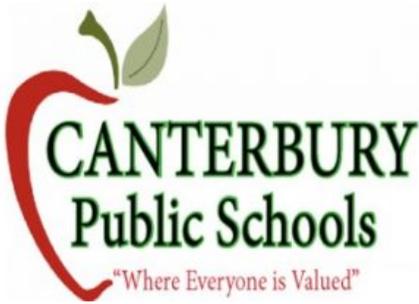


# Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan 2021-2022

Based on the Connecticut State Department of Education Guidelines

Date of Submission:	June 15, 2021
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June 15, 2021

Canterbury Public Schools is committed to supporting the children of our town. The past sixteen months proved to be a challenging time as we all navigated the complexities of learning during the COVID pandemic. In Canterbury we were able to provide a mostly full in-person learning model from October 5, 2020. We mobilized a school plan with various models of instruction to allow for the fluid nature of our community's response to the virus. Various mitigation strategies were used to support our efforts to maintain an in-person learning model. Cohorting allowed us to minimize the impact when a COVID case touched the school community. We believe that mask wearing and social distancing were key factors in helping to minimize the spread within our schools. Anecdotal evidence supports the notion that the transmission of COVID was rare within our school community.

We are now planning strategies for the next school year. Canterbury will not be offering a fully remote learning option next year. It is likely we will be required to continue various mitigation strategies as mandated by the SDE and DPH. Our goal is for children, families, and staff to remain as safe as possible while engaging in educational opportunities. The following document shall be considered a live and ever-evolving plan that will be adjusted according to developing research and guidance from the State Department of Education.

We appreciate the commitment and flexibility of our faculty and staff, children and families as we continue to navigate learning during this historical time in our lives.

Your feedback is always welcomed. Please feel free to share your thoughts at [feedback@canterburypublicschools.org](mailto:feedback@canterburypublicschools.org)

In Partnership,

Steve Rioux, Superintendent of Schools  
Canterbury Public Schools

In planning for the safe return to in-person learning at Canterbury Public Schools, it has been essential to envision the safest environment and the highest quality instruction for the school community. Based on guidelines provided to school districts from the Connecticut State Department of Education and the State of Connecticut. **Canterbury Public Schools are currently planning for a full In-Person Learning Model.** Like last year, the plan is intended to be a fluid document that will evolve based on the public health data and research available to mitigate the spread of the virus. As we proceed toward the fall, we will continue to receive input from our educational partners, students, and families and will continue to work toward providing the best opportunities for our greatest resource—the students in the State of Connecticut.

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An “In-Person Learning Model” refers to the desire to have all students and all staff return in the fall for a full-length traditional day of school with necessary modifications given the pandemic.

A “safe” reopening refers to adherence to expectations and guidelines from the State of Connecticut, the CDC, the local health officials (Northeast District Department of Health ), and other sources that will be in place to ensure that the schools’ environments support learning during this time of COVID 19. Rates of positive COVID results will determine whether the schools need to transition to a remote learning model.

A central belief is that the children of Canterbury need to be connected to teachers, interventionists, service providers, coaches, and mentors. As the schools open in the fall, the plan is to phase in all aspects of school life in the safest and most appropriate manner. It may be necessary to continue with our suite of mitigating strategies to protect students and staff.

Canterbury Schools value the contributions and suggestions of parents, caregivers, families, and students in the decision-making process. The CPS faculty will continue to play an active role in building trust and credibility for the plans that are to be implemented. Parents and community members are invited to give regular feedback and suggestions concerning the plans to reopen and phase in all aspects of school life.

## Canterbury Priorities

The Canterbury Public Schools and the Canterbury Reopening Committees have identified priority areas that must be in place to reopen, including: (1) the safety of the students and staff; (2) the development of appropriate educational opportunities; (3) the awareness of social and emotional well-being of students, families, and staff; and (4) the expectation that all children will achieve at the expected grade level by June 2022.

	<p><b>Safety of Students and Staff</b></p> <p>Our schools will be prepared to reinforce healthy practices among our staff and students, take preventative actions to prevent the spread of all respiratory illnesses, and prepare for any potential cases or increased transmission of COVID 19.</p>
	<p><b>Development of Appropriate Educational Opportunities</b></p> <p>Our schools will reopen with a full in-person learning model. As new information relating to COVID transmission becomes available we will be flexible to ensure the health and safety of our students and staff.</p>
	<p><b>Awareness of Social and Emotional Well-Being</b></p> <p>Our schools will reopen knowing that the COVID-19 pandemic has created different types of traumatic experiences and high levels of stress for many of our staff, students, and families. The pandemic has shown the importance of social/emotional well-being for all. In addition, there is a growing body of research proving that social/emotional learning (SEL) is fundamental to academic success.</p>
	<p><b>Achievement at Expected Grade Level</b></p> <p>Our schools will consider and solidify a systematic cycle of assessments, including initial screenings and formative and summative assessments in order to inform instruction and gauge student learning. We will work to analyze individual student data to identify shifts and changes in instruction to meet students' needs and implement intervention strategies.</p>

In addition to our own priorities, the Canterbury Public Schools are expected to follow the guidelines of the State Department of Education. Such publications are posted on [www.ct.gov/sde](http://www.ct.gov/sde). These guidelines are subject to change.

The SDE has provided each district with a template to support its Safe Return to In-Person Learning

There are five areas that school districts must consider when developing the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan:

**I. Health and Safety Strategies**

**II. Continuity of Services**

**III. Public Comment**

**IV. Periodic Review Process**

**V. Understandable and Uniform Format**

Overview:

**I. Health and Safety Strategies**

Below are descriptions of Canterbury's approach to provide a suite of mitigation strategies to keep students and staff safe.

- **Universal and correct wearing of masks:** Canterbury Public Schools will follow all State Department of Education mandated policies regarding mask wearing. If mask wearing becomes a local decision the Board of Education will discuss and take action on the matter prior to the start of school. While school is in session and effective until July 20, all staff, students and visitors will wear masks while inside school buildings until otherwise directed by the CDC, CT-DPH or CSDE or by Executive Order.
- **Physical distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts/podding):** The district will comply with CDC guidelines.
- **Handwashing and respiratory etiquette:** Handwashing procedures will be displayed in all public and student restrooms and will be continued as a standard protocol throughout the day. Signs for proper respiratory etiquette will be displayed in classrooms and hallways and reviewed with staff and students on a regular basis.
- **Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation:** The district will continue its current cleaning protocols. Bathrooms and high touch surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected regularly.
- **Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments:** The district will continue to utilize contact tracing protocols developed during the 2020-21 school year and will continue to collaborate with the Northeast District Department of Health on community contact tracing. The district will follow current CDC and CT-DPH guidelines on isolation and quarantining.
- **Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible:** The district will continue to partner with the Northeast District Department of Health and other health providers to provide vaccination clinics to staff and students as needed. The district will continue to share vaccination literature with the Canterbury community.

- **Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies:** The district will continue to accommodate students with special health care needs or disabilities whose learning (direct instruction) or other needs (e.g. assisting with toileting, feeding, or ambulation) may require closer proximity and/or direct contact or other accommodations.

## **II. Continuity of Services**

The district will utilize existing staff and additional staff hired through the ESSER II and ARPA/ESSERIII grants to ensure continuity of services to address the academic, social, emotional, mental and physical needs of students. The district will have a full in-person learning in place. A remote learning option is not available in the 2021-2022 school year. The district will utilize local and grant funding to provide interventions for students.

## **III. Public Comment**

Public comment is a key element of stakeholder engagement. The public can provide feedback through the following Google Survey that will be open until June 22, 2021.

<https://forms.gle/3zSGewB67qGaKkcQ8>

## **IV. Periodic Review Process**

Canterbury is required to periodically review and, as appropriate, revise their Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan at least every six months through September 30, 2023. Each review must include seeking public comment on the plan and developing the plan after taking into account the public comment.

Below are the dates that Canterbury must submit a refreshed or updated plan to CSDE via eGMS.

Review/revisit Dates:

- June 22, 2021 - Initial Survey: <https://forms.gle/3zSGewB67qGaKkcQ8>
- December 23, 2021
- June 23, 2022
- December 23, 2022
- June 23, 2023

## **V. Understandable and Uniform Format**

Federal regulations require that this plan be in an understandable and uniform format, to the extent practicable; is written in a language that parents can understand or, if not practicable, orally translated; and upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability, provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent. Canterbury Public Schools has utilized the Connecticut State Department of Education's template to ensure that the information is in a uniform format. CPS currently will provide a copy of this document in requested languages or in an oral format as requested or any other format to ensure accessibility.