



Tully Elementary School 7/23 Reopening Forum Questions

Below are the questions submitted on the Google Form and most of which were answered during the July 23rd TES Parent Webinar Forum. Answers to the questions are based on information that was accurate as of July 23, 2020. **(Updated question #8 with new mask policy 7/29/2020 - updates in Bold Black)**

Question	Answer
<p>1. Will you be doing half days?</p> <p>If students have to go to remote learning can services like speech and OT be given in person?</p> <p>What about Chorus and extra-curricular activities?</p>	<p><i>We will be offering full days of instruction only.</i></p> <p><i>As of now, the plan for related special education services (speech, OT/PT) will be similar to what currently exists for extended school year summer school programs. In-person related services will be allowed provided we can meet health/safety guidelines established by New York State. Otherwise, related services will have to be provided remotely.</i></p> <p><i>If Chorus is offered, twelve feet of separation between students is required per guidance. No decision regarding offering of extra-curricular activities has been made.</i></p>
<p>2. What if we close again?</p> <p>Kids will get normal illnesses. How do you balance them vs COVID temperatures and symptoms?</p>	<p><i>If we are required to close schools for a period due to COVID, students will all receive remote instruction from their assigned teachers and then re-evaluate after.</i></p> <p><i>We're going to have separate spaces for isolating ill students from those who may come down for other reasons (medications, blood nose, etc...) The school nurse will be the primary contact and there will be a written protocol. She'll make an initial assessment and if she believes there's a possibility of COVID based on the symptoms, we'll have to follow that guidance. In the past, we've done everything to try to keep children in school, now we're probably going to have to be overly cautious the other way and exclude children from school more often.</i></p>
<p>3. What about families who are choosing not to social distance or wear masks in the community? How do we make families follow the recommendations if their children will be attending school?</p>	<p><i>We can only control what takes place in schools and we are required to provide training and enforce policies, including wearing masks and socially distancing, based on the state education and health departments. That's a very clear position. The more that home and</i></p>



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	<p><i>school are consistent, the easier it will be for students, but families will do what they think is best for their families. In school, we will be consistent and if a student refuses to use a mask or social distance, we'll have a conversation but it may be necessary to exclude the student from school and transfer them to remote learning.</i></p>
<p>4. Will there be an afterschool program?</p>	<p><i>Yes. Mrs. U will communicate what it will look like once the school district officially selects the reopening format(s) and the Governor allows schools to reopen. She will also need to follow her own set of state guidelines.</i></p>
<p>5. When will parents know what the final decision is so we know how to properly plan and prepare our child for what is to be expected?</p>	<p><i>Soon. We are mailing out a paper survey to PK-4 grade parents this week and 5th-6th grade next week asking for a more binding commitment to a particular instructional choice and transportation needs.</i></p>
<p>6. If we are offered the opportunity to send our children to school, but they end up struggling, would we have the option to switch them to remote or hybrid learning?</p>	<p><i>This also applies to switching from remote to in-school. It will depend on staffing and space availability. It may be easier to move to remote learning from in-school than vice-versa. Switching would result in students changing teachers as we are planning on having different teachers instruct the remote learners and the in-person students. With the exception of special area teachers, staff would not be doing both simultaneously. All teachers will be certified to teach the grade level/subject that they are assigned to.</i></p> <p><i>There may be special circumstances that arise (life events) that require greater flexibility in accommodating changes in instructional formats.</i></p>
<p>7. For students who will be remote learning only, how will instruction be different? Kids are not able to stay on a computer watching live stream or zoom of their class activities for a full 7 hours. Is the delivery of instruction different? How will teachers manage those two types of learners?</p>	<p><i>We will be providing professional development to staff now that we have the ability to plan more thoughtfully as opposed to the "emergency" scrambling that took place in the spring. At the elementary level, students will not be expected to sit in place in front of the screen for an entire typical school day, every day.</i></p> <p><i>I don't have specific details or schedules at this time, but there will likely</i></p>



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	<p><i>be a combination of whole class meetings, small-group/individual meetings, and offline experiences.</i></p> <p><i>As mentioned above, the plan is to not ask individual teachers to balance in-person and remote learners at the same time. Should schools be required to “close” again, teachers providing in-person instruction would transition to remote instruction of their assigned students.</i></p>
<p>8. How long will school be in session each day? Will students stay in their assigned classroom for all subjects? Will there be outside recess? Would the children have to wear masks the entire day even at their desks? Will the TASP be open?</p>	<p><i>Currently, the plan is for full-day instruction for all learners. It is very possible that students will stay in their assigned classroom for the entire day, but it may be possible for some movement (special area classes) and hopefully recess in some capacity. Students receiving related special education services (OT/PT, speech) will likely be pull-out.</i></p> <p><i>Students will be required to follow the mask guidance from NYS DOH and SED. We are placing desks 6 feet apart so students would not need to wear them during instruction unless getting up to move in the room. Masks will be required at all times outside of classrooms unless they are eating. Even if masks are able to be removed, students and staff always have the option to keep them on if they are more comfortable doing so.</i></p> <p>Update: On July 29, 2020, The District revised its policy to require all students and staff to wear masks at all times, even when socially distanced, unless they are eating or taking a “mask break.” The change in mask policy is the result of on-going conversations with the Onondaga County Health Department and other organizations. In terms of student health and safety, we are following the lead of the public health authorities and their guidance/recommendations out of an abundance of caution. We are entrusted for hours everyday with the safety of our community's children and at this time the health experts in the area are strongly recommending wearing masks at all times. Our protocol with mask breaks (duration, frequency, etc...) will be developed with consultation with the District Physician, but it has not been established at this time. There are also exceptions for specific students spelled out</p>



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	<p>in the state guidance document; those will require documentation from a physician.</p> <p><i>Tully After-School Program will be open.</i></p>
<p>9. If I choose to have my children do distance learning for the beginning of school, is there an option to allow them to return to school for in person learning later in the year. (Specifically if a parent, such as myself, accepts employment outside of the house which will then require my children to be present at school.)</p>	<p><i>Please see question #6 above.</i></p>
<p>10. With very little child care in the Tully district (and no family in the area either) could students that do not have a place to be (but parents have to work full time), be considered for 5 days at school if only Pre-K - 3rd are given full days?</p>	<p><i>Our goal is to try and accommodate all students who want to have in-person instruction. We understand that child care/supervision options are very limited. Certain groups will be prioritized for in-person instruction, even if we are not able to accommodate an entire grade level, such as students with special needs.</i></p>
<p>11. Are parents choosing in-school learning to alleviate a financial burden? Do they just want Social exposure for their children? Are parents of the potential exposure that they may bring home?</p>	<p><i>This was not part of the survey, so I cannot comment with certainty, but it is likely that a combination of factors are playing a role in parents' decisions.</i></p>
<p>12. Why wasn't hybrid an option for the students in PK-4? I would like all kids on the same schedule.</p>	<p><i>The guidance documents prioritize in-person instruction for as many younger students as possible, so we are trying to provide that. This is in line with the other small southern districts in the OCM BOCES: Fabius-Pompey, Lafayette, Marathon, McGraw, and Onondaga. We have all met to discuss reopening and I believe that our plans will end up being very similar. Some will not be able to accommodate in-person as much as we believe we can. We are fortunate to have more space available in our building.</i></p>
<p>13. Changes or improvements to virtual learning?</p>	<p><i>Please see question #7. There is a difference between doing this on the fly as happened in the spring, versus being intentional with 10 students and structuring a combination of on-line and offline experiences. We will</i></p>



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	<p><i>keep what we found worked well in the spring and find alternatives for what did not.</i></p>
<p>14. What about proximity to bathrooms for students who have physical needs to be close to a bathroom?</p>	<p><i>All students have access to a bathroom in close proximity to their classroom. Not all classrooms have bathrooms in them, but in the Preble Wing, the farthest distance would be from the playground doors to the common bathrooms and on the second floor from Mrs. Schaber's and Mr. Wilson's rooms. If a student has a medical/physical need, please contact Mrs. Knuth so that we can make sure things are documented properly or if there are physician's orders that we need a copy of.</i></p>
<p>15. With the staggering of drop off, where will the children go/do while waiting for school to start?</p>	<p><i>Mr. Herrick is working on this. Obviously, this is easier to figure out when the weather is nice compared to January/February. Placing all the students in the lobby is not a feasible solution. We may need to use multiple spaces or allow students to go to their classrooms sooner. Related to this question, we are also working on breakfast options. There will also be the considerations for temperature checks.</i></p>
<p>16. Will students be required to provide own PPE or will the school provide the PPE?</p>	<p><i>We encourage students to wear/bring their own PPE, but should a student not have a mask, we will provide one for them. We will have extras available in the event a student forgets, or accidentally soils their own mask. This will also apply to any approved visitors.</i></p> <p><i>Staff are encouraged to bring their own face coverings, but the school will also provide these to staff along with any specialized PPE that is required to provide instruction to specific students and for the nurse to provide appropriate care.</i></p>
<p>17. What happens if a child in my child's classroom tests positive for COVID? Will the class have to quarantine?</p>	<p><i>We will follow the Department of Health guidance in place at the time and follow their direction along with our medical director. It may be possible that the class will have to quarantine, but it is not a certainty.</i></p>
<p>18. Will parents be able to send students to school if they have a cough/runny nose/etc, these can be common cold symptoms but</p>	<p><i>Yes, there will be guidance and a protocol for handling other illnesses, etc... These will be established by the medical direction and school</i></p>



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<p>they could also be covid symptoms? I assume there will be guidance on this but am curious as I know you said things will be strict (which I agree with 100%). And would we have to keep both kids home if only one has symptoms? And since we have to side with caution - if we are not allowed to send them to school during that time could be a day or 2 or 3 (or if there happens to be a positive covid case in the class and we need to quarantine for 14 days or if a child is made to get a covid test which can take up to 7 days) will students be given a way to learn remotely during these circumstances, so they don't get behind (IF we chose the in person option).</p>	<p><i>nurses in accordance with DOH guidance.</i></p> <p><i>Any student who is required to quarantine for whatever reason, we will have to continue to provide instruction in some way (likely online connections). We are still working out specific details as to how that would work, but we will do our best to keep students at home as engaged as possible so that they are still on track with their classmates when they are able to return.</i></p>
<p>19. If schools close again and our child was in the IN PERSON option, will teachers be prepping for this to transition on the back burner?</p>	<p><i>Please see question #7.</i></p>
<p>20. Remote option- attendance recording and engagement. Curious if this will be flexible? For example if my job were to let me work from home but I also have 2 kids distance learning and 1 requires more assistance so I may not be able to put my attention on their actual work until 3 pm. Will there be leeway on this item?</p>	<p><i>We will need to figure this out and fine tune once we are up and running. There will definitely need to be some flexibility, especially for our youngest learners, but it also is not practical to have teachers accessible 24/7. More to come...</i></p>
<p>21. I understand the drop off times being staggered in the morning, how late can the staggering go? Curious for getting to work on time. How will the pickup times work? We have the kids in the TASP (I would imagine we call when we arrive and they send the kids out) but if that is not a go for some reason how would it work after school is over?</p>	<p><i>At the moment, parents should plan on buses running on similar schedules as last year with parent drop-off/pick-up occurring either a few minutes earlier or later depending on final scheduling. The Tully After-School Program will communicate their own plans for parent pick-up.</i></p>
<p>22. If a kid is sent home with COVID symptoms and has to wait for a negative test which takes many days. Or a whole family has to quarantine due to possible exposure will there be support on line or otherwise so the kids don't fall significantly behind?</p>	<p><i>Please see question #18.</i></p>



<p>23. We were wondering what the guidelines suggest regarding siblings of children who get an illness. If one child has a fever, should we keep all children home until the sick child has a negative Covid test? Or is it okay to send well children?</p>	<p><i>We will develop a plan in accordance with the nurse and medical director. We will communicate this out.</i></p>
<p>24. Can temperature checks be taken prior to the students boarding a bus?</p>	<p><i>Yes. We are working on a protocol for how to collect student temperatures each day.</i></p>