



Frequently Asked Questions from Our Community- Updated 8/12/20

It is clear from the communications that those who chose the RLE Program for the year may not have access to Honors / AP classes; however, should the district have to move to a full RLE model for all students at any point in the school year, will those who started the year in one class be able to continue those higher-level courses in a remote format as they did for Spring 2020?

This is difficult to determine at this point. Some of this will depend on the course, and some of this will depend on the time of year, and some of this will depend on class size. For example, entering a student into an AP class after a certain time of year will put that child at a disadvantage for learning content that they will need to know for the exam that is administered in May.

Will students have the same teachers for remote learning as in person teaching?

Yes, students who have opted for the Remote Learning Experience will have the same teacher through both phases of school opening. Students who have opted for in-school instruction will begin the year in the RLE with the same teacher that will provide their in-school instruction.

Will laptops be given to ALL students?

We are working on devices for all students. The goal is 1:1 as soon as possible. Shipping complications from the COVID virus have impacted our ability to obtain devices. A device has been ordered for every student in the district. As soon as a batch arrives we will distribute the device to students.

Are there specific times that students will be live with a teacher?

Students will have a schedule that they will follow that includes synchronous learning with a teacher. All students will receive instruction from a certified teacher.

If children cannot tolerate wearing masks especially in the heat of the school, is there the option to move into remote learning?

Going to RLE is easier than into in-person classes due to scheduling. We recognize this decision is difficult but we are asking parents to make as close to a decision as soon as possible.

Distance learning isn't very effective for special education. What other options are there for my special education students?

It is important to recognize the Spring Distance Learning Program (DLP) was an emergency response to a pandemic. The new RLE is going to be a lot better this time around as we have had time to plan, and teachers will provide instruction from classrooms.

Are the distance learning students allowed to play sports? If not, what are some of the reasons why such students would not be allowed to play sports?

Students who select the Remote Learning Experience (RLE) Program will not be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities, including clubs and athletics, that are offered in person through their home

school for the time period in which they are enrolled in this option. This policy is in accordance with the guidance that has been provided to the district by the Connecticut State Department of Education. Students may resume participation in extracurricular activities once they have enrolled in the EHPS in-person academic program.

What is the appropriate room temperature for the classroom? At what temperature in the classroom will the district consider shutting down? How is the classroom temperature monitored?

There is not a temperature cut off point. As in the past, it is a conversation between building principals and Superintendent's Office. There is no change to existing protocol, except there is now an awareness that masks will lead to greater discomfort at higher temperatures. Another benefit of starting later is there is less probability for extreme heat days.

How can new students get orientation into the RLE and the building format?

School principals will be holding "virtual orientations" with families and students.

How does the RLE program work? Is there a daily schedule of classwork that students need to follow?

The RLE Program schedule for students has been designed to mirror that of those who will be learning in the in-person environment. This provides the district with flexibility with respect to scheduling, should there be a situation in which students have enrolled in a specialty class or course that is taught by one teacher, regardless of whether this person has committed to working with the students who have returned for live instruction in the school building or those who have opted for the remote learning environment. Using the Google Classroom platform, students will be expected to login to their courses at designated times and to participate in classes with a teacher who is providing real-time (or "synchronous") instruction. They will also be expected to complete homework assignments on their own time.

Can we enter the building if we need to pick up a student for an appointment?

Each school will have their own system for this, but yes, this is possible and expected pursuant to the EHPS District Re-Opening plan.

Will there be an ability to have discretion as parents for RLE curriculum, where we can help them meet benchmarks without following the strict RLE but assign them our own subjects to meet the benchmarks?

No. The EHPS Remote Learning Experience (RLE) Program will align with the in-person model. All middle and high school students will be taught by certified teachers who will be trained to deliver the same grade level standards-based curriculum and assessments in a virtual environment. They will also develop and deliver coherent units of instruction focused on priority learning standards in each subject area. Each week teachers will post weekly learning objectives, offer appropriately challenging learning experiences, and provide additional student support and aligned assessments.

What will band, orchestra, and chorus look like in the district?

We are in the process of defining what each group will look like based upon the most recent national research and guidelines established by the state and school district. Our goal is to continue to provide students the opportunity to receive instruction from their music teachers.

What will Pre-K RLE look like?

Preschool Remote Learning relies heavily on the communication lines between the Pre School teacher and the family. Students will have a device, and teachers will deliver instruction and support families virtually.

Some other districts are opting to have groups of students rotate for in school learning in a hybrid model. Why isn't this an option for EH?

Many school districts are using a hybrid model to decrease the number of students in the buildings and classrooms. The results of our parent feedback survey showed approximately 50% of families have chosen the RLE for students, and therefore a hybrid model was not necessary. Feedback from families in zoom calls earlier in the summer made it clear a hybrid model could make childcare a bigger challenge due to the inconsistent schedule.

When will teachers be reaching out to parents for virtual learning?

Teachers will be communicating with families during the week of August 24th.

What will happen for free lunches for remote learners? Will there be a menu choice?

East Hartford will have meal sites. There will be a limited menu choice similar to the Spring grab and go meal options.

How do you plan to keep students wearing a mask? Will there be detention for those that do not follow the rules?

In order for students to remain in school, they must adhere to the protocols of wearing masks. If a student does not comply with this protocol, he/she will be asked to participate in remote learning.

What is the dress code for remote learners?

There is no dress code for remote learners. However, we encourage students to maintain a regular school day routine that includes wearing their uniform.

Will the district employ tutors this year? If not, how will that work for kids who may not be safe to be back if you stop teaching remotely?

The district will be employing tutors to support student learning.

Are students eligible to play an instrument as a remote learner?

Students who are enrolled in the band and orchestra programs will be able to rent a school instrument and receive online instruction through a combination of synchronous and asynchronous learning.

How is the full day going to work and mask with elementary kids?

All students will be required to wear a mask at all times except while eating during lunch. Students will have mask breaks throughout the day.

When will we be getting school specific data for each child? What is the data on class sizes?

Schools are currently working on the scheduling process and will be releasing class schedules at the end of August.

Will students 504 and IEP plans be honored with remote learning?

State guidance released on August 12th suggests that students with IEPs who participate in remote learning will have their IEPs followed to the extent that the services can be delivered. A Learning Model IEP Implementation Plan will be developed for students participating in remote learning. State guidance suggests that school districts should consider in person instruction for high needs students if health and safety mandates allow this.

Are zoom meetings going to be set up from each school principal? And when?

Principals are holding meetings with families this week.

What's the cut off number of students in a class for safe social distancing?

Schedules are being built to best decrease the number of students in classrooms. For this reason, it is imperative that families notify the district if they have not completed the survey so their intention for their child (RLE or In School) is accounted for in the scheduling process.

Are students allowed to bring their own disinfectant wipes to clean their desks?

No, EHPS will be providing staff with approved cleaning products and a schedule of cleaning throughout the day.

What will happen if cases spike in November?

The district is collaborating with the East Hartford Department of Public Health. We will continue to monitor cases around the community and state and make a decision that is in the best interest of students, staff, and families.

How many kids will be in class? Will the kids be transitioning from one class to another or will it be the teachers switching from classroom to classroom which would reduce the amount of kids in transition.

At the high school level, students will be transitioning between class periods. At the elementary level, there will be minimal transitional times. Elementary students will have lunch in their classrooms, and specialist periods will be held in the classroom as well.

What are the schools doing for kids who are going into Kindergarten?

Principals and teachers will be holding virtual orientations for incoming Kindergarten students.

Why are Remote learning students doing school on the 31st and the in-person school students are going back on the 26th?

All EHPS students will begin the school year in the RLE experience. This opening phase will focus on developing the norms and habits of remote learning and building strong virtual teacher-student relationships. As a part of this experience, significant efforts will be made to engage families and work through technology issues to ensure all students have access to online learning. Students who will be returning to in-school instruction will participate in an orientation program at their individual school. They will also continue with the RLE program until September 14 when they will then return to school for ½ day sessions. There is a strong emphasis placed on health and safety procedures as well as building a classroom/grade level/school community.

**Are kids going to have their backpacks/coats on their chairs with them or hanging up? (elementary)
Water bottles? Water fountains?**

We are asking that students do not bring backpacks to school as they will be supplied with their own materials at the school. Additionally, the only materials they will need to bring back and forth to school each day is their Chromebook. Re-fillable water bottles will be permitted but all water fountains will be shut off for safety purposes. Many water fountains have been converted into touch-less bottle filling stations for student use.

Will the grade 12 nursing class still be offered?

Students will still be able to take the classroom component of this course; however, they cannot participate in the internship component during this school year.

Can teachers pre-record honors and AP courses?

No. Teachers cannot be asked to pre-record classes that they are going to teach in the live environment. This would be an extra preparation and would break the contract.