



---

# PISCATAWAY TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

---

## **Re-Entry Plan**

Updated October 2020

**GUIDE FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR**



October 2020

Dear Piscataway Families:

We look forward to welcoming students who chose the Hybrid In-Person Learning Plan into our buildings on Monday, November 16. Our classrooms and buildings are ready and our teachers look forward to seeing students again.

We want to assure you that we will work hard to keep students safe while ensuring a quality educational experience for both our Hybrid Learners and our Remote Learners. Please review our revised Re-Entry Plan document. It includes information for the following important topics:

- Learning Plan Options
- Technology
- Face Coverings
- Transportation
- Drop/Off Pick-Up Procedures
- Arrival/Dismissal Procedures
- Classroom Processes
- Hallway/Restroom/Water Fountain Procedures
- Safety Reminders
- Physical Education/Art/Music/Elective Practices
- Food Services
- Recess
- Before and After Care
- Special Services
- Visitors
- Cleaning Procedures
- Genesis Daily Health Screening Form
- Contact Tracing

Additionally, each school created a "Welcome Back" video that shows how these procedures will work within each building. The videos can be found on your child's school's homepage.

Please reach out to your building principal if you have any additional questions about the Re-Entry Plan at your child's school.

Thank you for your continued support for Piscataway Schools and students. We will get through this together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Frank Ranelli", with a long, sweeping underline.

Dr. Frank Ranelli  
Superintendent of Schools

# STATE GUIDELINES FOR REOPENING SCHOOLS

**Governor Murphy and the New Jersey Department of Education created the following guidelines for critical areas in reopening schools:**

1. Comply with Center for Disease Control (CDC), state, and local guidelines.
2. Allow for social distancing to the maximum extent possible. When social distancing is difficult or impossible, face coverings are required, and are always required for visitors and staff unless it will inhibit the individual's health.
3. Minimize use of shared objects, ensure indoor facilities have adequate ventilation, prepare and maintain hand sanitizing stations, and ensure students wash hands frequently.
4. Maintain social distancing practices on buses to the maximum extent practicable and adopt best practices for cleaning and sanitizing all vehicles used for transporting students. If maintaining social distancing is not possible, all students who are able must wear face coverings while on busses.
5. Establish the process and location for student and staff health screenings and adopt a policy for safely and respectfully screening students and employees for symptoms of and history of exposure to COVID-19. Students and staff with symptoms related to COVID-19 must be safely and respectfully isolated from others, and district officials must immediately notify local health officials, staff, and families of a confirmed case while maintaining confidentiality.
6. Collaborate with the local health department and engage school nurses to develop contact tracing policies and procedures, as well as educate the broader school community on the importance of contact tracing.
7. Adhere to existing required facilities cleaning practices and procedures, and any new specific requirements of the local health department as they arise, develop a schedule for increased routine cleaning and sanitizing, especially of frequently touched surfaces and objects, and sanitize bathrooms daily and between use as much as possible.
8. Stagger eating times to allow for social distancing and sanitizing of the area between groups.
9. Complete an inventory of outdoor spaces and mark off areas to ensure separation between students. Recess must be staggered by groups and staff must disinfect playground equipment and other shared equipment between uses.
10. All extracurricular activities must comply with applicable social distancing requirements and hygiene protocol during all extracurricular activities.

**In addition to taking the above steps to protect students' and educators' physical health, leaders must also consider the impact of social isolation on both educators and students. Based on input from New Jersey stakeholders and educators from across the country, the NJDOE recommended school districts include the following elements in their reopening plans:**

1. Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and School Climate and Culture.
2. Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) to identify students who need additional support.
3. Wraparound Supports to address the academic, behavioral, and social-emotional needs of students.
4. Food Service and Distribution for students who rely on schools for daily meals.
5. Child Care for families in need of these services

# SCHEDULE OPTIONS

## STUDENTS RETURN

After a first marking period of remote instruction only, Piscataway Schools opens its doors to many special education students on October 26, 2020 and all general education students on November 16, 2020. Students may choose to remain with remote instruction only or enroll in the hybrid option as outlined below:

### HYBRID IN-SCHOOL/REMOTE INSTRUCTION SCHEDULE

Students following this option will be broken into two groups:

- One group will attend school every Monday and Tuesday
- The other group will attend school every Thursday and Friday
- The groups will alternate coming to school every other **Wednesday**
- Siblings will be placed in the same attendance group
- Unless otherwise noted on the district calendar – all grade levels will attend **full days** of in-person instruction followed by full days of live-streamed remote instruction on days they are at home. Students who opt for the Hybrid Schedule Option will enter classrooms with reduced class sizes and a reduced number of students in their buildings.

### REMOTE INSTRUCTION ONLY SCHEDULE

Students who opt for the Remote Instruction Only schedule will continue to log into school online and follow the same classes, same teachers, and same process virtually live-streamed, full-time, five days each week, during the scheduled school hours.

### WILL STUDENTS BE ABLE TO SWITCH FROM REMOTE INSTRUCTION TO HYBRID INSTRUCTION AND VICE VERSA?

Yes. Please contact your building principal and allow one week for any change in placement.

### PISCATAWAY HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

PHS students follow the same group schedule as our other schools, and will continue to follow a 4X4 semester block schedule.

# GUIDE FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

## TECHNOLOGY

**Technology will play an increasingly important role in our students education. Piscataway Schools invested heavily in technology this year, upgrading both hardware and software across the district.**

- Piscataway Schools provided iPads for all students and instructions for basic use. Additionally, we offer online workshops for parents in both iPad use and the technology platforms used at each grade level.
- The district will continue to repair student iPads and provide loaners when necessary. To request an iPad repair, please first access the [ITHelpDesk](#) link found on the district website under the Parent tab to fill out a short questionnaire that details the problem. Our IT team will respond quickly to address all repair issues.
- Families who have difficulty with internet connections, please contact your building principal.
- Students in Grades K-3 use Google Classroom as their technology platform.
- Students in Grades 4-12 use Schoology as their technology platform. Teachers post assignments and communicate to their entire class, as well as to individual students through Schoology. Parents can create a Schoology account [here](#) to access information and contact teachers. The District will continue to use Zoom and Schoology video conferencing.
- Technology workshops can be found under the [Curriculum tab](#) on the district website.
- The District uses Genesis as its primary source for student data, including contact information and grades. All parents new to the district should log in [here](#) to create an account. Please check to make sure all your contact information is correct, and bear in mind that the parent or guardian listed as Contact 1 will be the contact to receive emergency notifications from the district.

## FACE COVERINGS

- All teachers and staff members, including bus aides and food service workers must wear face coverings. Exceptions are made for medical conditions.
- All students must wear face coverings with exceptions made for medical conditions.
- Face coverings should be labeled and meet school dress code requirements. Neck gators are not allowed.
- Face covering “breaks” will be built into the school day as necessary.

# GUIDE FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

## TRANSPORTATION

**Piscataway Schools will continue to provide busing to K-8 students living more than 2.0 miles from their school and to high school students living more than 2.5 miles from Piscataway High School, as well as offer Subscription Busing to students who don't meet the distance guidelines.**

- Bus seating will be at a reduced capacity.
- Students are to sit as socially distanced as possible from one another, unless riders are from the same household.
- Bus areas will be sanitized between each route with special attention paid to high touch areas.
- Students will only be allowed to ride their assigned bus.
- Weather permitting, windows will be open to facilitate airflow.
- Face coverings must be worn on buses and at bus stops.

## DROP OFF/PICK UP ZONES

- Parents will be directed by each school principal as to these procedures.
- If your student must leave early, please send a note to their teacher or attendance office. Parents are asked not to enter the building when picking up students. Parents will be directed by each school principal as to these procedures.

## ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL

- Arrival and dismissal procedures with social distancing practices are set at each school. Protocols were developed for student entrance doors, temperature/screening checks, and staff response to symptoms. Dismissal protocols include scheduling, staging areas, busing, late pick-up, and walkers. Specific information for each school is set by building principals.

# GUIDE FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

## IN THE BUILDINGS AND CLASSROOMS

Piscataway Schools will open all 10 schools and two preschools for students on November 16, 2020. We have taken careful steps to follow all public health guidelines to keep students, teachers, staff, and the community at large safe. Following are safety protocols that have been implemented for the 2020-2021 school year.

### CLASSROOMS/TESTING/THERAPY ROOMS

- Classroom seating will allow maximum space between students and all desks will face the same direction.
- Elementary, intermediate, and middle school schedules will be developed to limit student movement throughout the day.
- Teachers will modify instructional plans to reduce student contact and maintain social distancing. Supplies will not be shared.

### HALLWAYS/RESTROOMS/WATER FOUNTAINS

- Principals developed safe travel and hall passing directions for their buildings.
- We will not use hallway lockers. Each school developed procedures for student belongings.
- Each school established restroom procedures to limit the number of students using the restrooms at one time.
- Water fountains can only be used to refill water bottles. Students are encouraged to bring labeled, refillable water bottles to school.

### SAFETY REMINDERS

- Hand sanitizer stations were installed across the District.
- Hand washing procedures were established at each school
- Safety signage was strategically placed throughout the District.
- Plexiglas barriers were installed in areas requiring frequent interaction with the public, including school offices, cafeterias, and school counseling offices.
- High traffic areas include markings to indicate social distancing.
- Security Drills will follow State and County guidance while keeping socially distant.

# GUIDE FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

## SPECIAL SERVICES

- Many special education students return on October 26 for daily in-school instruction.
- Students with Health Care Plans, Individual Education Plans (IEPs), 504 Plans or other documentation will be assessed for any additional needs.
- Staff working with students who require hands-on work or other intervention will wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to keep them and their students safe.
- In-person testing and evaluations will be completed as quickly as possible.
- IEP meetings may continue to be held virtually based on social distancing requirements.
- Accommodations will be made for special education students' transportation needs.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION, ART, MUSIC, AND OTHER ELECTIVES

- Locker rooms are closed. Students should wear comfortable active clothes to school on days that they have PE.
- Indoor physical activities will be conducive to face coverings and outdoor activities will be carefully planned and may include face coverings.
- Piscataway Schools developed plans for effective instruction for all elective areas by grade level, with specific information coming from building principals.

## FOOD SERVICES/LUNCH

- Food Services will continue to provide breakfast and lunch in the "Grab and Go" style.
- Students will be allowed to remove face coverings when eating or drinking.
- Lunch periods will be staggered and students will be socially distanced.

## OUTDOOR RECESS

- Recess will be staggered with zones and boundaries between groups. Any equipment used will be sanitized regularly and all students will wash hands after recess.
- Face coverings will be required during recess.



# GUIDE FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Field trips, assemblies, and other large gatherings are not planned at this time.
- Back-to-school events, PTO meetings, and parent activities will continue to be virtual.
- Piscataway Schools will not rent indoor facilities to outside groups at this time.
- Individual monthly school event calendars are sent home by building principals.

## VISITORS

- Visitors will be admitted for emergency reasons only.
- Essential visitors will be restricted and will be required to wear face coverings.
- Visitor procedures include screenings, drop-off points, and delivery points.

## BEFORE CARE AND AFTER CARE

- Before Care and After Care will be offered for students in grades K-8 contingent upon enrollment. Students may only attend Before Care and After Care on days they attend school in-person.

## CLEANING

- Extensive deep cleaning of all schools and facilities was completed and will continue.
- Increased cleaning protocols were instituted in all buildings and classrooms, with an emphasis on high touch/high traffic areas.
- Sanitizer is readily available to all staff so cleaning can take place throughout the day.
- Equipment is cleaned and sanitized before and after use.
- Areas used by a sick person will be closed for proper cleaning and disinfecting.
- Ventilation systems are regularly cleaned and serviced to ensure the cleanest air possible.

# GUIDE FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

## STAYING HEALTHY

Don't place other students and staff at risk and increase the likelihood that Piscataway Schools must close a classroom, wing, or building. Screen your child for signs or symptoms of COVID-19 every morning, then verify your child's health in the Genesis form. Only students who have an accurate daily form in Genesis will be permitted for in-person instruction.



**DON'T SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL —**

### **IF THEY HAVE TWO OR MORE OF THESE SYMPTOMS —**

- Low Grade Fever
- Chills
- Rigors (shivers)
- Myalgia (muscle aches)
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Fatigue
- Congestion or runny nose

### **IF THEY HAVE ONE OF THESE SYMPTOMS**

- Fever over 100.4 ° F
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Difficulty breathing
- New loss of smell
- New loss of taste
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

### **IF THEY HAVE HAD CLOSE CONTACT/POTENTIAL EXPOSURE WITH ANYONE WHO IS INFECTED WITH COVID-19**

- Your child has had close contact (within six feet of an infected person for at least ten minutes) with a person with confirmed COVID-19
- Someone in your household is diagnosed with COVID-19
- Your child has traveled to an area of high community transmission.

# GUIDE FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

## IF YOUR CHILD IS SICK AT SCHOOL

- Students exhibiting any of the listed symptoms during the school day will be moved to a health isolation room. Parents/Guardians will be notified to pick up their child. Please ensure all contact information in Genesis is correct and up to date.
- Parents/Guardians of any student who contacts COVID-19 or has been advised to quarantine should notify their school nurse.
- Parents/Guardians will be contacted by the school if their child has come in close contact with a confirmed positive case of COVID-19 and given the next appropriate steps.
- The District will continue to inform parents of all emergency notification through phone, email, and the district website.

## CONTACT TRACING

If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, your child may be asked questions about close contacts by a school administrator or local health official. This Contact Tracing helps contain and control the spread of the virus.

### WHAT IS CONTACT TRACING?

Contact tracing helps determine virus hotspots and prevents the further spread of infection. It identifies persons who may have been exposed to an infectious disease and alerts close contacts to their potential exposure.

### HOW IS CONTACT TRACING PRACTICED?

Contact Tracing is conducted by trained health professionals who work with exposed persons to help them recall everyone with whom they had close contact while infectious. Health department staff then notify persons who may have been exposed (contacts) as quickly as possible to prevent additional spread of the disease.

### WHAT ARE CLOSE CONTACTS TOLD ABOUT POTENTIAL EXPOSURE?

Identified contacts are told they were potentially exposed and are asked questions about any symptoms in relation to COVID-19. Contacts will receive information about monitoring for symptoms and what to do should they become ill.

### WHAT ARE CONTACTS ASKED TO DO?

Contacts must stay at home and maintain social distancing (at least 6 feet) from others until 14 days after the last known exposure. Contacts should self-monitor for symptoms.

# GUIDE FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

## ADDITIONAL FAQs

- Additional questions and answers can be found at [PiscatawaySchools.org](https://www.PiscatawaySchools.org) under [Hybrid/Remote Learning 2020-2021 Information](#) We will update this page frequently, as soon as additional information becomes available.



Piscataway Schools will continue to share updated information. Please check your email for regular communication, and also check the district website, [www.PiscatawaySchools.org](http://www.PiscatawaySchools.org), for district-wide information, and school websites for school specific information.