

Thornton Township High School District 205 School Re-Opening Plan for the 20-21 School Year

Framework

The District 205 school re-opening plan for the 2020-2021 school year is based on joint guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). That guidance may be found [here](#).

After long and careful consideration, the district has determined that any form of in-person learning as we begin school in August, based on current local health conditions, may a) compromise the health and safety of our students, faculty and staff; b) fall significantly short of our high expectations for teaching and learning; and c) not provide any of the social experiences that we would want students to have.

The following considerations were priorities as we developed these plans:

- Keeping the community, staff and students physically safe;
- Caring for the social emotional and mental health needs of students;
- Continuity of learning whether in person or remote;
- Meeting the unique needs of students and families and providing options for parents;
- Flexibility in school schedules, creating protocols and norms for in-person learning and remote learning.

Accordingly, after extensive input from all school community stakeholders, District 205 has made the difficult decision to begin the 2020-21 school year with the **Enhanced Remote Learning Model**.

The District's guidelines for this model may be found [here](#) (see below also).

- The state's Restore Illinois [document](#) provides overarching guidance and a broad framework for the "reopening" of the state.
- Due to the uncertainty of the pandemic and evolving nature of the State's guidance, the District's 20-21 re-opening plan is subject to change, as conditions may require or allow.

Guiding principles for school re-opening:

- Maintain a healthy and safe environment for all students and staff;
- Maintain our commitment to equity;
- Provide meaningful and engaging academic experiences for all students;
- Address the social and emotional needs of all students and staff;
- Provide consistency and stability for all students and staff; and
- Provide professional development for staff that enhances e-learning.

Educators have been asked to transform the educational environment. Therefore:

- School, at least to start the 20-21 school year, will not look or feel the same as before.
- Flexibility remains essential.
- District 205 is constantly monitoring local health conditions, which change daily.

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District 205 Planning Process

District 205 values the relationship between students, teachers, families and the community. Our goal is to return to in-person learning with **careful and deliberate planning that ensures the safety of all concerned.**

- During the past few months, District 205 has been working on a reopening plan led by the district superintendent and administration. The original planning process included a survey, building committees, and a town hall meeting.
 - A Student Survey was distributed on June 30, 2020 to July 17, 2020.
 - A Parent Survey was distributed on June 30, 2020 to July 17, 2020.
 - A Staff Survey was distributed on June 30, 2020 to July 17, 2020.
 - The building committees met during July.
 - The District Town Hall Meeting was held July 20, 2020 to review the survey results and the building committees' recommendations.

Enhanced Remote Learning Model

Starting August 19th, every District 205 student will participate in Enhanced Remote Learning, until further notice.

- School will take place on scheduled student attendance days through the remote learning model, both synchronous and asynchronous.

Monday Schedule A (Periods 1-4/6)	Tuesday Schedule B (Periods 6/7-11)	Wednesday Schedule A (Periods 1-4/6)	Thursday Schedule B (Periods 6/7-11)	Friday Instructional Support Day
8:00-8:30 Check emails/online sites for communication from students and parents.	8:00-8:30 Check emails/online sites for communication from students and parents.	8:00-8:30 Check emails/online sites for communication from students and parents.	8:00-8:30 Check emails/online sites for communication from students and parents.	8:00-8:30 Check emails/online sites for communications from students and parents.
8:30-9:20 Period 1	8:30-9:20 Period 5 (⁶ / ₇ or ⁷ / ₈)	8:30-9:20 Period 1	8:30-9:20 Period 5 (⁶ / ₇ or ⁷ / ₈)	8:30-9:20 Support Session 1
9:20-9:30 Break	9:20-9:30 Break	9:20-9:30 Break	9:20-9:30 Break	9:20-9:30 Break
9:30-10:20 Period 2	9:30-10:20 Period 6 (⁸ / ₉ or ⁹ / ₁₀)	9:30-10:20 Period 2	9:30-10:20 Period 6 (⁸ / ₉ or ⁹ / ₁₀)	9:30-10:20 Support Session 2
10:20-10:30 Break	10:20-10:30 Break	10:20-10:30 Break	10:20-10:30 Break	10:20-10:30 Break
10:30-11:20	10:30-11:20	10:30-11:20	10:30-11:20	10:30-11:20

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Period 3	Period 7 (11)	Period 3	Period 7 (11)	Support Session 3
11:20-11:30 Break	11:20-11:30 Break	11:20-11:30 Break	11:20-11:30 Break	11:20 - 11:30 Break
11:30-12:20 Period 4 (½ or ¾)	11:30-12:20 **Support Staff Hours MTSS/Deans/ Counselors	11:30-12:20 Period 4 (½ or ¾)	11:30-12:20 **Support Staff Hours MTSS/Deans/ Counselors	11:30-12:20 Support Session 4
12:20-1:00 Lunch	12:20-1:00 Lunch	12:20-1:00 Lunch	12:20-1:00 Lunch	12:20-1:00 Lunch
1:00-3:30 **Support Staff Hours Communicate with and support students, update grades, update student logs, lesson plans, return emails	1:00-3:30 **Support Staff Hours Communicate with and support students, update grades, update student logs, lesson plans, return emails	1:00-3:30 **Support Staff Hours Communicate with and support students, update grades, update student logs, lesson plans, return emails	1:00-3:30 **Support Staff Hours Communicate with and support students, update grades, update student logs, lesson plans, return emails	1:00-3:30 Update student logs, check emails/online sites for communication, lesson planning, grading.

- Enhanced remote learning will include high academic expectations and requirements for attendance, grading, live synchronous class sessions, and assessments.
- The remote learning model at District 205 has been improved, since emergency remote learning in the spring.

Additional information is available in [Enhanced E-Learning Guidelines for 2020-21](#).

General student expectations

- Students will use Google Classroom as the Learning Management System in all of their classes.
- Students will attend school via e-learning every school day and complete a daily attendance check-in form in Google Classroom.
- Students will attend live learning sessions during scheduled periods.
- Assignments are completed as assigned.

Enhanced Remote Learning includes social emotional learning.

- Efforts to meet social emotional needs of students within academic instruction and curriculum have been further developed including time within the day for discussions with counselors and social workers.
- Access to mental health services for students, resources for families and staff, communication, and school-wide support for social emotional learning has increased and now includes a Friday schedule that will allow individuals, and groups to meet to discuss concerns.

If conditions permit, District 205 may transition to a hybrid model that includes in-person instruction for students. Further, if the state moves into phase 5, the district will move to a full in-person model.

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- District 205 has developed hybrid and in-person learning models, adhering to safety requirements and will continue building the models to be responsive and adaptable to changing conditions.
- District 205 will continue to prioritize the health and safety of all students and staff.

Next Steps

District 205 Staff will prepare for the 2020-21 school year remotely.

- District 205 will delay the start of the school year. The first day of school is Wednesday, August 19th.
- District 205 staff will receive COVID-19 training.
- Participation in extracurricular activities, including sports, will be determined at a later date.
- In-person events will not be held on any District 205 campus without the Superintendent's approval.

Expectations and protocols

- Health screenings: District 205 will have a self-certification process to enter the building.
- District 205 will continue to follow guidelines for wearing face coverings, social distancing, and other health measures.
- For the health, well-being and safety of all staff, frequent cleaning and sanitizing on campus will continue.
- For visits to District 205 will be kept to a minimum. Visitors must have a confirmed appointment and follow all protocols.
- District 205 will continue with our traditional grading system during Enhanced Remote Learning for completion of assignments and assessments. Teachers will provide continuous feedback on all assignments/assessments given during Enhanced Remote Learning.
- District 205 will be providing devices for all students.
- All students will be assigned Chromebooks.
- The District has a limited number of hotspots for families that need internet access. The district will be providing a request form within the coming weeks.

Visitor Procedures

The following measures will be put in place to decrease the risk of COVID-19 exposure:

- Non-essential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations will not have access to the school buildings or the district office.
- District 205 will install plexiglass barriers in the front offices of our buildings.
- IEP meetings, 504 meetings, and other meetings between staff and visitors/families will be held virtually or via phone conference, to the greatest extent possible. However, if parents/guardians are unable to engage in a required meeting virtually/by phone, socially distanced in-person meetings may be held.
- Essential visitors will be required to adhere to safety procedures when entering the building:
 - Visitors will continue to show an ID for entry into all buildings.
 - There will be a designated area in each building to drop off documents. This area will have hand sanitizer and will be cleaned regularly.

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- Individuals not wearing a face mask will not be permitted in the buildings.
- Temperature checks will be performed for any person entering the building.

Look for details in the coming weeks.

- District 205 back-to-school information will be framed with the remote plan in mind.
- There will be a curbside plan for receiving learning materials and classroom supplies.
- Meal distribution information will be shared prior to the first day of e-learning.

Planning for the unknown

- Please understand guidance will change as the state moves in and out of different phases and as the community landscape remains fluid.
- District 205 staff, students, and families will be notified in advance if and when the reopening details are updated.
- Communication is key for the success of our district. Let's continue to work together and do what's best for our students, staff, families, and community.

Special Considerations for Students with Disabilities

Per the Office of Pupil Personnel Services (PPS) Guidance, District 205 will ensure that students with disabilities will have equal access to the same opportunities, including the provision of a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE), and to the greatest extent possible, are provided the special education and related services identified in a student's IEP. Many disability-related modifications and services can be effectively provided online. For example, extensions of time for assignments, videos with accurate captioning or embedded sign language interpreting, accessible reading materials, and direct re-teaching or therapies through video conferencing. During e-Learning, instruction may be provided by special education staff, including related service providers and paraprofessionals. The district will ensure that, to the greatest extent possible under these unique circumstances, each student with a disability is provided the special education and related services identified in the student's IEP developed under IDEA, or a plan developed under Section 504.

District 205 staff will also address translation and accessibility needs for students and families when developing and providing instructional materials. In District 205, relevant members of the IEP team and Parents/Guardians will discuss how best to meet each student's identified needs in order to develop an appropriate plan for e-Learning in accordance with ISBE guidelines. During remote learning, parents may require consultation with their student's teachers and related service providers in order to support the student. These services could include training for parents on the use of technology, information for parents about how a student's disability impacts their learning, and strategies to address a student's behavioral needs. Also, note that the direct and indirect services provided to a student during e-Learning may look different from services provided in the student's traditional school setting, as a student's disability may manifest itself differently in new learning conditions.

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As a general principle, during this unprecedented time, District 205 Special Education teams may also agree to conduct regularly scheduled IEP team meetings through alternate means, including videoconferencing or conference telephone calls. It is also in the best interest of IEP teams and parents to work collaboratively and creatively to meet IEP and eligibility timeline requirements. District 205 IEP teams will work with parents to reach mutually agreeable extensions of time, as needed or appropriate.

District 205 Pupil Personnel Services staff will provide virtual therapy sessions when in-person instruction is not possible. Recommendations for supports and/or accommodations for students will be provided by the individual service provider and this plan will be shared with the IEP team, including parents. Exceptions and/or accommodations will be made when protocols are medically contraindicated, provided that the individual supplies appropriate and sufficient medical documentation and comply with all other procedures relating to the exemption/accommodation process. Alternate health/safety protocols may be required.