

- March 2021 -



A Family Guide to Hybrid Learning



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PHILADELPHIA



ADVANCING
EDUCATION SAFELY

SY2020-2021

About Hybrid Learning in Philadelphia Public Schools

To further support safe school environments, our goal is for most schools to follow an AA/BB Schedule where $\frac{1}{2}$ of the in-person students would attend schools in-person on Mondays and Tuesdays, and the other half on Thursdays and Fridays. This staggered scheduling limits the number of students in school buildings each day and helps maintain social distancing in all spaces throughout the day. Schools will have some flexibility in organizing this schedule to best accommodate their students' needs and maximize safety precautions.

Teachers will provide direct instruction to all students either via in-person learning or via live stream.

- Hybrid students will attend school in person 2x/wk and engage remotely via live stream on the days they are home.
- Digital students will receive instruction via live stream daily.
- During independent practice, hybrid students at home AND digital students will log off of their computers and complete assignments. In-person students will complete assignments in class.
- Small-Group instruction will occur throughout the week. Teachers will pull in-person students and some digital students into virtual small groups while the other students work independently.

All students are expected to attend school five days per week, whether face-to-face or digital, in alignment with state and School District regulations and requirements. During both face-to-face and digital learning, teachers will mark student attendance. School-based and central office staff will actively identify students who are not regularly attending class and assist with addressing the barriers preventing each student's attendance.

Hybrid Learning Frequently Asked Questions

Question (Q): If I choose hybrid, can I choose whether my child is on an AA or BB schedule?

Answer (A): No, it will be assigned at the school level based on the number of families who choose the hybrid model.

Q: What happens if my child attends the wrong day of in-person class?

A: The expectation is that students follow their assigned schedule. Should they accidentally come to school on a wrong day, principals will communicate with the family so the student can still participate in instruction and return to their individual schedules.

Continued failure to follow the correct schedule may jeopardize the family's ability to continue to participate in the hybrid model.



Q: When will additional grades (Phase 2) start in-person learning?

A: The order and timing of additional students and grades are to be determined, based on guidance and data from the Philadelphia Department of Public Health, the Pennsylvania Department of Education, and the Pennsylvania Department of Health. A date has not been solidified as of yet.

Note – students Prek-2nd grade who did NOT opt for hybrid initially WILL BE ALLOWED TO REGISTER their student for hybrid learning as part of Phase II.

Q: How will grades be handled during virtual and hybrid learning?

A: For information on grades and marking guidelines visit our Curriculum & Instruction Office [HERE](#) and review our FAQs [HERE](#).

More Hybrid Learning Resources for Families:

[Return to Hybrid Learning Updates](#)

[Technology Support](#)

[Internet Access](#)

[Guidelines for Attendance and Truancy](#)

[Hybrid Learning Overview](#)

[Learn More about Chromebooks](#)

COVID-19 Student Pre-Entry Screener

All parents/guardians will be required to conduct a daily pre-arrival screening of their children at home, before their children leave for school, which involves taking temperatures daily and monitoring for the symptoms identified below.



Frequent Cough



Shortness of Breath



Sore Throat



Chills



Headache



Muscle Pain



New Loss of Taste or Smell



Fever of 100.4°F or above

1. In the past 24 hours, have you had one of the following symptoms unrelated to a pre-existing medical condition: frequent cough or shortness of breath?

☐ Yes ☐ No

2. In the past 24 hours, have you had TWO of the following symptoms unrelated to a pre-existing medical condition: sore throat, chills, headache, muscle pain, new loss of taste or smell?

☐ Yes ☐ No

3. In the past 24 hours, have you experienced a fever of 100.4°F or above?

☐ Yes ☐ No

4. Have you been in close physical contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 14 days? *Close contact: Within six feet of a Covid positive person for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period during the 48 hours before the positive person exhibited symptoms or if asymptomatic, 48 hours before the Covid test was administered.

☐ Yes ☐ No

5. Have you traveled outside of Pennsylvania in the past 10 days?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If any of the responses to the questions above are YES, please do not send your child to school and contact the school nurse for further instructions!

How to Support Your Child in Practicing Good Personal Hygiene

Here Are Some Ways to Encourage Proper Hygiene with Your Child:

1 Model Good Etiquette for Them

As your child goes about their routine outside of school, show them examples of how you take proper precautions, like wearing your mask over your mouth and nose and washing your hands for 20+ seconds.

2 If Possible, Let Them Pick Their Own Mask

Masks come in all different patterns and designs. If possible, ask your child to pick out their mask so they take special ownership of it and want to show it off properly to others.

3 Practice Proper Hygiene and Incorporate into Play

Playtime can be very impactful on the social lives of children. Perhaps your child can have their dolls wash their hands before their meal or have their stuffed animal wear a mask to show them the importance of these things.

4 Set Goals and Find Small Rewards for Good Behavior

Taking ownership and responsibility for things can be impactful for children. Write your child's name on their mask if possible and let them know it is theirs to take care of and wear properly. Think about reasonable rewards if your child is successful in practicing good hygiene.

We understand that good hygiene and cleanliness are some of the most important factors in preventing the spread of COVID-19 in all spaces. [Cleaning and disinfecting protocols](#) have been implemented in all District buildings for school staff to do their part in keeping members of our school community safe. Students will also be expected to play a role in this and will gently be reminded of ways they can do so throughout the school day. There are medical exemptions for students who are unable to wear face masks during the school day.

There are protocols in place for students who refuse to wear a mask, beginning with contacting a parent or guardian. If a student continues to refuse to wear a mask, the School District of Philadelphia will send a formal letter home to the family to let them know the child has been assigned to 100% digital learning for the duration of the marking period.



What Kids Can Do to Keep Themselves and Others Safe While at School



Wash or Sanitize Hands Frequently



Remain Six Feet From Others at All Times



Wear Face Mask Over Mouth and Nose



Always Cough and Sneeze into Elbow or Tissue



Keep Areas Free of Trash and Unnecessary Items



Bring a Water Bottle to School Every Day

Transportation To and From School

Before boarding a school bus, van, or sedan/cab, parents/guardians will be required to conduct the COVID-19 Student Pre-Entry Screener found earlier in this guide. If any of the responses to the screener questions are yes, please do not send your child to school and contact the school nurse for further instructions. If a student experiences the onset of symptoms while being transported to or from school, the appropriate protocols will be followed according to the [Student Ridership Responsibilities](#). Your driver will arrive to pick up/drop off your child at the time listed on the parent transportation notification letter. All drivers and attendants must wear a face mask that covers the mouth and nose at all times while in direct contact with your child.

Appropriate social distancing measures will be taken to ensure students and drivers maintain at least a six foot distance from each other. Each student will receive a specific seating assignment, which is made based on your child's pick up and drop off time.



Here's how you can prepare your child for their ride to school:

- Apply hand sanitizer to your child's hands prior to boarding, if possible.
- Remind your child about the proper way to wear a face mask and that they need to keep it on at all times.
- Let your child know that they can speak to the bus driver if they feel unwell or unsafe on their commute.
- Check that your child has a second mask secured in a clear, Ziploc bag, labeled with their name, to ensure that they have a replacement if one becomes unusable.

Eating Meals at School

Students will start out eating breakfast and lunch in their classrooms. In some cases, cafeterias will be set up with self-serve stations where students will safely pick up pre-packaged meals and utensils and then return to their classroom to enjoy their meal. In other cases, food service workers will serve students, who will then take the meal back to the classroom or meals will be delivered directly to the classrooms.



Cafeteria workers will follow enhanced CDC food preparation and safety guidelines. In all cafeterias, a touchless hand sanitizer station will be at the door for students to use on their way in and out. Floor arrows will direct orderly traffic flow in the cafeteria and tables will be marked to designate where students can safely sit to ensure proper social distancing.

Here's how you can support your child for their school meal times:

- Remind them about good hygiene around mealtimes. They should wash their hands thoroughly or use hand sanitizer before eating their meals.
- Explain the importance of keeping their hands away from their eyes, nose, and mouth as much as possible at all times, but especially while eating.
- Emphasize the importance of sharing with others, but why food or drinks should not be shared with other students.

In-School COVID-19 Testing for Students



In our efforts to plan for our students to return to school in the safest manner possible, the School District of Philadelphia is providing COVID-19 testing for all students. COVID-19 testing is part of a comprehensive multilayer approach to the safety and protection of students and staff. The multilayer approach means this is not dependent on a single strategy, instead all strategies are “layered” and interdependently work together to increase the safety for students and staff. The layers include promoting behaviors that reduce spread (e.g., mask use, social distancing, hand hygiene); maintaining healthy environments (e.g., cleaning and disinfection, ventilation, signage); maintaining healthy operations (e.g., scheduling, digital learning, class sizes); and preparing for when someone gets sick as well as screening all students and staff for signs and symptoms of illness. COVID-19 testing is an added layer of precaution that is not conducted in isolation, but will be used along with the other approaches.

About The Test

The School District will provide Abbott’s BinaxNOW COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Test to students for whom we have received prior parent/guardian consent. This test is a quick nasal swab of both nostrils. It is found to be fast and painless. (It is NOT the deep-sinus swabs that some individuals have found uncomfortable.) The test involves inserting a small swab, like a Q-Tip, into the front of the nose in both nostrils; and results will be available in 15 minutes.



Testing Consent

COVID-19 testing will be required for all students participating in hybrid learning in grades PreK-2. Because testing will need to be performed regardless of a parent or guardian’s availability at the time a test will be administered, prior consent for testing is required for all students who participate in hybrid learning. To consent to this testing, you need to review the consent form, complete the requested information, and submit it to the School District of Philadelphia. If you picked hybrid participation for your child but do not complete and return this form acknowledging your consent to the testing program, your child will continue to participate in their class through digital participation as they have been doing this school year. [Please click here to complete the consent form.](#)

HOW TESTING WORKS



Your child will participate in COVID-19 routine testing.



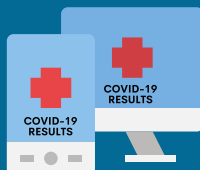
We use a rapid antigen test. It’s quick, easy, and painless.



15 min

Results from the test come back in only 15 minutes.

THE RESULTS



Families will be notified of their child’s results by email or text on the day their child was tested.



If your child tests positive, he or she will need to stay home for 10 days, and may also need to have their results confirmed with a PCR or molecular test. Students can participate in digital learning if their health allows.





To learn more information about in-school COVID-19 testing for students, please visit www.philasd.org/studenthealth/COVIDtesting.

A Student's Day When Learning in School

Here is an example journey of a 5th grade English Learner named Jenaira. Please note, this is only exemplary and each student may have a different journey depending on their school.

Jenaira's School Journey During Face-to-Face Learning Days - 5th Grade Student; English Learner



Key:  Going to School  Entering the School  Being Inside School  Leaving School

Get the Help You Need with Hybrid Learning

In-person learning can phase in safely if we all do our part, remain patient and flexible, and plan ahead. We will continue to share updates as we move to slowly and safely phase our students back to in-person learning.



Your Child's Teacher & School

The best place to start is your child's classroom teacher(s). They can be reached by email, ClassDojo, or any other methods they may have set up. If you cannot get your issue resolved in this manner, you may contact the school principal.

School District of Philadelphia Hotlines

Hotline support for general questions about the School District of Philadelphia is available Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Hotlines are available in the 10 major languages of the District and can be reached [at the numbers listed here](#).



The Advancing Education Safely & Get Help Sites

The most up-to-date information about the slow return to in-person learning can be found on the [Advancing Education Safely website](#). The Office of Family and Community Engagement's Get Help page is your one-stop-shop for how to get in contact with all of the relevant staff in your child's school. Visit it at www.philasd.org/FACE/gethelp.

Sign Up for a Parent & Family Portal Account

The School District of Philadelphia's [Parent & Family Portal](#) gives you direct access to valuable information about your child's education and school. This includes your child's attendance information, grades, immunization records, report cards, and more! You can opt-in to receive emails, phone calls, and text messages for important updates.



For the latest updates and information regarding both hybrid and digital learning, please visit www.philasd.org/aes or look for communications from your child's school.