
- Thomas Ryan - 530 Webster Ave – School #33



Next Steps

- **August 24:** Begin mailing access codes for new PowerSchool Parent Portal App
- **September 1:** Schedules will be in the mail to all parents
- Four days of staff professional development September 8 – 11
- **September 14:** New first day of school
- School calendars will be mailed home in September to reflect most recent dates



Next Steps

- The District will continue to re-evaluate this all remote learning decision throughout the first ten weeks of school
- Working with Monroe County Health Department on contact tracing and testing for when school resumes in-person