

Madison Public Schools

2020-2021 Reopening Plan Addendum



February 12, 2021

Since the development of the Madison Public Schools Reopening Plan in July 2020, the Connecticut State Department of Education has continued to provide school districts with additional guidance for safe instruction in the form of addendums. Throughout the 2020-2021 school year, MPS has continued to adapt its initial reopening plan to meet the ever-changing needs of our community. The critical changes to the plan both at the building level and district-wide are detailed in this addendum.

District Changes

The following are the substantial changes made to various critical areas of our Madison Public Schools Reopening plan.

Monitoring

The Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Director of Special Education, Public Health Director, and Medical Advisor review the number of local and regional cases weekly including the number of active COVID-19 cases within the school district and individuals quarantined. This critical data review is used to determine if school can continue to operate safely in the current learning model or if a change in learning model should be considered.

Masks

Masks continue to be an essential part of keeping everyone safe in the building. Masks are to be worn in the building at all times except for mask breaks, snacks, and lunch. When individuals do not have masks on, there should be social distancing to the greatest extent possible. For special education services, masks may be removed if the instruction cannot be taught with a mask on and should be for a limited time such as speech and language services.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/effective-masks.html>

Meals/Food Service

Since reopening in the fall, the District has expanded its meal offerings for students K-12. At Daniel Hand High School and Polson Middle School, certain a la carte items are now available for purchase along with individual items such as snacks and drinks. Breakfast service is now available at both Hand and Polson.

For grades K-5, meal choices have expanded to include a hot lunch item. Single-use disposable flatware and packaging continues to be used for meal service at every school.

Transportation

Students and parents should continue to comply with the Bus Ridership Expectation set out on page 31 of the MPS Reopening Plan. In addition, students should refrain from touching or sharing any personal items including but not limited to playing cards and mobile phones on the school bus.

Vaccinations and Quarantines

At this time, efforts to vaccinate the general public are currently underway in Connecticut. Once an individual is fully vaccinated against COVID-19, quarantine requirements for close contacts will change: Two weeks after an individual has received their second vaccination shot for COVID-19, the individual will no longer need to quarantine in the future if they are determined

to be a close contact.

Special Education

If a school is in a hybrid model, students with Individual Education Plans [IEP] can attend in person the maximum days possible in order for them to access the general education curriculum to the greatest extent possible.

Meetings

Parent meetings, PPTs, and 504 meetings will take place virtually unless approved by a building administrator.

Essential Visitors

If an essential visitor is required to provide services on a student's Individual Education Plan or 504 plan, they will be allowed to enter the necessary school building. Essential Visitors will be required to follow all school safety procedures.

Material Sharing

- Students may borrow materials from the library. Upon return, materials will be left for at least 24 hours before being returned to the shelf for continued use.
- PE equipment is cleaned after each class. Students are permitted to share equipment when working in a small group.

Music Instruction/ Band

- Students will be permitted to play their instrument indoors while maintaining nine feet by six feet of distance and using PPE that is suitable for instruments.
- Some students will be able to play their instrument each day based on the size of the group and others may play every other day.
- When possible, students will rehearse outdoors.

Intramural Sports

- Students will be allowed to participate in intramural sports. Intermural sports teams will not travel to other schools or play other teams.
- All rules from CIAC will be followed regarding masks, temperature checks, symptom review, and contact tracing.

Changes by Building

TCLC

The following are the substantial changes made to the Town Campus Learning Center reopening plan:

- Each preschool student has an individual desk with a desk shield that is six feet apart from their peers.
- Students take masks breaks, eat, and complete table top activities at their desks.
- Per SDE addendum #2, “Children should be allowed to interact with other children; however, enhanced cleaning practices and the provision of adequate materials is necessary.”
- In classroom cohorts, students play together at different stations while wearing their masks. <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/COVID-19/Addendum-2-COVID-Guidance-and-Considerations-for-Preschool-Located-in-Public-Schools.pdf>

Jeffrey and Ryerson Elementary Schools

The following are the substantial changes made to the two elementary school reopening plans:

- Desks are a minimum of three feet apart.
- Students utilize the playground equipment while wearing masks and practicing good hand hygiene.
- Educators wear their masks 100% of the time for general education instruction.

Brown Intermediate School

The following are the substantial changes made to the Brown Intermediate School reopening plan:

- Desks are a minimum of three feet apart.
- The following building areas are used for content-specific instruction with students: Gymnasium, Art Room, Music Room, Theatre room. All instruction is conducted with six feet of social distance in place.
- Physical education is held outside, weather permitting. The gymnasium is utilized on days when students cannot go outside. Lunch and snack are held outdoors, weather permitting.
- Brown Playground is now open and all students have access on a rotation by Team.

Polson Middle School

The following are the substantial changes made to the Polson Middle School reopening plan:

- Classrooms are assigned based on the size of the room and the number of students who can safely fit in the class at a minimum of four feet apart.
- Protective shields are used during indoor lunch and indoor mask breaks.
- Carousel shields are not used for small group work as students maintain a distance of six feet.
- Cohorts eat lunch together with a desk shield in the classroom or outside while maintaining social distancing.

Daniel Hand High School

The following are the substantial changes made to the Daniel Hand High School reopening plan:

- The initial hybrid full in plan located on pages 17-19 of the MPS 2020-2021 Reopening plan was adjusted based on feedback from students.
- At this time, the current operating hybrid model has students with the last names A-L in-person Monday and Tuesday. Students M-Z attend in-person on Thursday and Friday. The two cohorts rotate between in-person learning on Wednesdays.