



**Flushing Community Schools
Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan
Reconfirmation Meeting
Required Every 30 Days After Initial Plan Approval**

Agenda:

- Reconfirm how instruction is going to be delivered during the 20/21 school year
- Public comments from parents and/or guardians on the Extended Learning Plan
- Review weekly 2-way interaction rates

Reconfirmation Meeting for February, 2021 (February 9, 2021)

Reconfirm how instruction (Return to Learn Plan) is going to be delivered during the 20/21 school year:

(Recommendation: Explain in narrative form any modifications to the original Extended Learning Plan)

As you are aware, we have continued to be in constant communication with the Genesee County Health Department, and they have been fully supportive of the learning plans that we have adopted. We continue to meet extensively with the health department, with our most recent meetings taking place on Wednesday, February 3rd and Monday, February 8th. I can assure you that our learning plan continues to be supported by the GCHD and follows their guidance. Their continues to be an insistence on and a recommendation to utilize the most effective mitigation strategies, including a diluted population of students especially while in Risk level D or E (hybrid), social distancing of 6 feet or greater whenever possible, the use of masks, readily available and proper use of PPE, adherence to strict cleaning and disinfection protocols, and an increased emphasis on proper hygiene, including hand sanitizing, hand washing, and proper covering of cough and sneeze.

As a district, we currently have roughly 71% of our students that have elected to attend school using our hybrid learning plan when allowing in person learning and 29% that have continued with our 100% online learning option. Our elementary buildings remain between 18-23% online, our middle school remains roughly 30% online, with our High School 100% remote learning percentage continuing to increase and near 40%, with some of that increase due to student athletes opting into 100% online learning so that they do not run the risk of having to quarantine due to being a close contact in a classroom.

As you are aware, we were able to bring our K-12 students back into the classroom using our hybrid learning schedule on Monday, January 11, 2021, so we have been back for roughly 4 weeks of in-person learning. During this time, it has been incredibly

encouraging that we have been able to keep our students and staff members safe and in school by successfully adhering to the necessary mitigation standards within our school buildings. It has been a true team effort with our families and we are thankful for their adherence to these protocols so that we can continue to consider bringing students back into the classroom more than they are currently allowed to under our hybrid plan. We need to continue to emphasize that parents need to keep their students home if they are exhibiting any symptoms, or if they have been exposed to any symptomatic people in the household. Furthermore, students should absolutely be kept out of school if they are awaiting test results or if someone in the home or that they have been exposed to is awaiting test results.

Based on ongoing dialogue with the GCHD, there are currently very low numbers of Covid positive Flushing Community School students and our staffing levels continue to be positive, at this point making it possible to sustain a consistent and highly effective in person product under our reduced density/hybrid plan. As I have previously stated, our ability to staff appropriately for in-person learning is directly related to community spread and correlates with county data. When there have been rising numbers in our county, we have had more staff members impacted and vice/versa. As we have consistently shared, we want to continue to do whatever we can to keep our students and staff members safe while ensuring a highly effective learning environment and it is our hope that ongoing guidance and feedback from the health department, as well as having the necessary staffing levels will allow us to maintain this hybrid learning plan until the time that we are able to bring students in on a more regular basis, which may not be far off. While we are committed to continuing our hybrid learning model at this time, we are committed to revisiting this decision daily as we continue to move toward bringing students in for more than two days of in-person learning under our current hybrid plan.

A common question that district leaders get throughout the state is what it will take to get students back into school regularly, and I will share that the answer is multi-faceted. First of all, we need to continue to see a downward trend in the number of cases in Genesee County. This has continued to trend negatively, which is very encouraging. A continuation of this trend will allow us to move out of risk levels D(71-150) and E (150+), and into risk levels B(20-40), and C (41-70), allowing for more consideration and support given by the GCHD to support in-person learning. The main concern remains an insistence on and ability to maintain social distance in our classrooms, cafeterias and other common areas. While this mitigation strategy has led to there being less spread in schools, it has to be reconciled with the fact that it will no longer be a possible mitigation strategy that we are able to utilize once we are no longer hybrid. It will not be regularly possible to socially distance once students are back 4 or 5 days in-person, so everyone needs to be on board with the ripple effects of that decision. In the past couple days, there have been a couple positive cases in our buildings. Those positive cases have resulted in the quarantining of less than 10 other

individuals. Once social distancing is not possible, many more will be impacted. We have to know that going in.

The next consideration is the fact that roughly 114 of our nearly 500 employees have had the option to get their first vaccination through the Genesee County Health Department. As you are aware, a pause of in-person learning was necessary earlier in the year due to not being able to have the necessary staff healthy to successfully carry out in-person learning. While our community spread data continues to trend in the right direction, a much larger in-person student population will result in closer contact with each other and with school employees, increasing their risk. There are currently appointments scheduled for 51 more employees that work with students to be vaccinated this Friday, so at the end of this week, roughly 165 of our employees will have had their initial vaccination through the GCHD program for school employees. Some have been able to get the vaccination through other means as well, although it is not yet to a point where the majority of our staff that desires to get the vaccine has been able to get it. This should and will be given great consideration as well. Not only is Flushing Community Schools the largest employer in our area, but we certainly have the largest number of employees working in close quarters with large numbers of people all day as well. Simply stated, it will be more difficult for our employees to socially distance because of the number of customers they come into contact with daily.

We are consistently and thoroughly aware of how hard this has been on our students and on our families. The physical, social-emotional and mental health of all of our students is incredibly important, and we are aware of the toll that this is taking on our kids. Through the two personal interactions we currently have a week, we are doing everything possible to address students academic needs as well as their mental and social-emotional needs. We have been able to connect struggling students to additional supports, and have made that a priority. We have responded to individual requests for support or help with students, and have tried to keep the communication wide open from our families to our buildings. If there is a need, I encourage anyone listening to please reach out to our buildings, to our teachers, to our principals, and to our support staff, and we will work to continue to address the growing needs of our students.

Finally, we are all very aware that there has been a push to bring students back into the school setting nationally, as well as locally. It is encouraging to hear that students do not seem to be the super-spreaders that they were once thought to be. In perhaps the understatement of the year, I have no doubt that many of the folks tuning in to our board meeting this evening are very supportive of and wanting students to be in more days than they currently are. Our own state legislature and Governor have talked openly of prioritizing bringing kids back into in-person learning by March 1st. As we have prioritized, our kids have had the option of in-person learning throughout this school year, albeit under our hybrid plan. This particular message from our state

leaders was most intended for those districts that have not been providing an in-person option like we have. The politics between the Governor and the legislature in this instance is meant for districts that have remained 100% online. It isn't meant to imply that districts have to offer 5 days of in-person learning, or that it is necessarily inherently safe to do so. In every article stating, implying or highlighting that it is safe for students to be back in school, which I have seen more and more of, it is with the caveat that mitigation factors are adhered to. That is lost in most of the messaging, which we just need to be aware of.

Having said all that, and I appreciate your patience, we remain committed to continuing to evaluate the best time to expand on our current hybrid model, and we will, like mentioned earlier, work closely with the GCHD, our district leadership, our staff members, and our board of education in deciding the best time to do that. We all want students back in school more than they currently are, and as soon as we feel the data supports that, we will make that decision. It is truly a day to day and week to week process and decision, and we are not bound to a monthly decision. We look forward to what the data looks like in the coming weeks, and look forward to getting kids into school more than they currently are as soon as we can.

As you are aware, the hybrid Instructional/ learning model is a difficult model for both teachers and students. While it allows for the greatest amount of in-person learning possible. allows us to address some of the social emotional needs of our students, and assures the greatest amount of necessary social distancing in our classrooms, our hope remains that consistently positive and improving data in the coming weeks will allow us to move in the direction of more in-person instruction as soon as possible. We remain hopeful that our current hybrid model serves only as a positive transitional learning model as opposed to the model that will be used for the remainder of the year.

We will continue to follow the guidance of the GCHD regarding our learning plans. On behalf of our teaching staff and district, we thank you for your ongoing partnership and support of making the most of this school year, and again, I know it has not been easy.

This evening, I will once again share with you the most recent data shared with us by the health department, which is very positive, as well as take you through the data available to us at www.mistartmap.info, the website used to capture the most recent data available to us. As mandated, I will also share our weekly attendance / two-way interaction rates for the last 4 weeks, which remain strong. We will then open our meeting to any public comments regarding the confirmation of our Extended COVID 19 Learning Plan, should there be any.

Document Public Comments during this portion of meeting: (If applicable)

1. Parent spoke of the flawed metrics being used, listening to the wrong people. Wanted clarification regarding whether it was guidance or mandate. Spoke of the limitations of online learning, and its impact on her own children. Does not understand why we are not able to do it safely.

2. Letter read to board, extremely disappointed, frustrated, and hopeful. Needs kids in school. Understood it originally, but not at this point. Virus is not going away anytime soon. Worried about impact on kids and families. Stated that it is currently an overwhelming situation for her and her 3 kids, even with help.
3. We have a choice on whether to follow the guidelines or not. Knows there are challenges in other schools, mentioned brother in law in a high school setting, but advocating for younger students to go back as soon as possible. Frustrated by the difference in our county plans. Asked who gets to decide what is safe for her kids. Would like choice.

Review Weekly 2-Way Interaction Rates

JAN 11 – FEB 4, 2021	All Students
Week 1	January 11 – January 15 - ECC – 96.40%, Central -96.50%, Elms – 94.51%, Seymour – 96.98%, Springview – 95.96%, Middle School – 93.05%, High School – 93.62%.
Week 2	January 19 – January 22 - ECC – 94.54%, Central -96.56%, Elms – 95.53%, Seymour – 97.37%, Springview – 96.30%, Middle School – 93.55%, High School – 94.17%.
Week 3	January 25 – January 29 - ECC – 95.56%, Central -96.32%, Elms – 93.17%, Seymour – 97.05%, Springview – 95.77%, Middle School – 93.08%, High School – 94.99%.
Week 4	February 1 – February 4 - ECC – 95.75%, Central -96.85%, Elms – 93.75%, Seymour – 96.72%, Springview – 95.92%, Middle School – 93.22%, High School – 95.36%.