

The Pathways Schools 2020-2021 Reopening Plans

Updated September 8, 2020 with synchronous and asynchronous hours

Approved by the Anne Arundel County Department of Health

Will continue to be updated as needed

School Year Opening Day

The first day of school for all Pathways Schools students is **Monday, August 31**. During the first quarter, all students will participate in distance learning. The community-based programs at Edgewood and Anne Arundel will determine on an individual basis, ways in which blended learning may begin to be provided. The school-based program at Edgewood will begin to identify ways in which individual students may participate in a blended learning opportunity, such as work crew. The school-based program at Horizons will only provide distance learning at least through the first quarter.

The Pathways Schools Planning Process

The Administrative Team has worked throughout the summer to consider several factors in determining our reopening plans for the fall.

The various sources of information included:

- feedback from staff, students and family, especially in response to our experiences during ESY,
- guidelines for reopening decision making from the local health departments, state health department, and the Center for Disease Control, and
- state COVID-19 data, including positivity rates.

Just some of the various factors taken into consideration included:

- challenges for parents working outside the home during the day,
- challenges for staff members with children engaged in distance learning,
- range of students' engagement in the distance learning experiences,
- importance of connecting in-person with students,
- students' social and emotional needs,
- students' academic needs,
- reopening plans and guidance from the MSDE and local school systems, and
- most importantly, safety and health of staff and students.

Program Implementation

IEP Implementation

The Pathways Schools team will collaborate with the local school system representatives to discuss with each family the:

- implementation of the approved IEP, included related services, and
- model of programming through distance learning and telehealth, blended experiences, or in-school instruction.

School Day Schedule for First Quarter

The school day is aligned with the schedule prior to the pandemic and will allow for a smoother transition as we are able to return to the schools. The schedule will include:

- 7 hours on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, and
- 4 hours and 35 minutes on Wednesdays.

We have built schedules for distance learning that prioritize:

- challenging academic coursework,
- providing essential instructional supports, and
- social emotional support.

The schedule is designed to balance:

- providing credits,
- opportunities for independent practice and supported learning sessions with available interventions and supports from staff members, and
- break times away from the screen.

All students will be scheduled for five days of instructional programming incorporating:

- synchronous and asynchronous learning, and
- individual and group therapy through telehealth, and
- speech and language pathology and occupational therapy services, consistent with students' IEPs.

Time is built into the weekly schedule to:

- meet with teachers and support staff,
- provide related services,
- participate in clubs, specialty therapy groups, and
- engage in other experiences geared toward individual needs and interests.

Synchronous learning, is distance learning that happens in real time with the interaction between the Pathways staff and students and occurs in a virtual learning environment, includes:

- direct teacher instruction or related service provision,
- targeted small group or individual instruction and teacher led group discussions,
- assessment and checking for understanding, and
- office hours that include meeting with students.

Asynchronous learning includes:

- digital platform instruction and pre-recorded video lessons,
- resource videos and assigned readings,
- independent practice and paper/pencil learning activities, and
- posted assignments.

Sample Schedule #1: Student Distance Learning Schedule for First Quarter

Time	Period	Mon, Tues, Thurs, and Friday
8:00-8:30	HR	Morning Community Group - Check-ins
8:30-9:00	1	Live Instruction
9:00-9:15	1	Supported Learning Sessions
9:15-9:20	Break	Break
9:20-9:50	2	Live Instruction
9:50-10:05	2	Supported Learning Sessions
10:05-10:10	Break	Break
10:10-10:40	3	Live Instruction
10:40-10:55	3	Supported Learning Sessions
10:55-11:00	Break	Break
11:00-11:30	4	Live Instruction
11:30-11:45	4	Supported Learning Sessions
11:45-12:20	Lunch	Lunch
12:20-12:50	5	Live Instruction
12:50-1:05	5	Supported Learning Sessions
1:05-1:10	Break	Break
1:10-1:40	6	Live Instruction
1:40-1:55	6	Supported Learning Sessions
1:55-2:00	Break	Break
2:00-2:30	7	Live Instruction
2:30-2:45	7	Supported Learning Sessions
2:45-3:00		Afternoon check-ins

Time	Period	Wednesday
8:00-8:30	HR	Morning Community Group - Check-ins
8:30-9:00	1	Live Instruction
9:00-9:10	Break	Break
9:10-9:40	2	Live Instruction
9:40-9:50	Break	Break
9:50-10:20	3	Live Instruction
10:20-10:30	Break	Break
10:30-11:00	4	Live Instruction
11:00-11:10	Break	Break
11:10-11:40	5	Live Instruction
11:40-11:50	Break	Break
11:50-12:20	6	Live Instruction
12:20-12:35	Wrap Up	Staff Check-ins
12:35-3:30		<i>Student support hours may be scheduled</i>

	Mon, Tue, Thu and Fri	Wed and early dismiss	Total for week
SYN: Live time instruction/ related services	3 hrs 30 min per day	3 hours	17 hours
SYN: Supported Learning Sessions	1 hr 45 min per day	0	7 hours
SYN: Other: Community Group, Wellness Activity, Check-ins	45 min per day	45 min	3 hours 45 min
ASYN: Breaks from Screen time & Lunch break	1 hour per day	50 min per day	4 hours 50 min
<i>Total Synchronous Hours (SYN)</i>	<i>6 hours</i>	<i>3 hours 45 min</i>	<i>27 hrs 45 min</i>
<i>Total Asynchronous Hours (ASYN)</i>	<i>1 hour per day</i>	<i>50 min per day</i>	<i>4 hours 50 min</i>
<i>Total Hours</i>	<i>7 hours</i>	<i>4 hours 35 mins</i>	<i>32 hours 35 mins</i>

For high school: 6 credit classes with 1 non-credit class for therapy, related services, supports, additional activities

Sample Schedule #2: Student Distance Learning Schedule for First Quarter

Time	Period	Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays
8:05-8:30	HR	Morning Community Group - Check-ins
8:30-9:00	1	Live Instruction
9:00-9:15	1	Supported Learning Sessions
9:15-9:45	2	Live Instruction
9:45-10:00	2	Supported Learning Sessions
10:00-10:15	Break	Break
10:15-10:45	3	Live Instruction
10:45-11:00	3	Supported Learning Sessions
11:00-11:30	4	Live Instruction
11:30-11:45	4	Supported Learning Sessions
11:45-12:15	Lunch	Lunch
12:15-12:45	5	Live Instruction
12:45-1:00	5	Supported Learning Sessions
1:00-1:30	6	Live Instruction
1:30-1:45	6	Supported Learning Sessions
1:45-2:15	7	Live Instruction
2:15-2:30	7	Supported Learning Sessions
2:30-3:05		Teacher office hours/Connection time/ Wellness & Enrichment Activities

Time	Period	Wednesdays
8:05-8:30	HR	Morning Community Group - Check-ins
8:30-9:00	1	Live Instruction
9:00-9:05	Break	Break
9:05-9:35	2	Live Instruction
9:35-9:45	1 & 2	Supported Learning Sessions
9:45-10:15	3	Live Instruction
10:15-10:20	Break	Break
10:20-10:50	4	Live Instruction
10:50-11:00	3 & 4	Supported Learning Sessions
11:00-11:05	Break	Break
11:05-11:35	5	Live Instruction
11:35-11:40	Break	Break
11:40-12:10	6	Live Instruction
12:10-12:15	Break	Break
12:15-12:30	5 & 6	Supported Learning Sessions
12:30-12:40		Staff Check-ins – extra support
12:40-3:30		<i>Student support hours may be scheduled</i>

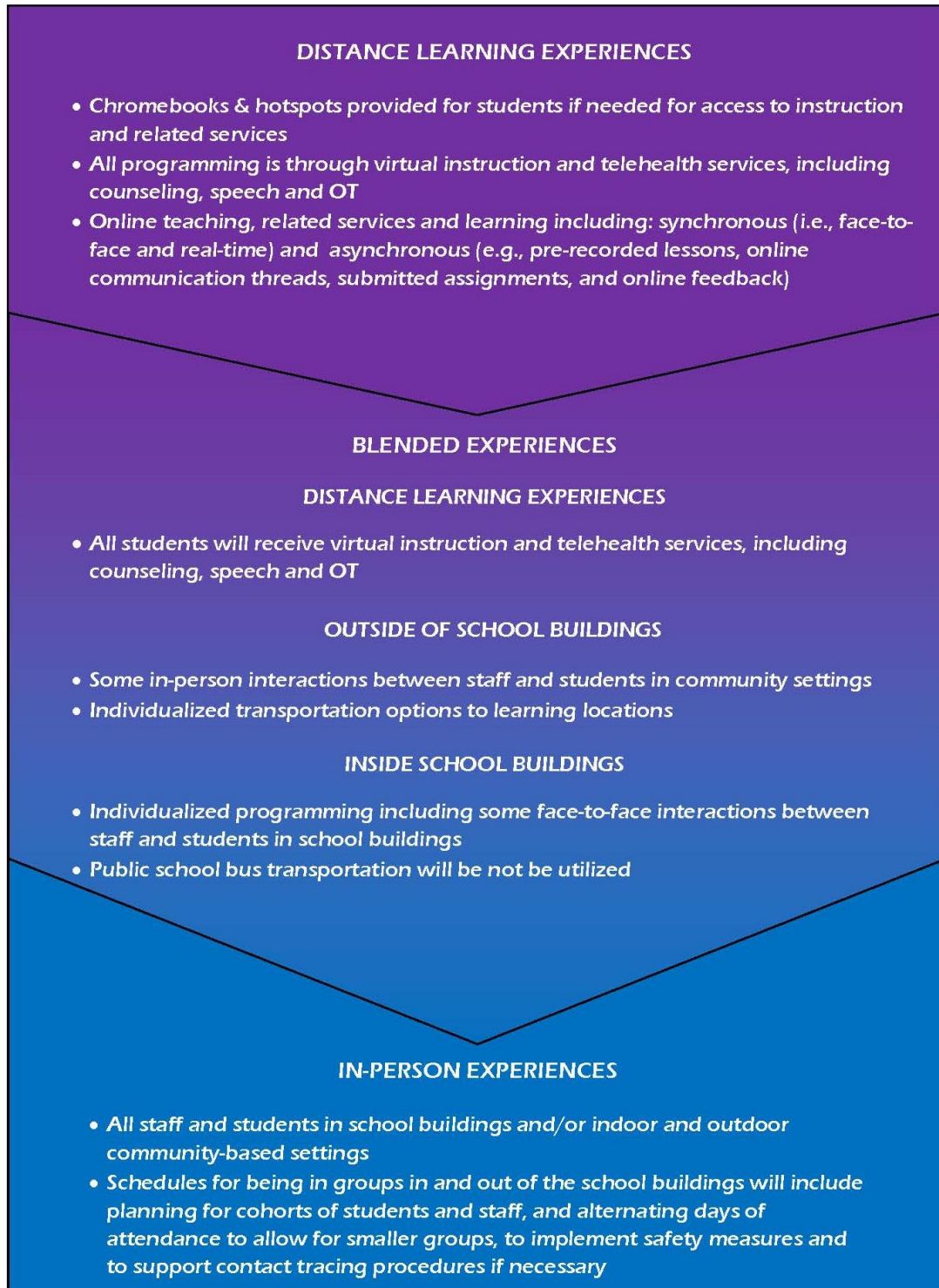
	Mon, Tue, Thu and Fri	Wed and early dismiss	Total for week
SYN: Live time instruction/ related services	3.5hrs per day	3 hours	17 hours
SYN: Supported Learning Sessions	1hr 45min per day	35 min	7 hours 35min
SYN: Other: Community Group, Wellness Activity, Check-ins	1 hour	35 min	4 hours 35 min
ASYN: Breaks from Screen time & Lunch break	45 min per day	25 min per day	3 hours 25 min
<i>Total Synchronous Hours (SYN)</i>	6 hrs 15 min per day	4 hours 10 min per day	29 hours 10 min
<i>Total Asynchronous Hours (ASYN)</i>	45 min per day	25 min per day	3 hours 25 min
<i>Total Hours</i>	7 hours	4 hours 35 mins	32 hours 35 mins

For high school: 6 credit classes with 1 non-credit class for therapy, related services, supports, additional activities

Continuum of Teaching, Telehealth and Learning Experiences

THE PATHWAYS SCHOOLS PLAN FOR REOPENING OUR DOORS CONTINUUM OF TEACHING, TELEHEALTH & LEARNING EXPERIENCES

(updated 8.24.20)



Attendance and Engagement

Attendance will be tracked daily and during each period. Synchronous sessions are 30 minutes each and students are expected to be visible online for at least 20 minutes to be considered present. There may be specific consideration based on individual circumstances.

To encourage engagement, staff will:

- contact students at the start of the day and/or during the day with reminders,
- assess individual needs for logging in and participating on a regular basis,
- develop activities that are motivating and relevant,
- offer academic and emotional support to students individually as needed, and
- provide incentives for participation.

Support staff including behavior intervention specialists, one to one aides, and instructional assistants will be directly involved in supporting student engagement. They will also be responsible for tracking the logging in and logging out of students each period.

Ways in which additional supports will be offered include:

- providing virtual direction for physical activity, arts and crafts, and games for virtual breaks,
- assisting with troubleshooting technology or other issues related to distance learning,
- delivering incentives to students' homes,
- contacting students and families,
- collecting data, and
- one to one aides assisting individual students to support the implementation of the IEP.

Technology

Google Classroom and Zoom will be the primary platforms for facilitating instruction and telehealth. Other applications and online resources will be utilized as appropriate for specific courses, activities, and interventions.

To ensure that all students have access to distance learning, a survey will be conducted to assess needs for a Google Chromebook and/or a hotspot for Wi-Fi connection. If either is needed, Pathways Schools will coordinate with the local school systems to make them available.

Progress Monitoring

Gradelink will continue to be utilized for tracking assignments, participation and grading. Related services will continue to be documented in the online IEP systems for each jurisdiction.

Assessment of Presents Levels

An online assessment, such as IXL, will be administered for each student to determine present levels for reading, math and writing at the start of the year or upon enrollment during the school year.

Health and Safety Considerations

We are planning several steps in the process of moving toward more in-person learning experiences. Our plans to promote health and safety for our staff and students have been developed utilizing CDC recommendations, and in collaboration with our Administrative Team and the local county health departments. We will continue to adjust our protocols and practices as required.

GUIDELINES FOR IN-PERSON CONTACT OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL BUILDING

Health Assessment Before Leaving Home

Prior to any in-person contact on a daily basis, families of each student and each employee will be expected to conduct a health assessment, including:

- Take a temperature reading, and
- Check for symptoms such as cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, and headaches.

With a temperature of 100.4 or higher or any of these symptoms, the student or employee is expected to stay home and consult with a doctor.

Health Assessment Upon First Contact Between Staff and Student Daily

Student's temperature will be taken with a contactless thermometer.

With a temperature of 100.4 or higher or any of the COVID-related symptoms, the student will not be allowed to enter the vehicle or will be sent home as soon as possible.

Guidelines for Employee and Student When Together

- Student and staff member wear mask over the nose and mouth at all times when together
- Maintain physical distance of 6 feet from each other
- Minimize sharing any items such as pens and disinfect items
- Use hand sanitizer frequently throughout the day
- Remain outside primarily and minimally carefully selected indoor locations to prevent the spread of the virus

Guidelines for One Employee Transporting One Student in a Vehicle

- Disinfect vehicle with wipes and/or disinfectant spray (70% or higher alcohol content) - including seats, inside surfaces, and door handles
- Student should sit in back seat on passenger side
- Student and staff member wear mask over the nose and mouth at all times when together
- Keep windows open to increase airflow as much as possible
- Staff and student use hand sanitizer before getting in and when getting out of the vehicle
- Keep a bag (e.g., small grocery bag) in the front and backseat for trash to be disposed each day

GUIDELINES FOR IN-PERSON CONTACT INSIDE OF SCHOOL BUILDING

Schedules

At the time that school buildings are opened for students to attend, a schedule will be developed to plan for safety based on number of staff and students in the building and on the use of space.

Health Assessment

When a student or employee arrives at school, his/her temperature will be taken with a contactless thermometer.

With a temperature of 100.4 or higher or any of the COVID-related symptoms, the student or employee will be isolated and sent home as soon as possible.

Physical Distancing

In classrooms, students will be seated with at least six feet of spacing. With the active guidance of school employees and additional signage, physical distancing of six feet or more will be supported throughout the building. Outdoor spaces will be used as reasonable for specific activities.

Face Coverings

Students and employees will be required to wear face coverings while at school. (When outdoors, masks must be worn when physical distancing of six feet or more is not possible.) *Cloth face coverings are recommended by the CDC for general use.* Signage and support from employees will further help students remember to avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth.

Hand Hygiene

Hand sanitizing stations will be available at every building entrance, in classrooms, and at other locations throughout the buildings. Handwashing with soap and water will be scheduled at multiple intervals throughout the day, including at the transition to lunch.

Health Support

Each school site will have a separate area for students to be isolated in the event they develop COVID-19-like symptoms during the school day. The staff will follow all protocols recommended by the local health department.

In the event of a suspected or diagnosed case of COVID-19 in a school, Pathways will notify and follow the guidance of the local health department regarding contact tracing and quarantining those who may have been exposed. Affected individuals will be contacted and next steps will be shared after consultation with the health department.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

Cleaning and disinfecting of door handles, high-touch surfaces, and restrooms will take place throughout the school day. Each classroom will be equipped with cleaning and disinfecting supplies for use following any student transitions, and as needed. Cleaning and disinfecting of all areas will take place nightly.

Ventilation and Fresh Air

In the classrooms, windows will be opened as reasonable. Staff members will liberally utilize outdoor spaces.

Materials

Extra supplies and equipment will be made available to limit the sharing of items. Items that must be shared will be cleaned and disinfected between uses.

Breakfast and Lunch

Options for making meals available for students will continue to be considered. Students and employees will have the option of bringing food from home. Students will eat in their classrooms or outdoors as organized by our staff. Staff and students will always maintain physical distancing of six feet or more while eating.

Water

Students may not drink from the water fountains in the schools. Water dispensers and/or drinking fountains will be used as bottle filling stations only.

Medication Administration

We continue to encourage all medications to be given at home, before or after school. All medications taken during the school day, when in-person, will continue to be self-administered by the student while monitored by a trained staff member. The parent/guardian and prescribing doctor's permission are required for any medication administration. Special arrangements will be made, in consultation with the prescribing doctor, for any specialized medical needs or treatments, such as with a nebulizer, which may not be administered with a staff member during the school day.

Other Safety Considerations

Large Gatherings

Large gatherings, such as the Pep Rally or school-wide group meetings, will be held virtually.

Parents and Visitors in Schools

As we begin the year, we will limit any visitors in our buildings. All meetings with community members and parents will be held virtually.

School Bus Transportation

As we plan to move to blended learning including some in-school programming, we will coordinate with the local school systems regarding safe options for transportation.