

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated: September 11, 2020

How will the district handle substitutes for the 2020-2021 school year?

The district will employ up to 5 permanent substitutes. These individuals are full-time employees for 2020-2021 school year. The district will continue to employ substitute teachers; however, they will only be used after the permanent substitutes are assigned.

In the event we need to move to 100% distance learning, will the teachers be required to "broadcast" from the classroom using the school's technology?

There will be opportunities for teachers to instruct from the classrooms, but it will vary depending on the purpose of the school closure.

Will students be socially distanced in classrooms and be wearing masks?

Students' desks will be 6 feet apart in classrooms. Students and staff are required to wear face coverings at all times in our buildings and while using school district transportation, unless doing so would inhibit the individual's health.

What safety measures will be maintained on buses?

Buses are being assigned at approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ capacity. Students should sit one per row; however, siblings may sit in the same row. Students will be required to wear face coverings, unless doing so would inhibit the individual's health. Bus drivers will wear face coverings. The buses will be disinfected by the transportation vendor and our custodial staff daily.

Will seniors be allowed to drive themselves to school this fall?

Seniors are permitted to drive for the 2020-2021 school year. The high school administration will disseminate the parking information.

Will siblings be in the same cohort? Are students permitted to change their cohorts?

Siblings will be scheduled in the same cohorts; however, students may not submit requests to change their cohorts.

Why are the buildings starting at 33% capacity? What criteria will be used to determine movement through the different phases of the reopening plan?

Establishing limits on attendance is a strategy that may lower the risk of transmission while maintaining healthy operations (CDC Considerations for Events and Gatherings,

2020). Phasing also provides our staff the opportunity to get acclimated to revised operating procedures and adjust to the new day-to-day tasks and building operations.

Criteria for Movement

- Transmission in the building
- Community transmission
- Guidelines from local and state agencies
- Assessment/Monitoring of the overall day-to-day operations

Will students and staff receive daily temperature checks?

Yes. Students and staff will receive a temperature check upon arrival to school.

What happens if there is a positive COVID-19 case in one of the schools?

If the school district becomes aware that an individual who has spent time in a district facility tests positive for COVID-19, we will notify local health officials, families, and staff of a confirmed case while maintaining confidentiality.

Will students participate in Physical Education classes?

The district will adhere to [CDC Considerations for Schools](#) for Physical Education Classes.

- Physical education classes will take place outdoors as much as possible; weather permitting.
- Lessons will be designed as to not share items that would cause students risk during contact.
- Students will be encouraged to wear comfortable clothing as locker rooms will not be accessible.
- Gymnasiums will be equipped to support classroom instruction.

Can my child change his/her schedule?

At this time no schedules are being changed unless:

- A student wants to drop a course and enter a study hall
- The change is IEP driven
- There was a scheduling error
- They are initiated by the teacher (level drop). This requires administrator approval.

Will athletics have a fall season?

The district will follow the processes and procedures outlined by the [New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association \(NJSIAA\)](#).

Who should I contact if I am experiencing technology problems?

For problems with technology, please email tech@westex.org and include as much information and specifics as possible so that our tech team can resolve the issue.

Will there be additional sanitizing stations in the schools?

Each classroom is equipped with hand sanitizing dispensers and disinfectant wipes. Additional dispensers are located throughout each building in both instructional and non-instructional spaces.

What heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) improvements have been made within the buildings?

The district is upgrading filters to MERV 13. The middle school has installed approximately 15 air conditioning units to classrooms.

What personal and protective equipment (PPE) has been provided to teachers and staff?

- Staff members will be provided with face and eye protection
 - Two 3-ply face coverings per staff member (required)
 - One face shield per staff member (optional)
 - Plexiglass barriers are installed in classrooms and offices
- Hand protection will be available for students and staff
 - Gloves will be available in both instructional and non-instructional spaces
 - Hand sanitizer will be provided to staff and dispensers will be in classrooms and common areas