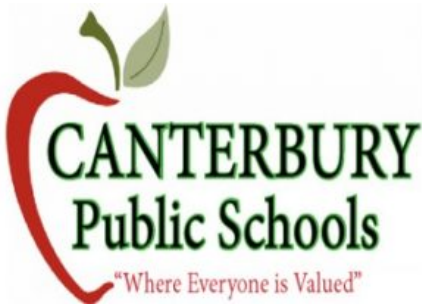


Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan 2022-2023

Based on the Connecticut State Department of Education Guidelines

Date of Submission:	August 29, 2022
LEA Name:	Canterbury Public Schools
Plan Point of Contact:	Steve Rioux, Superintendent
Contact Email:	srioux@canterburypublicschools.org
Contact Phone:	860-546-6950



August 29, 2022

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. In Canterbury we were able to provide a mostly full in-person learning model from October 5, 2020 and beyond. 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.

We are now planning strategies for the next school year. Once again, remote learning is not an option for Canterbury students. It is likely we will be required to continue to implement various mitigation strategies to help support the safety of staff and students.

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.

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.





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

	<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 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>Awareness of Social and Emotional Well-Being</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>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 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. At this time mask wearing is not required unless a student or staff member was contractive COVID. students and employees will need to isolate themselves for five days and then wear a mask around others for five more days.
- **Physical distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts/podding):** The district will comply with CDC guidelines. At this time there are no mandates requiring physical distancing.
- **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.
- **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 2022-2023 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 December 22, 2022.

<https://forms.gle/jgCZmNC8BBJJJwdy8>

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:
- December 23, 2021 - Second survey
- August 29, 2022 - Third Survey <https://forms.gle/jgCZmNC8BBJJJwdy8>
- 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.