




Washington Township Public School Task Force
for the Reopening of Schools



The Washington Township Public School Task Force is working diligently to develop a plan for the reopening of schools in the Fall. The Task Force consists of 8 subcommittees to ensure that we can deliver this plan to the community efficiently while utilizing multiple perspectives and input from administration, teachers and staff from multiple departments, supervisors, board of education members, parents, local experts, and other community members, as needed. The Task Force and committees include over 30 district parents, many of whom serve in dual roles as staff and/or board of education members. The following are a few determinations that we would like to communicate at this time:

Instructional Schedule 2020-2021

The Washington Township Public School Task Force has approved the proposed instructional schedule for returning to school this Fall. We determined that this schedule is the best way to keep our staff and students as safe as possible while providing meaningful instruction. As noted in our previous communication, we are required by the NJDOE to implement particular “minimum standards,” as outlined in their publication, [“The Road Back.”](#) This includes social distancing in classrooms, hallways, and buses, to the greatest extent possible. In order to provide 6 feet of social distance between desks, we must divide our students into cohorts. The cohorts will be as follows:

Monday/Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday/Friday
In-Person Cohort A	ALL STUDENTS REMOTE 	Remote Learning Cohort A
Remote Learning Cohort B		In-Person Cohort B
In-Person Cohort C		In-Person Cohort C
Remote Learning Cohort R		Remote Learning Cohort R

To summarize:

- **Cohort A** will attend in-person instruction on Monday and Tuesday and will be remote Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.
- **Cohort B** will attend in-person instruction on Thursday and Friday and will be remote Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.
- **Cohort C** will attend in person instruction Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday and will be remote Wednesday.

- Please note that Cohort C will include all students in self-contained special education programs as well as our English Language Learners as these programs depend on in-person instruction to be most effective.
- **Cohort R** will be completely remote.

As stated in prior communication, we will be asking all parents (via survey) for their preference in how they would like their child(ren) to receive instruction. Parents will select from the following options for each child in the family:

- I would like my child to receive in-person instruction. (*Cohorts A, B, or C*)
- I do NOT want my child to receive in-person instruction. I would like my child to receive all instruction remotely. (*Cohort R*)

Please note:

- All children residing at the same address will be assigned to the same cohort (A or B), unless the parent selects remote instruction (Cohort R) for a particular child.
- Wednesday will include remote instruction for all students; it will also include teacher office hours, synchronous check-ins, and virtual supplemental supports. It will also allow for deep cleaning of our school buildings.
- Cohort C will automatically be assigned to students in self-contained special education classrooms and to our English Language Learners; however, parents of these children may select the fully remote option (Cohort R).
- For parents who are opting for in-person instruction (Cohorts A or B), please be aware that we cannot accommodate requests for a specific cohort (A or B). If you select “I would like my child to receive in-person instruction,” the district will assign your child(ren) to the appropriate cohort so that we can ensure proper social distancing.
- We understand and appreciate that it is difficult to make a fully-informed decision about your child(ren)’s instruction without receiving the final re-opening plan (as it is being developed); therefore, we will provide one more survey immediately after the final plan is released. You may change your selection at this time. After this survey has been conducted, we may not be able to accommodate any changes to your selection (in-person or full remote instruction) once your choice has been submitted as we need to maintain specific numbers of students per class to maintain social distancing.

Finally, with the implementation of the instructional schedule noted above, we are changing the first day of school for students to Tuesday, September 8, 2020.

Transportation 2020-2021

As noted above, the district is making every effort to comply with social distancing in every aspect of the student experience. This includes our bus transportation. For those families who opt for their child(ren) to receive in-person instruction, we respectfully request that any family who is able transport their child(ren) to school to waive their right to transportation. Please note that while this is not a requirement, the more families who can assist us with providing their own transportation, the better we

can keep our students and staff safe during this portion of the day. Therefore, if you select “I would like my child to receive in-person instruction. (*Cohorts A, B, or C*)” in the survey, you will also be asked to select from the following options for **each** child:

- I will waive my child’s right to transportation for this year or until social distancing is no longer necessary.
- I do NOT waive my child’s right to transportation for this year. I am requesting bus transportation. (*Please select this option if you can only provide transportation for your child one way (to or from school), but not the other*)
- My child is a walker and does not need transportation.

Please note:

- As stated in the previous section, we understand and appreciate that it is difficult to make a fully-informed decision about your child(ren)’s transportation without receiving the final re-opening plan (as it is being developed); therefore, we will include the above transportation options in the survey that will be employed after the final plan is released. You may change your transportation selection at this time.

2020-2021 Schedule and Transportation Survey

This survey will be completed through the Unified Classroom Parent Account. It is extremely important that all parents are able to access their account in order to take this survey. Please confirm that you are able to log in to your [Unified Classroom Parent Account](#). If you have any difficulty or do not have an account, please contact Charlie Doud at cdoud@wtps.org at your earliest convenience.

- If you are having difficulty accessing your account, please send an email including:
 - your full name,
 - the email used to set-up the account, and
 - the full names of your child(ren)
- If you need to set-up an account, please send an email including:
 - your full name,
 - the email you would like to use to set-up your account, and
 - the full names of your child(ren)

Moving forward, your access to this account will be necessary to receive important communications and access other information so please be sure that your account is set-up and active. We are happy to assist you!