

*Equity - Safety - Quality Learning Opportunities*



**REOPENING  
YONKERS  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**SEPTEMBER 2020**

**Town Hall Meetings**

Rev. Steve Lopez, President, Yonkers Board of Education  
and  
Dr. Edwin M. Quezada, Superintendent of Schools

Do the best you can until  
you know better.

Then when you know better,  
do better.

-Maya Angelou



# OUR GOAL

Our common goal is a safe organized return to school for students, staff and families. Relentless work has and continues to be done to prepare for the September opening of schools according to the State guidelines. Experts anticipate the pandemic will continue throughout the 2020-21 school year with periods of increased community outbreaks until such time as there is a widely available vaccine. Our plans will be flexible to quickly adjust to guidance updates from health and education departments.



Core Values

Equity

Science  
Informed  
Decisions

# CORE VALUES GUIDING OUR PLANNING

Yonkers commitment to equity and excellence drives the work that is grounded in collaboration with all stakeholders which is foundational to our success.

The guiding principles include:




- **Equity**
  - Promote equity and access for students, staff and families
- **All Children's Unique Needs**
  - Focus on the most vulnerable population
  - Foster positive relationships and meaningful frequent interactions whereby students receive meaningful feedback on assignments and interactions with peers and adults
- **Health, Safety and Well-being for All**
  - Students, Staff, Parents/Guardians and Community Partners
  - Provide social-emotional supports for all students with special attention on our most vulnerable populations
- **Differentiated Approach for Teaching and Learning**
  - Focus on interdisciplinary teaching and multiple ways to show mastery (e.g., project-based assessment)
  - Provide instructional experiences that, when considered as a whole, are comparable in rigor, scope and magnitude to a traditionally delivered program of study
- **Quality Standards-Based Culturally Responsive Instruction**
- **Parents/Guardians as Partners**
- **Timely Communications in Multiple Languages to All Stakeholders**

# **NYSED REOPENING GUIDANCE FRAMEWORK**

The District's reopening plan ensures alignment with NYSED's framework for key considerations and all required elements of the guidance.

<b>Health and Safety</b>	<b>Special Education</b>	<b>Teaching and Learning</b>
<b>Facilities</b>	<b>Bilingual Education and World Languages</b>	<b>School Schedules</b>
<b>Nutrition</b>	<b>Social-Emotional Well-Being</b>	<b>Attendance and Chronic Absenteeism</b>
<b>Transportation</b>	<b>Staffing and Human Resources</b>	<b>Technology and Connectivity</b>
	<b>Budget and Fiscal</b>	

# Reopening Scenarios

On-Site Instruction	Hybrid Instruction	Online Remote Instruction
		
<p>Schools will reopen for all students and instruction will take place in-person at schools.</p>	<p>Students will complete some instruction in-person at school sites and some instruction online.</p>	<p>School sites are closed to students and all instruction takes place online.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Daily in-person instruction with social distancing protocols based on current New York State Department of Health (DOH) information</li> <li>▪ Alternative plans for medically vulnerable/high-risk groups</li> <li>▪ Plans for health, safety, and screening</li> <li>▪ Scenario contingent upon guidelines outlined by Governor’s office, DOH, New York State Education Department (NYSED) and local government</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Two cohorts of students: Group A and Group B</li> <li>▪ Each group is receiving in-person instruction at least two consecutive days of the week</li> <li>▪ Flex Day Wednesday will include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Online Remote instruction for All students, except Special Education ICT and selected Multilingual learners who will receive In-Person Supplemental Support</li> <li>▪ Additional Cleaning in all schools</li> <li>▪ Professional Development for staff</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Alternative plans for medically vulnerable/high-risk groups</li> <li>▪ Plans for health, safety, and screening</li> <li>▪ Scenario contingent upon guidelines outlined by Governor’s office, DOH, New York State Education Department (NYSED) and local government</li> <li>▪ All staff is expected to report to work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Circumstances require schools to remain closed for in-person instruction</li> <li>▪ All instruction occurs remotely via Microsoft Teams, Clever and SeeSaw until further notice</li> <li>▪ Scenario contingent upon guidelines outlined by Governor’s office, DOH, New York State Education Department (NYSED) and local government</li> <li>▪ All staff is expected to report to work</li> </ul>

# HYBRID INSTRUCTION SAMPLE WEEK SCHEDULES PREKINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 12 GROUPS A & B

## Key points

- No more than 50% of the students enrolled in a class will receive in-person instruction on a given day
- If students are not receiving in-person instruction they will be engaged in remote assignments at home using the Microsoft Teams platform, Clever or SeaSaw
- Students in cohort: group A will receive in-person instruction 2 days per week on Mondays and Tuesdays
- Students in cohort: group B will receive in-person instruction 2 days per week on Thursdays and Fridays
- Wednesdays follow a schedule that includes staff professional development, synchronous online remote instruction, and in-person additional supports for select special education ICT students and selected multilingual learners
- Weeks with a Monday holiday, on Wednesday students will follow the Monday schedule
- Once the cohort groups are established, there will be no changes to assignments.

## Sample Week - No Monday Holiday - Cohort: Group A

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
In-Person Instruction	In-Person Instruction	Flex Day • Synchronous Online Remote Instruction for all students, except for Special Education ICT students and selected Multilingual learners who will receive a half-day of In-Person supplemental support • Staff Professional Development	Online Remote Instruction Microsoft Teams, Clever and Seesaw	Online Remote Instruction Microsoft Teams, Clever and Seesaw

## Sample Week - No Monday Holiday - Cohort: Group B

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Online Remote Instruction Microsoft Teams, Clever and Seesaw	Online Remote Instruction Microsoft Teams, Clever and Seesaw	Flex Day • Synchronous Online Remote Instruction for all students, except for Special Education ICT students and selected Multilingual learners who will receive a half-day of In-Person supplemental support • Staff Professional Development	In-Person Instruction	In-Person Instruction

## Sample Week – Monday Holiday - Cohort: Group A

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Holiday	In-Person Instruction	In-Person Instruction	Online Remote Instruction Microsoft Teams, Clever and Seesaw	Online Remote Instruction Microsoft Teams, Clever and Seesaw

## Sample Week – Monday Holiday - Cohort: Group B

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Holiday	Online Remote Instruction Microsoft Teams, Clever and Seesaw	Online Remote Instruction Microsoft Teams, Clever and Seesaw	In-Person Instruction	In-Person Instruction

# SAMPLE WEEK SCHEDULES PREKINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 12

## GROUP C SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS WITH AN IEP

## GROUP D ONLINE REMOTE INSTRUCTION ONLY

### Cohort: Group C Special Education Students (SWD with an IEP)

Coupled with the need to ensure the health and safety of both students and staff, Self-Contained Special Education Classes (i.e., 12:1, 12:1:1, 12:1:2, 12:2:2, 12:1:4, 15:1, 15:1:1) as well as Autism Program Classes (i.e., 8:1:2, 12:1:2), will implement the following model upon reopening of schools for In-Person Instruction.

- Self-Contained Special Education Classes with an enrollment of 15 students or less will receive four days of in-person instruction (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday). The days may be adjusted for holidays.
- Students will also receive 1.5 hours of synchronous remote instruction on Wednesday
- These classes will constitute cohorts meaning that their membership will remain constant
- Intermingling of instructional cohorts will be avoided to the greatest extent possible
- Flexibility will be used in the scheduling of staff to support this model

As members of general education settings, SWD in Integrated Co-Teaching (ICT) Classes will be educated in the instructional model of their non-disabled peers. To address social distancing requirements, ICT Classes will be divided into two heterogeneous groups (maintaining the proportional distribution of general education students and SWD), which will constitute an "ICT Cohort," per above.

### Cohort: Group D Online Remote Instruction ONLY

**Parents/guardians will be given the opportunity to choose 100% Online Remote Instruction for their children from August 13 to August 21, 2020.** Based on this process, students will be assigned to Group D Online Remote Instruction Only.



# REGISTRATION FOR ONLY REMOTE INSTRUCTION

It is important to note that 100% Online Remote Instruction will not be the same as Hybrid Instruction. Realtime online instruction with teachers and students will vary. Content and resources will be available online through your teacher(s) and the District's Distance Learning website. Students and parents/guardians must understand that their child will be expected to work independently to complete assignments.

**Deadline for submission of this form is 5:00 PM Friday, August 21, 2020.**

**It is also important to note that once a parent/guardian selects 100% Online Remote Instruction, you may not change the selection until the end of your child's first marking period:**

- The end of the 1st marking period for grades 7-12 is November 6
- The end of the fall marking period for grades 1-6 is November 27
- The end of the 1st marking period for PreK-Kindergarten is January 29

## Registration for Online ONLY Remote Instruction | Registro para Instrucción Remota Solamente

Register for Remote Only Online Instruction for Your Child



### Parents/Guardians

This registration form is ONLY for parents/guardians to select 100% Online Remote Instruction for their child. **A separate form must be submitted for each child.**

It is important to note that 100% Online Remote Instruction will not be the same as Hybrid Instruction. Realtime online instruction with teachers and students will vary. Content and resources will be available online through your teacher(s) and the District's Distance Learning website. Students and parents/guardians must understand that their child will be expected to work independently to complete assignments.

It is also important to note that once a parent/guardian selects 100% Online Remote Instruction, you may not change the selection until the end of your child's first marking period:

- The end of the 1st marking period for grades 7-12 is November 6
- The end of the fall marking period for grades 1-6 is November 27
- The end of the 1st marking period for PreK-Kindergarten is January 29

**Deadline for submission of this form is 5PM Friday, August 21, 2020. Once submitted, your selection cannot be changed.**

Register for Remote Only Online Instruction for Your Child

Registro para Instrucción Remota Solamente para su niña/niño



### Padres/Guardianes

Este formulario de registro es solamente para que los padres / tutores seleccionen la instrucción remota en línea 100% para su hijo(a). **Se debe enviar un formulario por separado para cada niño.**

Es importante tener en cuenta que la instrucción remota 100% en línea no será lo mismo que la instrucción híbrida. La instrucción en línea en tiempo real con profesores y estudiantes variará. El contenido y los recursos estarán disponibles en línea a través de su(s) maestro(s) y el sitio web de aprendizaje a distancia del distrito. Los estudiantes y los padres / tutores deben comprender que se espera que su hijo(a) trabaje de forma independiente para completar las tareas.

También es importante tener en cuenta que una vez que un padre / tutor selecciona la instrucción remota en línea al 100%, no puede cambiar la selección hasta el final del primer período de calificaciones de su hijo(a):

- El final del primer período de calificaciones para los grados 7-12 es el 6 de noviembre
- El final del período de calificaciones de otoño para los grados 1-6 es el 27 de noviembre
- El final del primer período de calificaciones para PreK-Kindergarten es el 29 de enero

**La fecha límite para enviar este formulario es el viernes 21 de agosto de 2020 a las 5 p.m. Una vez enviada, su selección no se puede cambiar.**

# HEALTH AND SAFETY

Per NYSED guidance the District focused on preventive actions to ensure the health and safety of the staff and families. Schools will be required to: perform health checks and screenings, per DOH guidance, and recognize signs and symptoms of illness in students and staff; develop plans to maximize social distancing; develop plans to manage and isolate ill persons until they can be sent home; instruct students and staff in proper hand and respiratory hygiene; require wearing appropriate face coverings; and develop cleaning and disinfecting procedures for the school in accordance with CDC and DOH guidance.

No outside visitors or volunteers will be allowed on school campuses, except for the safety and well-being of students.

Parents/guardians will report to the front office and not go beyond unless it is for the safety or well-being of their child. Essential visitors to facilities will be required to wear face coverings and will be restricted in their access to our school buildings. Visitors must follow all safety protocols as listed above. Spaces within each school will be evaluated to determine if they are suitable for use. District approved before and after school programs will follow the protocols outlined in The Plan.

**Additional guidance will be provided by  
August 21, 2020**

## Health Checks and Screenings (Hybrid and In-person Instruction)

- ✓ **Begin screening at home. Parents are responsible for checking their child's daily temperature and completing the health screening questionnaire. Schools will determine additional screening, as needed.**
- ✓ **Urge parents to assess their child(ren) daily for outward symptoms of COVID-19**
- ✓ **Require parents/guardians to complete COVID Survey/Attestation questionnaire for each child, and to contact the school in the event of health status changes**
- ✓ **Counsel parents that students are required to stay home, if they have a temperature at or above 100.0° degrees, or are experiencing other COVID-19-related symptoms (e.g., shortness of breath or cough)**
- ✓ **Prioritize information requested of parents and provide in check list form**
- ✓ **Make students aware of the importance of, and process for, temperature screenings**
- ✓ **Develop YPS Health Questionnaire App, in multiple languages, which can be completed online on a computer or phone**
- ✓ **Include the three screening questions proposed by the DOH, in addition to questions regarding international travel, and travel to states listed in Governor's Executive Order 205**
- ✓ **Implement staggered school entry times, to facilitate collecting COVID-19 Survey/Attestation questionnaire and face covering recognition technology (kiosk)**
- ✓ **Require hand sanitizing each time a student or staff member exits and re-enters a room**

# Q & A

**Dr. Edwin M. Quezada**



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