



# Andover School District

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## **AES Reopening Plan FAQ**

- Will parents be able to change their mind if they choose to start the year in Distance Learning? **Yes, there may be parents that opt in or out of Distance Learning as personal circumstances change. See page 8 of the document.**
- Who will instruct my child if I choose to engage in Distance Learning? **All students not homeschooling who participate in Distance Learning will be instructed under the AES model. Once we know how many students opt for Distance Learning instead of an in-person return, we will be able to identify the staff who will instruct those students.**
- What is the difference between Distance Learning and Homeschooling? **Distance Learning is learning provided by Andover School. Homeschooling means the child is disenrolled from school and their plan is completely conducted by the family by choice. More information on the CT Statute is found on page 11 of the document.**
- What time is student drop-off and pick-up for families? **8:15-8:30 AM for parent drop-offs and 2:45-3:00 PM for parent pick-ups. The times will be posted and are included in the document.**
- How will I find out where my child's drop-off/pick-up location is? **A map has been designed to visually display the drop-off points. See cover letter page 3 and website.**
- Where do students needing to be dropped off later or picked up earlier get dropped off/picked up? **Before and after school COOL students will be dropped-off and picked-up in front of the gymnasium. All other students will use the main entrance.**
- Does attendance and participation count in the Distance Learning model? **Yes. If your child is unable to participate in Distance Learning, a call to report the absence is required. Should the reason be illness related, a follow-up conversation with the nurse will need to take place.**
- What happens if a student or staff member contracts the virus? **The document has a very detailed outline of how AES will address the need to resume Distance Learning in the case of a confirmed illness within the building. The EHHD will be immediately contacted, cleaning procedures initiated, and tracing per the CDC guidelines will be initiated. The plan for return will be under the guidance of the health department. Refer to pages 30-31.**
- When is the first day of school? Will there be half days? **The first day of School is September 8th, which allows for training and staff development in preparation for opening. There are no half-days planned.**
- What will specials look like? **Specials will be scheduled soon and planned to reflect a cohort model ( least movement possible). Special area teachers will travel to the classrooms this year or bring the students outside. All health and safety guidelines will**

be in place and teachers will work to adjust the planning of lessons and implementation to include alternatives within each special to reflect physical distancing and rigorous cleaning of shared school equipment. Refer to pages 42-43 for more information.

- What will lunch look like? Students will be eating within the classroom and the cafeteria will not be used to eat. Meals will be delivered to the classroom by food service personnel. Parents are encouraged to apply for free and reduced price meals. Parents are encouraged to prepay for meals on their students' account utilizing the [www.myschoolaccount.com](http://www.myschoolaccount.com) portal to reduce the physical handling of cash and checks. If parents need to send cash or checks with their students, they should be in an envelope labeled with their students' name and homeroom. Refer to page 19-20 in the document.
- Will students be required to wear masks outside? Unless physical distancing can be guaranteed, students will be wearing masks. Times during the day for mask breaks and safe physical distancing will be planned for and offered. We will also plan to utilize the large outside areas for activities when appropriate to promote safe distancing. Refer to page 18 in our document.
- If there is a snow day, will it become an e-learning day? Currently, the plan is to utilize our Distance Learning plan on snow days. We are awaiting further guidance from CSDE. Should this change we will update parents and the website.
- If the state mandates full e-learning, how will required standardized tests be handled? The state has not yet offered guidelines on standardized testing, however, once the districts are notified, we will update the website.
- What medical proof does a parent need to present to the school if a parent feels it isn't safe for their child to wear a mask? All students, staff, parents, substitutes and visitors (the school community) will be required to wear face masks that cover their mouths and noses, unless they have a medical exemption, or face shield. A medical exemption form is included in the Appendix of the document. All students and staff with medical exemptions are strongly encouraged to discuss medical exemptions with the school nurse to ensure individual safety within the building/grounds. Refer to page 23 of the document and the appendix for more information

If we remain in the physical building, are parent volunteers allowed to help with special classroom activities? No. We will limit outsiders. Meetings will be held in larger spaces. Masks will be required and hand sanitizer will be made available upon entering. All meetings with parents that can take place virtually, will. Visitors will wait in the lobby for 15 minutes to have their temperature taken before they are allowed past the main office. Refer to page 18 for more information.

- How will in-person training for students work? Training will be scheduled virtually and in person. The trainings that will include videos and literature are still being developed to meet all of our needs. Refer to page 14 for more information.
- What will the Meet & Greet and PK/K Orientations look like? These are still being planned and all families will be notified when plans are solidified. We expect to be able to use larger spaces within the school to conduct these orientations.
- Will students be able to borrow ChromeBooks again? Yes. Students will be assigned Chromebooks. Should we go 'virtual' last minute, curbside pickup will be arranged.
- Will there be coordination for families between the elementary and middle/high schools should the schools move to a Hybrid Model of instruction? Yes, the Superintendents are working to ensure continuity between the districts for families that have children at both levels. If a change is made to the continuum of learning (ie. a move from one model to another), it will be universal at both levels. Refer to page 11 in our document.
- Who makes the determination to move to a Hybrid or Distance Learning Model? This difficult decision will be made collaboratively with Region 8, the EHHD, and medical guidance. CT State Dept. of Education guidelines will also be considered. Refer to page 11 (#2) for more guidance.

- Who do I go to if my questions are not answered here? The document is posted on the website, in addition to this FAQ. If you have any further questions feel free to email or call the main office for further clarification.
- How do I request a plan in another language? Please notify the main office and one will be translated into the language of need.
- Will the playgrounds be accessible to children? How will they be cleaned? Yes. We plan on utilizing the outside areas when appropriate. Recess times are to be staggered should cleaning need to take place. Since we cannot guarantee a heavy disinfecting after each use, children will practice handwashing before and after playing outside. Refer to page 18 of our document.
- Will PK follow the same guidelines and procedures as K-6? Currently the AES plan is in place for all students, however some adjustments will be made prior to the start of the school year and updates will be posted. OEC guidelines will be given preference in areas where CSDE and OEC differ.
- What is a cohort? A cohort is a group of students and adults who will be spending most of their day together. One homeroom and the support staff that work with students in that homeroom would be considered a cohort.
- How will the number of students using a bathroom be monitored? One student at a time will be allowed to use the bathrooms, and bathrooms will be assigned to cohorts. Complete guidance on the protocol and magnetic pass system within the document can be found on pages 15-18 of the document.
- What are the 3 phases of learning? This is referred to in our document as the AES Continuum of Learning and is located on page 12 of the document. The first phase is In-Person Learning, the second phase is the Hybrid Model, and the third is full Distance Learning.
- Who decides and how is it decided which phase our school is in? The document outlines the changes from low, to moderate, to high spread levels based on information from the health department. Refer to page 32-33 of the document.
- If the Governor delays the physical start of school, can non-certified staff expect to be paid? PreK paras? The answer to this question will need to be discussed between the administration and the non-certified union. The Governor's office offered guidance in this area during the spring closure. Any and all updates will follow as soon as we have more information.
- Where and how will masks be stored when not in use? This is still being discussed. Suggestions have been offered, but plans have not been solidified.