



Remote Learning Plan

August 21, 2020

The mission of the Wappingers Central School District is to empower all of our students with the competencies and confidence to challenge themselves, to pursue their passions, and to realize their potential while growing as responsible members of their community.

REMOTE LEARNING PLAN

Equity is at the heart of all school instructional decisions. All instruction in our District will be designed so that whether it is delivered in-person, remotely, or through a hybrid model, there are clear, comprehensive, and accessible learning opportunities for all students. Such opportunities will be aligned with State standards. Our Continuity for Learning plan outlines routine, scheduled times for students to interact and seek feedback and support from their teachers. Our plan is centered on instruction and academic programming that includes regular and substantive interaction with an appropriately certified teacher regardless of the delivery method (e.g., in person, remote or hybrid).

The school calendar typically includes one or more staff-only days before students arrive at school. This year, the District has built in five Superintendent's Conference Days prior to the students returning to school. Acknowledging the challenges that our teachers and staff have faced this spring delivering remote instruction under stressful circumstances, the District will focus these in-service days on providing support to staff in the areas of social-emotional health, health and safety, technology integration, blended-learning instructional practices and the use of academic resources to ensure cohesive implementation of Continuity of Learning.

As we enter the new school year, teachers will be encouraged to spend time building relationships, supporting students with the transition back to school, and teaching social distancing etiquette at developmentally appropriate levels.

When a remote or hybrid learning model is necessary, certain groups of students may be prioritized for in-person learning to the greatest extent possible. This includes, but is not limited to, special education students, English Language Learners, students who did not engage in remote learning during the spring of 2020, and students with technology or connectivity needs. More specific information regarding scheduling will be provided as it becomes available.

Assessing student learning gaps or areas of need will be critical. Formative assessment before a unit of instruction to assess student understanding of pre-requisite skills will be common practice.

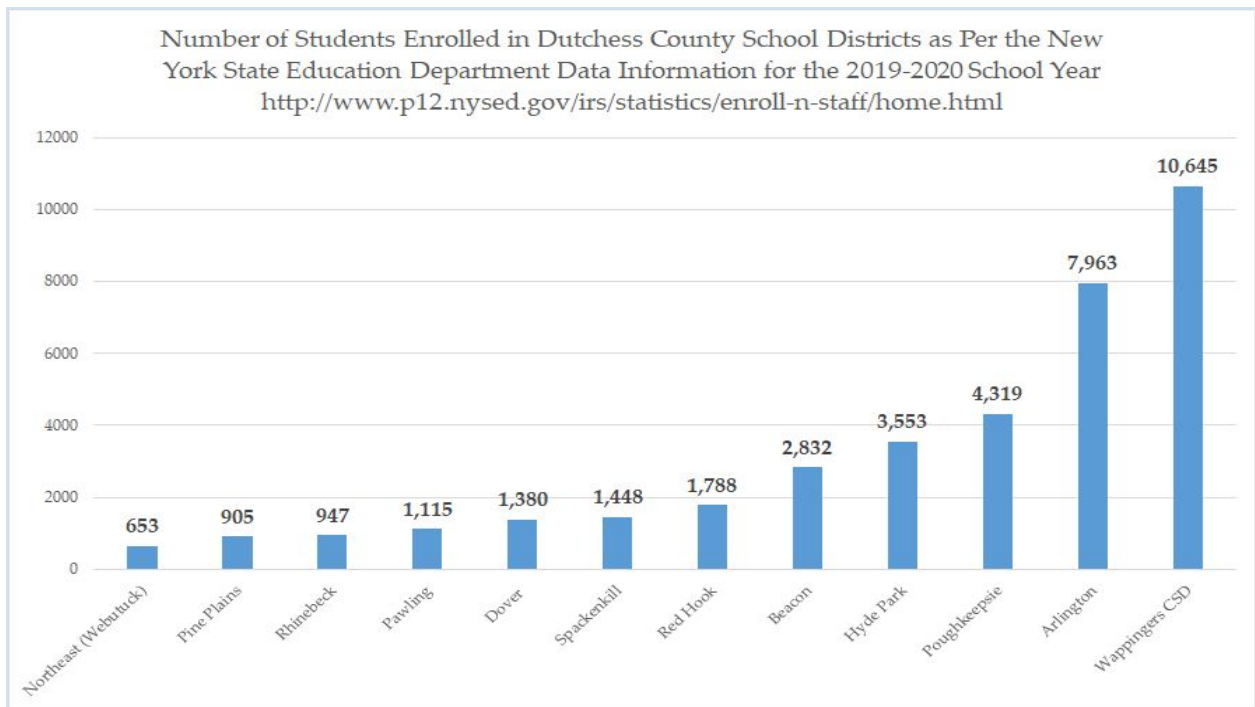
Acknowledging that the typical content in a given grade level or course may need to be adjusted, content will be prioritized to ensure that students receive instruction for the prioritized learning standards, key understandings, and skills necessary for students' success in future study.

Grading practices will most likely follow a standards-based framework designed to provide direct feedback regarding students' mastery of course content and be similar to the District's regular grading procedures.

Our Remote Learning Plan consists of two components:

- Remote Learning with a [Phase-In Hybrid Model Schedule](#)
- Remote Learning for students for the entire first marking period for parents who will select this option (if the application is not completed, we will enroll students into the Phase In Hybrid Model)

Finalizing the details of the two components is rather detailed and complex for a District of our size. The WCSD has over 10,000 students and approximately 800 teachers and support staff. Please see the chart below:



Wappingers CSD is proud to be a part of this team of districts where we have continued to work collaboratively in the best interest of our students and families.

The WCSD will begin remote learning for **all** students beginning September 10, 2020 with a phased-in hybrid model. During full remote learning, students will receive both synchronous and asynchronous learning opportunities on a daily basis. In order to meet the NYS requirement for providing *regular and substantive interaction* between teacher and students, both synchronous and asynchronous teaching and learning will be provided on a daily basis. Students will be expected to participate in synchronous learning opportunities at various pre-scheduled times throughout the scheduled school day.

The anticipated school day start and end times for the student's are as follows:

- Elementary Level (Grades K-6): 8:25 AM - 3:25 PM
- Secondary Level (Grades 7-12): 8:00 AM - 2:25 PM

Please note: We strongly believe that students need to participate in an array of learning opportunities. Therefore, students will not participate in synchronous learning activities for the entire school day. Teachers will provide families and students with specific schedules and times when synchronous learning will occur.

*Please be advised that the student start times and end times **may** have to be modified/adjusted to ensure all safety requirements under the NYS Department of Health and New York State Education Department, (i.e. entering and exiting a building with social distancing, traveling between classes, cleaning rooms and bathrooms throughout the school day, and more to consider), are being adhered to.*

Student Schedules

Schedules for secondary students (Grades 7-12) will be provided to families on Thursday September 3rd, 2020.

Elementary teachers will provide families and students with a schedule prior to the start of the school year. This work will be solidified, as it has always been done, during the first week of Professional Development and Teacher Preparation Days.

District Phase-In Hybrid Model Schedule

As we continue to build our plan to have our WCSD students return to school in Hybrid Model. We want to ensure that safety is paramount. This plan allows for our youngest students to become acclimated to the routines, procedures and rules they must follow. It is always difficult but definitely rewarding when trying to get our youngest learners into a routine, and under these conditions, we will ensure to continue to work with our WCSD families to ensure that together we can have successfully have our young students in our schools. As noted we will also be working to phase in our Students with Disabilities with high needs and beginner and intermediate ENL students in our schools more than 2 days a week as viewed in our Cohort Schedule. Due to the size of our Districts and schools facilities ranging in size we will do our best to try and accommodate our students. Once we are able to guarantee how many families will commit to learning remotely for the first ten weeks, we will be able to solidify the aforementioned.

Page 41 of our Reentry Plan: When a remote or hybrid learning model is necessary, certain groups of students will be prioritized for in-person learning to the greatest extent possible. This includes, but is not limited to, special education students, English Language Learners, students who did not engage in remote learning during the spring of 2020, and students with technology or connectivity needs. More specific information regarding scheduling will be provided as it becomes available.

Remote Instruction

Full-time remote/virtual learning opportunities for students will include a greater emphasis on synchronous instruction, with teachers providing opportunities for live instruction and lessons to students. Synchronous learning will be scheduled in alignment with the approved schedule. Asynchronous learning activities will be scheduled daily as appropriate to ensure instruction is aligned with the New York State Learning Standards and assures equity as well as quality for all learners. The learning opportunities that are provided synchronously and asynchronously will support student learning in achieving the objectives of the course.

Conflicts with Synchronous Learning Scheduled Times

When providing synchronous learning opportunities throughout the day at all grade levels, it will be inevitable that conflicts will arise. Families/students should address any conflicts associated with synchronous learning with the classroom teacher and building principal. Staff will work collaboratively with the family/student to address each unique circumstance.

Science Laboratory Requirements

Per Commissioner's Regulations, courses that culminate in a Regents examination in science must include 1200 minutes of laboratory experiences. Due to the possibility of a hybrid or full-remote model of instruction as a result of COVID-19, the 1200-minute lab requirement can be met through hands-on laboratory experiences, virtual laboratory experiences, or a combination of virtual and hands-on laboratory experiences coupled with satisfactory lab reports for the 2020-21 school year. This laboratory requirement is in addition to the course requirement and entitles a student to admission to a culminating Regents Exam. The school district is responsible for aligning laboratory experiences specific to each science course; determining the mode or modes of instruction; and identifying a viable vetted list of acceptable virtual labs or a combination of virtual and hands-on labs that a student would need to complete for each science course that culminates in a Regents examination. Schools must determine a method for students to record laboratory experiences and satisfactory lab reports. In a virtual environment, emphasis should be placed on the quality of the experience and the satisfactory completion of each laboratory experience rather than the time spent in

completing such laboratory experience. Any student who has completed all laboratory experiences in accordance with teacher expectations shall be deemed to have met the 1200-minute requirement.

Distribution of Textbooks/Instructional Resources

Some courses may require the distribution of textbooks and or other instructional materials to support remote learning. In these specific instances, arrangements for student pick up and distribution of identified items will be made in collaboration with the classroom teacher, department teacher in charge, department director and the building principal.

The WCSD [School Re-Opening Planning](#) addresses **Remote Learning** on page 38 under school schedules; please see below:

Remote Learning (page. 38)

*During the 2019-2020 school year from March-June 2020, the District created a comprehensive remote learning plan that was communicated and shared with the entire school district community. Based on the plan that was developed, revisions and modifications will be made to ensure that there is continued teacher-to-student engagement, student-to-teacher engagement and student-to-student engagement. Our **Remote Learning Model** and our **Hybrid Model** will be sure to include locally developed learning attributes as well as recommendations/requirements indicated in the NYS Reopening Guidance Document to effective learning and student outcomes:*

- *Create and foster culturally responsive*
- *Student learning center learning environments*
- *Empower students as agents of social change.*
- *Student independent learning*
- *Professional Developers and Facilitators to provide guidance on remote learning, best practices, modeling, demonstration and team teaching*
- *Synchronous Learning Opportunities*
- *Asynchronous Learning Opportunities*
- *Embedded Professional Development*
- *Rigor*
- *Office Hours for Secondary Students (i.e. college-level courses)*
- *A scheduled network of all virtual learning, explicit teaching/lecturing*
- *Project Based Learning*
- *Parent Workshops*

We encourage the entire WCSD Learning Community to read the document!

