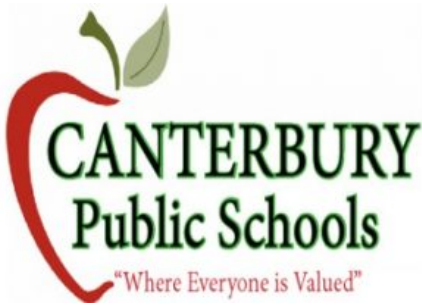


Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan 2021-2022

Based on the Connecticut State Department of Education Guidelines

Date of Submission:	June 15, 2021
LEA Name:	Canterbury Public Schools
Plan Point of Contact:	Steve Rioux, Superintendent
Contact Email:	srioux@canterburypublicschools.org
Contact Phone:	860-546-6950



December 23, 2021

Canterbury Public Schools is committed to supporting the children of our town. The past two years proved to be a challenging time as we all navigated the complexities of learning during the COVID pandemic. Canterbury was able to provide a mostly full in-person learning model from October 5, 2020 until the present. Various mitigation strategies were used to support our efforts to maintain an in-person learning model. In the 2021-22 school year we began to modify some of the mitigation strategies that were used last year. While cohorting is still being utilized, it is to a lesser degree. More children have more opportunities to interact with one another in school.

Mask wearing and social distancing are key factors in helping to minimize the spread within our schools. Anecdotal evidence supports the notion that the transmission of COVID continues to be rare within our school community. As a result, some students can utilize the “Screen and Stay” option if they become a close contact with someone who has COVID. This option has allowed about 50% of students identified as close contacts to remain in school.

Our goal is for children, families, and staff to remain as safe as possible while engaging in educational opportunities. The next two to three months will pose many challenges as COVID rates are increasing at a significant rate. It is our intention to continue to offer an in-person learning model. However, if your child is ill, please keep them home and seek medical advice.

The following pages of our plan 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 through our December 2021 survey, <https://forms.gle/wieo3ExErNCyaeiR9>

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 is currently implementing 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 winter and spring, 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.





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 remote learning model at the school level can only be implemented with direct approval from SDE.

A central belief is that the children of Canterbury need to be connected to teachers, interventionists, service providers, coaches, and mentors. It is currently 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>Safety of Students and Staff</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>Development of Appropriate Educational Opportunities</p> <p>Our schools will remain in 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>Awareness of Social and Emotional Well-Being</p> <p>Our schools will remain open 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>Achievement at Expected Grade Level</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. These guidelines are subject to change.

The SDE has provided each district with a template to support its Continuity of Service Plan for 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.
- **Hand washing 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, quarantine, and “screen and stay guidelines” 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, quarantining, and screen and stay.

- **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 generally 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 January 7, 2021.

<https://forms.gle/wieo3ExErNCyaeiR9>

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 Completed
- December 23, 2021 - Feedback Survey: <https://forms.gle/wieo3ExErNCyaeiR9>
- 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 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.