



ESSD40 2021-2022
SCHOOL YEAR

SAFE RETURN to
In-PERSON LEARNING
SCHOOLS
AUGUST 2021



INTRODUCTION

The Excelsior Springs School District has partnered with a workgroup of northland schools and county health officials to outline the key issues schools need to address for the eventual reopening of schools.

The issues are divided into six topics:



This document, Safe Return to In-Person Learning outlines a three-month timeline of strategies to consider as district leaders plan for the start of the 2021-22 school year. This document is intended to be used as a resource and starting point that district leaders can modify in collaboration with local stakeholders and needs.

The strategies related to each topic may be updated to help district leaders plan for each segment of the school year. This will help district and school leaders adjust to the unpredictable and changing nature of the post COVID-19 outbreak.

Members of the Re-Entry Task Force will meet regularly to define and communicate the steps necessary to return to school. While this plan is a working document, it is a re-entry plan and not intended to dictate or usurp policy for normal operations of the schools.

We look forward to our continued work together to open schools safely and to provide every student with the high-quality education they deserve.



ESSD40 Re-Entry Task Force WORKGROUP MEMBERSHIP

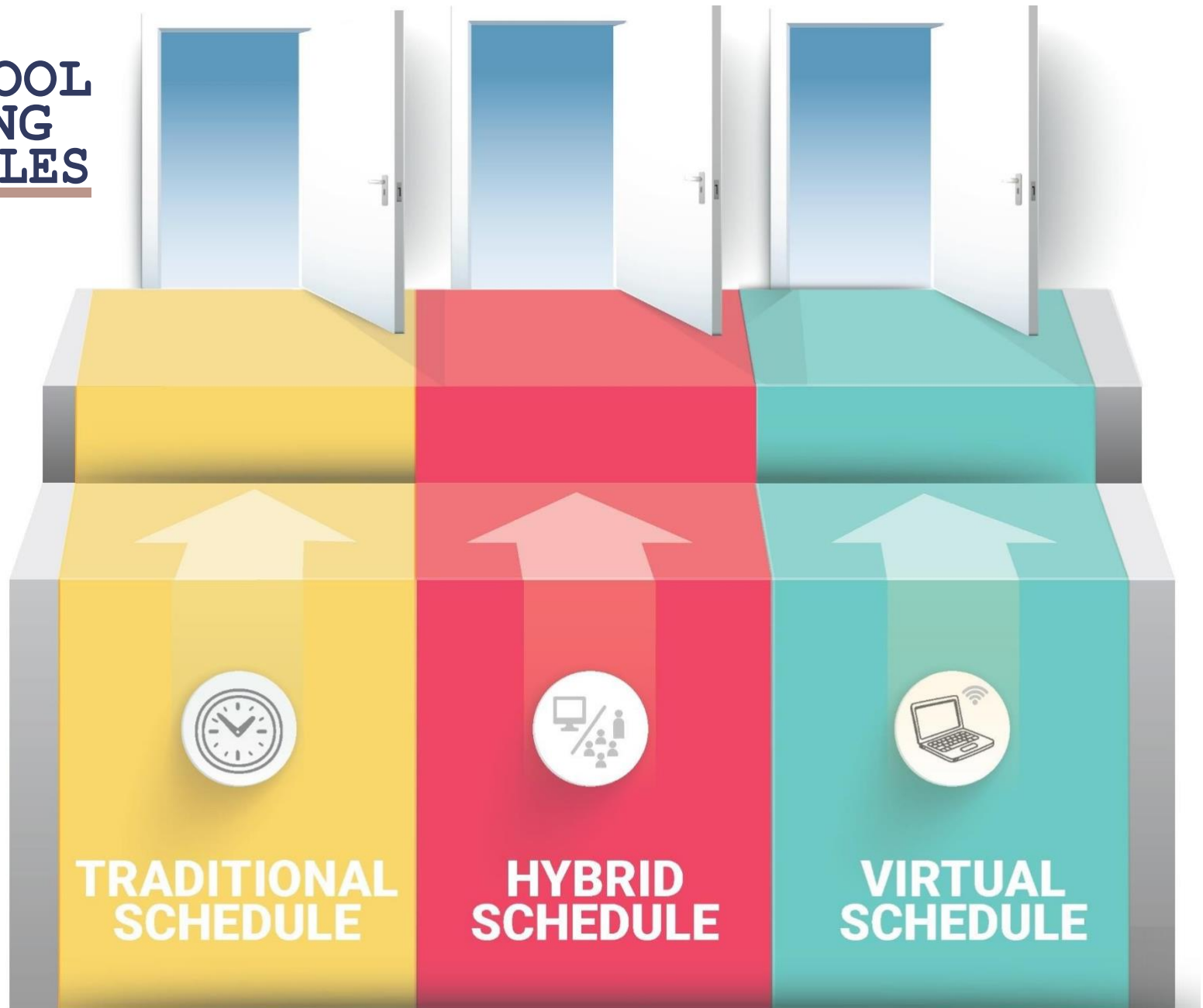
Dr. Jaret Tomlinson, [Deputy Superintendent](#)

Dr. Mark Bullimore, [Career Center Director](#)

Lanie Hurt, [District Nurse](#)

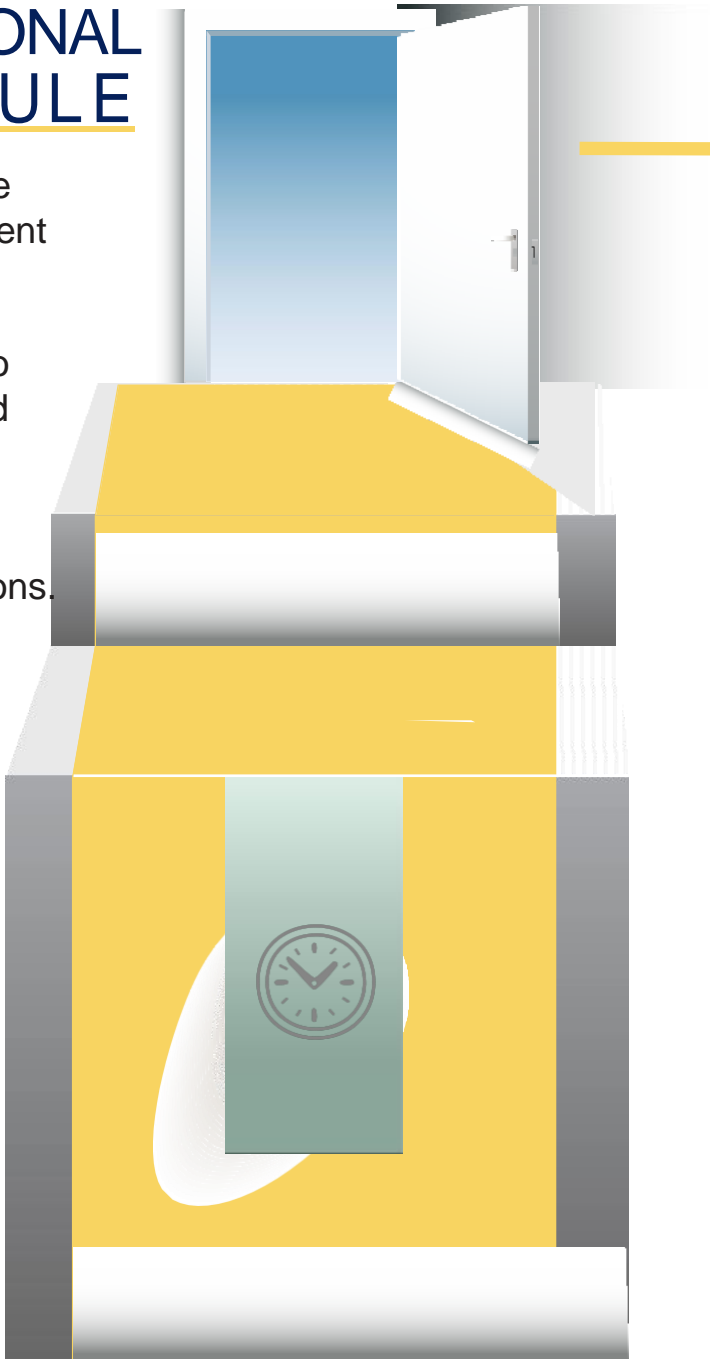
Kenny Manley, [School Board Member](#)

TYPES OF SCHOOL OPENING SCHEDULES



TRADITIONAL SCHEDULE

Students will be physically present in school with scheduling modifications to follow CDC and Missouri State Department of Health recommendations.



Facility and Staffing Considerations

- Screening protocols
- Transportation adjustments
- Routine disinfectant protocols
- Consider keeping students static and moving teachers to limit interactions and assist with contact tracing
- Create plan for serving students and adjusting duties for staff who cannot return to the building due to health issues
- Limit student movement and restrict gatherings in buildings to attempt social distancing guidelines
- Non-vaccinated adults will be required to wear face masks when social distancing is not possible. Students will be welcome to wear face masks during school if they so choose.

HYBRID SCHEDULE

Combines online and face-to-face instruction for students. Schools must meet distance learning requirements.



Examples of Hybrid Schedules

Alternative Methods of Instruction (AMI)

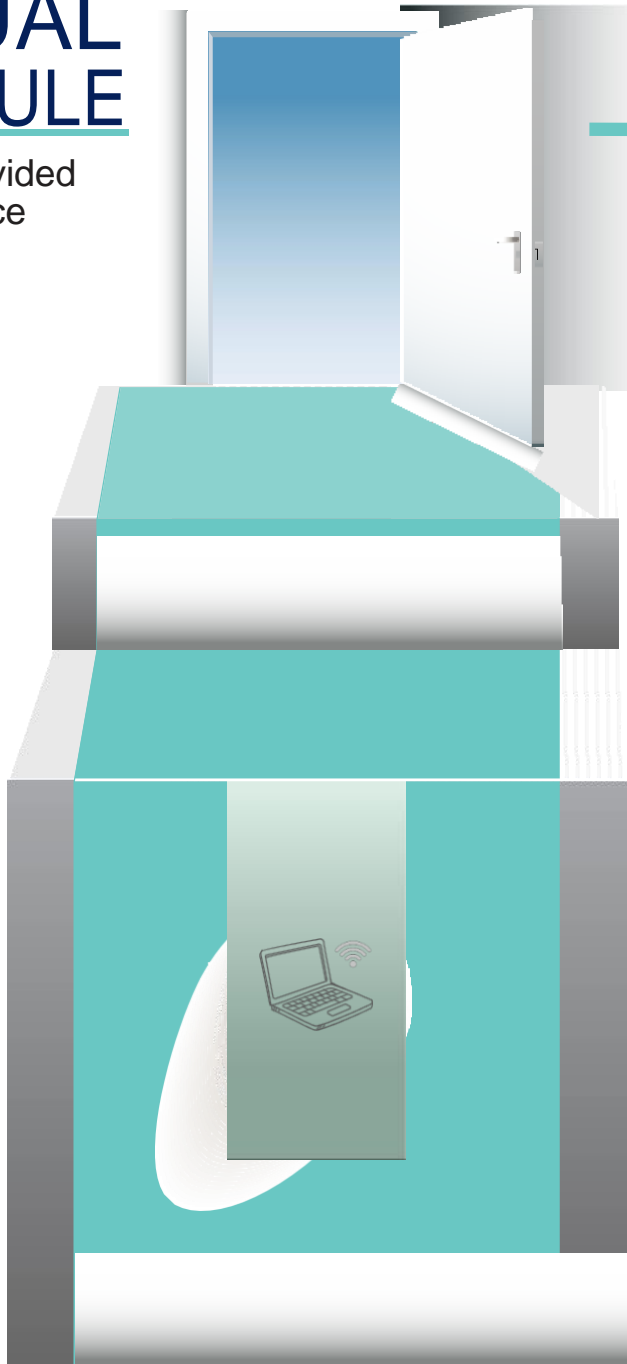
Students may have the need to stay home due to illness or family member exposure. In this event, students may have to learn remotely via the AMI platform. It is possible that students will have to spend time both in person and virtual throughout a grading period. Transition points will be at the beginning of each quarter to re-enter the classroom after being on the AMI platform.

Elementary vs. Secondary Distance Learning

It is possible that the treatment of virtual versus in person school may vary between elementary and secondary buildings. Depending on the circumstances, ESSD40 will remain flexible on the learning options that best meet the needs of a building or grade level.

VIRTUAL SCHEDULE

Instruction provided through distance learning.



Considerations for Distance Learning Effectiveness

- Sufficient internet bandwidth
- Mitigation of the digital divide among families
- Families may access school Internet in any school building parking lot
- Implementation of a Learning Management System (LMS) and developed curriculum content
- There will be multiple methods of instruction to meet the needs of diverse learners
- Training for teachers on instruction in a virtual environment



JULY 2021

AUGUST 2021

JULY-AUGUST 2021

OPERATIONS PROGRAMMING REOPENING PLAN

STRATEGIES FOR ESSD40 LEADERS TO CONSIDER AS THEY RETURN TO IN PERSON LEARNING TO ADDRESS OPERATIONAL SUPPORT, TRANSPORTATION, AND FOOD SERVICE PLANNING.

CURRENT CDC GUIDANCE



Building Operations Planning

- Determine what needs to be cleaned prior to opening schools.
- Develop a process for how classrooms and high-frequency touch areas will be cleaned throughout the day.
- Develop a process for how restrooms will be cleaned throughout the day.
- Develop a schedule for cleaning other areas of the school throughout the day.
- Determine which facilities will be shared with another school.
- Develop a process and schedule for cleaning shared facilities.
- Consider whether there should be a different schedule for cleaning public spaces such as offices.
- Consider whether parents will be allowed to go to the classrooms after checking in through the office.

Transportation Planning

- Explore scheduling options for the fall to determine the implications on the transportation department
- Determine if there are enough buses to adequately operate on the preferred schedule based on physical restrictions and routing.
- Set assigned seating on buses.
- Keep a list of students who ride each bus daily. If a student on the bus tests positive for COVID-19 notifications to the bus riders' parents will be needed.
- Develop a process and monitoring protocol for daily bus sanitation. If double routes are operated, buses will need to be cleaned in-between routes.
- If Apple Bus has a camera system on buses, keep it operating during the cleaning of the buses to document sanitization efforts.



Food Service Planning

- Determine if modifications are needed in the cafeterias to attempt social distancing guidelines.
- Determine delivery and serving methods if students eat in the classroom, outside patio, cafeteria, or another area.
- Determine if modifications are needed for the janitorial schedule to accommodate changes to the meal service location.
- Explore options for meal offerings (use menu sheets for ordering in the morning and deliver to the classroom).
- Develop a contingency plan for continuing food service during a building closure.
- Develop a plan to repurpose the cafeteria to help address social distancing needs in the building.





FAMILY & COMMUNITY SUPPORT REOPENING PLAN

STRATEGIES FOR ESSD40 LEADERS TO CONSIDER AS THEY PLAN TO REOPEN SCHOOLS TO KEEP THE COMMUNITY INFORMED

July-August 2021

Keep Families & Community Informed of Possible School Opening Options

- Educate the community and key stakeholders on decision-making and communication protocols through multiple channels (website, social media, texts, calls, videos, local media, etc.).
- Educate families about health and safety priorities and protocols.
- Conduct and publish the results of a survey to assess family and community needs and concerns.



July-August 2021

Educate Families on School Virtual Platforms

- Develop and deploy virtual trainings for parents/families (video vignettes).
- Develop and distribute virtual school information for working parents (schedules, structure).
- Promote a designated place on school/district websites as a resource to parent.
- Dedicate a page on the website for academics (lessons, supporting documents, supplemental programs, links to resources, etc.).





July 2021

HEALTH AND SAFETY RETURN PLAN

STRATEGIES FOR ESSD40 LEADERS TO CONSIDER AS THEY PLAN TO REOPEN SCHOOLS TO KEEP STUDENTS AND STAFF SAFE.



Planning for School Reopening

Mitigation Strategies

Universal and correct wearing of masks

- Masks highly recommended for students and staff

Physical distancing

- use of cohorts
- student routing
- physical distancing where possible

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

- Consistent with CDC
- Taught and reinforced
- Sanitizer and tissue provided

Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities

- Increased cleaning

Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments

- Contact tracing by the local public health authority (LPHA) with LEA assistance
- Diagnostics and screening
- Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students

Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies

- Accommodations as necessary or as mandated by IEP

August 2021

Adhere to Missouri High School Activities (MSHSAA) Guidelines and County Guidance

- Train all coaches, band directors, and activity leaders on practice/conditioning guidelines and sanitation protocols and procedures.



EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATIONS REOPENING PLAN

STRATEGIES FOR ESSD40 LEADERS TO CONSIDER AS THEY PLAN TO REOPEN SCHOOLS AND KEEP INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS INFORMED.

JUNE 2021

Establish a Communications Strategy

- Assess our communications for the 2021-22 year to identify areas for improvement.
- Commit to providing consistent communications and messaging to internal and external constituents.
- Commit to a communication schedule and procedure for communicating emergency updates.
- Decide what communication channels we will use and who will be responsible for developing and approving district-level communications.
- Prepare templates for frequent communications (i.e., superintendent messages).
- Decide on a theme/brand for the 2021-22 school year and publish it.



JUNE - JULY 2021

Prepare to Deploy Communications Strategy

- Create a web page dedicated to school district's return to in-person plan.
- Create/update web page dedicated to learning-at-home resources for summer months.
- Set communications expectations by issuing a letter from the superintendent informing parents/families that they should expect to receive updates throughout the summer and direct them to the established web page.
- Review all school/district webpages to remove dated information.
- Ensure all webpages are ADA compliant.

JULY 2021

Provide Training on Communications Strategy

- Train all school leaders and front office staff on communication protocols for 2021-22 year.

JULY-AUGUST 2021

Implement Communications Strategy

- Communicate the district's reopening plan with special attention to learning design, schedule, safety procedures and communication commitments.
- Communicate details for any distance learning offerings.
- Distribute positive information and highlight successes through social media and traditional media.
- Communicate staff availability and office hours.
- Provide information about how to communicate with staff members and to whom to direct questions and concerns.
- Prepare FAQs for office staff who answer phones.
- All changes in programming and updates should be given at least 48-72 hours in advance.