



FREEDOM AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

2020-2021

**SCHOOL REOPENING
PLAN**

OVERVIEW



Dear Freedom Area School District Families,

Summer Greetings. We are writing today to let our District families know that much work has been accomplished so far this summer to make sure our schools will be ready for your child this fall whether you prefer an in-person experience or an online experience. This School Reopening Plan Overview publication introduces our most up-to-date 2020-2021 school year re-entry information. As you know, the ever-changing landscape and revised virus information may cause us to update or even change our plans frequently. We have the ability to adjust to situational changes, and we will work hard to monitor such indicators of change.

The upcoming school year will require all stakeholders to sincerely work together each and every day. The Freedom Area School District will again be focusing on the safety of each of our students and staff and providing a quality education for all. Our goal is to open five days a week while incorporating preventive measures and protocols designed to remain open. The fundamental guiding principles of our return include: physically distancing when possible, reduced group sizes to possibly reduce exposure to the virus, and increasing cleaning and mitigation efforts. We also recognize that we have students and staff who have special medical needs which require individual accommodations.

We also have an online learning option for our families who prefer not to come to school at this time. The emphasis of the online instructor will be to directly present lessons that make the content relevant to your child, and to better address individual needs in a remote environment. Essentially, lessons taught in the classroom setting will be available either livestreamed or recorded.

In an effort to keep our schools and local businesses open, the Freedom Area School District Board of Education is requiring masks be worn by both students and staff (exemptions and/or accommodations for documented medical reasons will certainly be considered). The Board of Education reserves the right to change the mask requirement.

On Friday, July 31st, you received an emailed link from the District to a survey asking you to make a formal selection of the instructional model you prefer for your child(ren) (ie: face-to-face or Remote/Virtual Learning). Classroom rosters and teacher assignments will be determined after the surveys have been submitted by all families. There will also be important questions and information regarding [busing](#) and [technology access](#). A timely response to the survey would greatly help us prepare even further for the opening of school.

Please enjoy the rest of your summer.

Respectfully,

Kevin Kilstofte
FASD – District Administrator

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DISTRICT RESPONSE PLAN - INTRODUCTION

After careful study of documentation from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) and Department of Public Instruction (DPI) Education Forward guidance documents and public input via survey, the following documents and attachments reflect the Freedom Area School District’s plan to reopen in the fall of 2020. All must recognize that the pandemic presents challenges and variables that can change rapidly. The FASD Reopening Plan is subject to change at any time based on the current guidance from public health.

This overview is intended to answer a number of common questions and provide pertinent information to help families determine the FASD learning option for their child(ren). We cannot plan for every individual possibility, and we will need your patience, understanding, and mutual respect to address your child’s specific needs after we open our schools or enter your homes via online learning. As you know, choosing to come to school inherently increases risk of exposure. During the Freedom Area School District re-entry process, we encourage you to determine the level of participation best suited for your individual or family circumstances.



FUNDEMENTAL PRINCIPLES AND CONSIDERATIONS

As stated earlier, our fundamental principles in planning for the return to school focused on three areas: 1. Physical Distancing (Social Distancing), 2. Social Grouping (Small Groups versus Large Gatherings), and 3. Risk Mitigation (Handwashing, Face Coverings, Self-Care, Cleaning Surfaces, etc.). We recognize that our District plays a role in the overall development of our community. We also recognize that we are an essential service, and collectively strive to ensure that every student is given the opportunity to reach their potential through exceptional academics, the arts, and co-curricular activities.

2020-2021 – FASD STUDENT LEARNING OPTIONS/CHOICES

We recognize FASD families need learning options that not only offer flexibility but also academically meet and exceed the educational standards we hold ourselves to.

As a result of our collaboration and guidance from state and local health agencies, we provide you with the following learning opportunities for the 2020-2021 school year:

IN PERSON (FACE-TO-FACE) LEARNING (4K-12)

- *(K-12) In-person learning five days-per-week (4K-M-W/T-Th Regular Schedule).**
- *Physical distancing and social grouping strategies practiced.**
- *Enhanced cleaning and safety protocols.**
- *In an effort to keep our schools open, the Board of Education is requiring masks be worn by both students, staff, and visitors.**
- *Bus transportation will be available. This is the only place that we cannot guarantee recommended social distancing. Face coverings will be required for your child rides the bus (with noted exemptions).**
- *Music, art, and physical education will be offered in modified versions following social distancing strategies.**
- *Assigned seating whenever possible.**
- *Lunch and recess will be modified following social grouping strategies.**
- *Families may switch to online schooling at any time.**
- *Any individual who tests positive for COVID-19 or who shows any signs or symptoms of illness must stay home.**
- *If a staff member or student in a particular class requires a mandatory quarantine for the whole group by local health officials, the class will be moved to online or virtual status.**
- *FES & FMS Students will remain in their class pods for most of the day. Teachers will rotate to the classes. FHS Students will travel to their classes. Face coverings will be required when traveling in hallways, stairwells, on buses, or moving to go outside, etc.**

WHAT FAMILIES OF IN-PERSON LEARNING CAN EXPECT

1. TEMPERATURE SCREENING AT SCHOOL

- A. When your child arrives to school, they will walk behind a portable partition to have their temperature checked by a staff member with a “no touch” digital thermometer (*we would also encourage families to take temperatures daily at home before sending their child to school).
- B. Anyone with a fever should not go to school. Please do not give them medicine to reduce the fever and then send them to school.
- C. Students and adults should also screen themselves for additional symptoms based on the most up-to-date information from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services by visiting: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/symptoms.htm>

2. ARRIVING AT SCHOOL

- A. In an effort to keep our schools open, expect to see masks worn by both staff and students as this is a Board requirement.
- B. Parents and visitors will have limited access to school buildings.
- C. Students will have designated entrance and dismissal points. These will be different from previous years (ie: specific grade levels will enter/exit at specific doors. Details will be sent in advance)

3. GENERAL SAFETY PRECAUTIONS THROUGHOUT THE DAY

- A. Schools will increase disinfection of high touch areas.
- B. All students and staff will be encouraged to wash/clean their hands regularly.
- C. Schools will limit sharing supplies between students as much as possible.

4. ON CAMPUS AND IN THE CLASSROOM

FASD will primarily practice physical distancing and social grouping in addition to utilizing the following strategies:

- A. In an effort to keep our schools open, the Board of Education is requiring masks be worn by both students and staff. The Board reserves the right to make masks optional if mitigation efforts suggest it is safe to do so. The district will provide masks for students who need them.
- B. Assigned seating will be utilized whenever possible.
- C. Staggered lunches, modified recess, and transition times.
- D. Students are inherently social and opportunities for students to socialize during breaks in the day (recess, lunch) will occur. However, groups will be more regulated than in the past.
- E. Classrooms will be cleaned daily and have disinfectant available throughout the day.

- F. Facilities will have increased circulation of outdoor air as much as possible.
- G. New hand sanitizer stations are mounted outside each classroom in all buildings.
- H. To continue to align with our quality academic standards, FASD will offer our full course offerings including, music, band, etc. with preventative modifications to group size and class location.
- I. FES and FMS classroom enrollments allow for 6 foot social distancing. The vast majority of FHS classroom enrollments allow for the same. The remaining FHS classrooms meet the 3 to 6 foot recommendation by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

5. CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

- A. FASD organized clubs and activities will follow the above guidelines and preventive measures if feasible. Assemblies, field trips, dances, and rallies are not recommended at this time but will be periodically reviewed.

6. ATHLETICS

- A. FASD will follow the recommendations from the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA). The sports of girls' golf, girls' tennis, girls' swimming and diving, and boys' and girls' cross country will be permitted to begin practice with prescribed acclimatization protocol Monday, August 17, 2020. The earliest practice date for the sports of football, boys' soccer, and boys' and girls' volleyball is Monday, September 7, 2020. The FHS Athletic Director will send out more information regarding non-WIAA co-curricular activities.

7. FACE COVERINGS

- A. At this time, the Freedom Area School District Board of Education is requiring that all students and staff wear face coverings while in our schools. Over the next few weeks, District Administration and the Board will continue to monitor the daily health department data regarding the number of positive cases in our area. If the data dictates that face coverings need to continue to be worn to increase our chances of keeping our schools open and further reducing the chances of spread, the Board retains the right to do so.



ONLINE/VIRTUAL LEARNING (AT HOME) (PK-12)

WHAT FAMILIES OF ONLINE/REMOTE LEARNING CAN EXPECT

- *Teaching staff will livestream and/or record each daily lesson that is being presented in the classroom.
- *All students will have access to district provided devices and internet should they need these items.
- *Instructional standards will be the same as those taught in the school setting.
- *In PK students will be provided paper packets of activities along with opportunities to follow the classroom teacher via live or recorded classes.
- *In grades K-2 the Seesaw learning platform will be used for online learning along with livestreamed and recorded lessons.
- *In grades 3-12 the Google Classroom platform and others such as Zoom, Google Meet, etc. will be used to present daily lessons.
- *Students will follow live instruction and their normal “school” schedule, however, classes will be recorded and/or uploaded as necessary.
- *Attendance and participation are required daily.
- *Students can participate in the school lunch program if parents are willing to come to school to pick up the lunch(es).
- *Students will have the opportunity to participate in co-curricular offerings if they wish.
- *Students may transition to in-person learning experiences at any time.

ONLINE ATTENDANCE

The FASD online program follows the state of Wisconsin requirements for school attendance and follows the FASD school calendar including all regular school breaks and in-service dates. In accordance with state law, all children between five (5) and eighteen (18) years of age must attend school full-time until the end of the term, quarter, or semester in which they become eighteen (18) years of age, unless they have a legal excuse, fall under one of the exceptions in the state statutes, or have graduated from high school.

ONLINE GRADING

Teachers and families will work together to achieve success in the area of homework completion and demonstration of knowledge on behalf of the student. General grading practices (letter grades, percentages, and/or standards based grades) will be in place throughout the district, independent by grade level and building.

MITIGATION – TOGETHER WE CAN

The goal is to open five days-a-week while incorporating preventive measures and protocols designed to remain open. No single action or set of actions will completely eliminate the risk of COVID-19 transmission, but implementation of several coordinated interventions can greatly reduce that risk. The following mitigation efforts will make a difference:

1. Staff and students will be asked to practice physical distancing.
2. Staff and students will be asked to practice social grouping to limit the risk of exposure if infection becomes present.
3. Staff and students will be required to wear a face covering and perform a daily health screen at home before school. Anyone experiencing the below symptoms, should stay home and contact their health provider for direction on when it is safe to return to FASD facilities.
 - Fever in the last 48 hours (Higher than 100.4 degrees)
 - Cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Sore throat
 - New headache
 - Close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Muscle pain or chills
 - Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea





FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Will masks be required?

A: In an effort to keep our schools open, the Board of Education is requiring masks be worn by both students, staff, and visitors. The Board reserves the right to continue to make masks mandatory if mitigation efforts require it. The Board also has the right to end the requirement should the health data suggest it is safe to do so. The district will provide masks for students who need them.

Q: What health and safety protocols will be in place within FASD schools?

A: Trainings for students and staff will be conducted regarding recommendations around the following guiding Principles

- Physical distancing
- Social grouping
- Risk mitigation (traffic flow, face coverings, hand washing, cleaning, etc.)

Q: What happens if there is a positive case of COVID-19 at my child's school?

A: The individual identified as a positive case of COVID-19 will be sent home to recover. The Department of Health and Human Services will consult with the District to determine what other actions are required. If a teacher and a class must quarantine, the class will then move to a virtual setting.

Q: How do I select a learning option for my child(ren)?

A: You should have received an email on Friday, July 31st from the Freedom Area School District asking you to make a learning selection for each student in your household.

Q: What if my child(ren) has/have underlying conditions and identifies as high-risk?

A: Students who have underlying conditions that may increase the severity of COVID-19 if infected, should consider the risk of in-person learning. Please consult your doctor about the best level of participation for your child. When in doubt, please consider online as the safest model.

Q: Can my child(ren) start out with in-person learning this fall and then change to online learning?

A: Families may switch to online schooling or in-person schooling at any time. We recognize that home situations can change, and our families may need this flexibility.

Q: Will busing be available for my child(ren)?

A: FASD will continue to provide transportation for eligible families. Families can determine if they want their child(ren) to ride the bus or if they will transport them to school. The following preventive measures will be taken in regards to transportation:

- Busses will be disinfected between routes
- Assigned seating with families sitting together
- Increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible by opening windows
- Since it is the only location where the District cannot guarantee suggested social distancing, face coverings will be required for mitigation measures.

VOCABULARY AND SHARED USE OF TERMS

There are a number of organizations and publications using a variety of terms related to education systems and the ongoing response to COVID-19. Vocabulary listed below outline the way that they are/will be used within the Freedom Area School District.

<p><u>ASYMPTOMATIC COVID-19</u> An individual infected with COVID-19 who does not exhibit symptoms during the course of infection.</p> 	<p><u>MASKS</u> Cloth face coverings are worn to protect other people’s health by limiting the water droplets expelled into a space while breathing or speaking.</p>
<p><u>CONTACT TRACING</u> A strategy used by health departments to prevent the spread of infectious disease. It involves identifying people who have an infectious disease and people who they came in contact with and working with them to interrupt disease spread.</p>	<p><u>PHYSICAL DISTANCING</u> This practice involves keeping a six foot distance from people when practicable to avoid exposure to water droplets expelled during breathing or speaking.</p>
<p><u>DAILY HEALTH SCREEN</u> A daily health screen includes temperature check and respiratory screening to help ensure those that develop symptoms of COVID-19 are not attending school</p>	<p><u>RISK MITIGATION</u> Strategies used to lessen and slow the spread of infectious diseases such as adequate handwashing, self-care and cough etiquette.</p>
<p><u>HIGH-RISK INDIVIDUALS</u> Students who have underlying conditions that may increase the severity of contracting COVID-19. (These individuals should consider the risk of in-person learning.)</p>	<p><u>SELF-QUARANTINE</u> Staff and students experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, suspected or confirmed COVID-19 should stay home and contact their health provider for direction on when it is safe to return to FASD facilities.</p>
<p><u>MANDATORY REPORTING</u> The district is required by law to report a positive COVID-19 case in our schools to the Department of Health and Human Services.</p>	<p><u>SOCIAL GROUPING</u> This practice involves strategically grouping students together in smaller clusters to help lower the risk of COVID-19 exposure and spread.</p> 

FREEDOM AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT COVID-19 - BUILDING ENTRY NOTICE

In order to ensure the safety of all students, employees, and visitors, we ask that you REFRAIN FROM ENTERING A FASD FACILITY if you answer “YES” to any of the questions below:

- 1 Have you been diagnosed with Covid-19?
2. Have you had any of the following symptoms within the last 72 hours?

- Fever
- Chills or repeated shaking with chills
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Pain or pressure in your chest
- New loss of taste or smell
- Diarrhea
- Muscle pain



3. If you have had any of the above symptoms, has it been less than 7 days since your first symptom?
4. In the past 14 days, have you been in a gathering of 50 or more people?
5. In the past 14 days, have you been within 6 feet of any person who has either been diagnosed with COVID-19 or shown any of the symptoms listed?
6. In the past 14 days, have you traveled internationally or domestically to an area known to have a high number of COVID 19 cases?
7. Have you been told by a health care provider or the Department of Health to self-quarantine or self-isolate due to actual or suspected exposure to COVID-19?

If you are unsure of the questions above, or whether you have potentially been exposed, please contact your local health department or the FASD District Nurse us at (920) 788-7944.

RESOURCES AND REFERENCES

American Academy of Pediatrics

345 Park Boulevard

Itasca, IL 60143

www.aap.org

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

1600 Clifton Road

Atlanta, GA 30329

www.cdc.gov

Outagamie County Public Health

Appleton, WI 54911

Phone: (920) 832-5100

PHQuestions@outagamie.org

<https://bit.ly/OutagamieHealthCovid>

Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS)

Madison, WI 53703

Phone: (608) 266-1865

DHSwebmaster@wisconsin.gov

www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/

Wisconsin Health Connect

Online Health Screening Tool

www.wihealthconnect.com

