



EAST GREENWICH TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

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W. Todd Jones, President of the Board of Education
Dr. Kimberley Chiodi, Director of Curriculum & Instruction

Dear East Greenwich Township School District Staff and Families,

I hope you are enjoying the summer and staying healthy. On June 26th, Governor Murphy released [The Road Back: Restart and Recovery Plan for Education](#). The document contains the “anticipated minimum standards” required for reopening schools in September. In East Greenwich, our planning has been well underway, and we would like to share our progress to date. A more detailed plan will be made available during the first week in August.

While the safety of our staff and students has always been our first priority, COVID-19 has expanded and magnified this priority. Our proposed plan is based upon the health and safety recommendations and requirements from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH); as such, in-person school will look different this fall.

One of the most effective ways to protect students and staff from the spread of COVID-19 is through social distancing, and schools are expected to socially distance students in classrooms, in hallways, in shared spaces, on school buses, etc. to the greatest extent possible. Social distancing is a major tenet of “The Road Back”; therefore, social distancing had a major impact on the development of our plan. As a priority factor in decision-making, social distancing reshaped the in-person school experience for our students and staff.

To guide our planning efforts, we instituted a district-wide Return to School Committee in June. The District Return to School Committee is charged with planning for a safe reopening of schools for our students and staff. The committee membership includes 42 staff and community members representing diverse perspectives. The membership includes: Child Study Team Supervisor, counselor, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, East Greenwich Education Association representative, instructional aide, Jeffrey Clark parent representatives, Samuel Mickle parent representatives, school nurses, principals, School Board members, School Business Administrator, school psychologist, School Safety Specialist, superintendent, supervisory aide, teachers (general and special education teachers ranging from preschool through grade 6) and Transportation Coordinator.

The committee is divided into 4 sub-committees:

1. Facilities
2. Instruction & Technology
3. Operations
4. Safety & Wellness

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During the months of June and July, over 20 planning meetings have been held. Each subcommittee researched, discussed and developed recommendations for the reopening of school based upon the requirements in “The Road Back”. These recommendations are being further developed into action plans and procedures that will be implemented in September.

After many hours and considerations, our current plan proposes a hybrid schedule of instruction. In the hybrid model, students will attend in-person school two days per week, and they will engage in remote learning three days per week. During in-person school days, students will be dismissed at 12:40pm.

A hybrid schedule was selected because it permits social distancing in the classrooms, hallways and other indoor spaces. With this model, students are able to be seated 6 feet away from each other without the need for barriers around individual student desks.

An early dismissal schedule supports continuity of learning for all students because it provides time for our instructional staff to teach in-person 4 days per week, while continuing to engage in remote learning 5 days per week. If staff were working a full in-person day, our remote learning students would not have contact with instructional staff on 2 days each week.

Cohort A (Green) - Students attend in-person school on Monday & Tuesday until 12:40pm. Students engage in remote learning on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Cohort B (Yellow) - Students engage remote learning on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Students attend in-person school on Thursday & Friday until 12:40pm.

East Greenwich and the Kingsway Regional District are working collaboratively to ensure families/households are scheduled in-person on the same cohort days.

	Monday & Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday & Friday
Cohort A (Last Name A-La)	In-person	Remote	Remote
Cohort B (Last Name Lb-Z)	Remote	Remote	In-person

Our special education students in the self-contained setting, as well as our English Language Learners, will attend school in-person four days per week. This will meet the students’ programming needs.

During in-person, socially distanced learning, students will remain with their homeroom cohort for the duration of in-person learning. Students will engage in teacher-led and teacher-guided instructional tasks. During remote learning, students will engage in independent instructional tasks, paper/pencil and digital, as well as small group, live, virtual instruction.

On Monday, July 20th, Governor Murphy announced that parents may choose an all-remote learning option for their students. If selected, students would engage in 5 days of remote learning. It would include a combination of live instruction and instructional tasks (virtual and paper/pencil).

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In the coming weeks, we are anticipating clarification on existing guidance, as well as new guidance from both the New Jersey Department of Education and the New Jersey Department of Health. Our committee will continue to meet, and our plan will be adjusted to reflect that guidance. Additional details and information are forthcoming. Specifically, in the weeks ahead, more information will be provided to families about several important topics:

- *Daily in-person student screening procedures
- *Launch of *EGSD Parent Academy* (resources and short trainings on a variety of technology topics)
- *Mask procedures for students
- *Pandemic Response Team formation for each school
- *Procedures for a student or staff COVID-19 positive test result
- *School calendar
- *Transportation

As we continue to develop our plan, your feedback is important to us. Next week, a parent survey will be shared with you to gather more input. Moving forward, weekly updates will be provided on Thursdays and distributed by email message. The updates will also be posted on the district website. I realize this information will most likely generate many questions, and I can assure you that we are working diligently to follow the guidance, obtain answers to our questions and build our plan. Thank you for your continued support of our school community.

Sincerely,

Andrea Evans

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