



Office of Early Childhood

September Reopening Plan

With your help, we can overcome any obstacle!

Dear Parents and Guardians of our Preschool Community,

Since the release of our preschool reopening plan on Friday, July 31, I have received some questions regarding the plan and I'd like to take a moment to address them publicly. Please take a moment to read through the FAQ.

Why are pre-k classes doing hybrid learning and K-12 has the option for full time in-person learning?

The preschool program is a separate entity from the K-12 space. Our preschool providers, HOPES and Mile Square, receive directives from other agencies, in addition to the DOE. Currently, our preschool on site capacity per classroom is limited to 10 students. We are still obligated to service all 1,050 students enrolled in the program. We simply don't have enough physical classroom space or staff to accommodate all 1,050 students on site.

My child needs to attend day care on the remote days. Will the remote days be required if we select the hybrid learning model?

Parents are required to log student attendance during each day they are on a remote day, whether you opt for the hybrid or full remote learning model. We understand each family has a unique situation and many of our students may be attending day care or other child related service on remote days. Two live direct instruction sessions will be held on Wednesday. These lessons will also be recorded and posted to Class Dojo for families who are unable to attend the live sessions. The remaining days will offer pre-recorded videos for families to view at your leisure, based on your schedule. It is highly encouraged that your child participate in the live direct instruction sessions on Wednesday, as well as the independent practice that is associated with the pre-recorded videos.

Can you further explain the remote attendance procedure?

If you are on remote instruction you will receive an email daily to complete a Google Form. This form must be completed within 30 minutes of receipt. Each site will have assigned school personnel to review the attendance records and make contact with students who are absent. Continued student absences and/or excessive missed work are to be reported to building administration for further action/communication. School district policies for attendance and instructional contact time will need to accommodate opportunities for both synchronous and asynchronous instruction, while ensuring the requirements for a 180-day school year are met. This form is the only way we are taking attendance this year.

What if my child refuses to participate in the live direct instruction sessions and Wednesdays and/ or refuses to do any work associated with the independent practice while on remote?

While education is important, we are also committed to the social-emotional well-being of each child whether on site or remote. If you are having trouble engaging your child with the work at home please reach out to your child's classroom teacher. Your classroom teacher can provide you with suggestions to help engage your child. We also have a fantastic Early Childhood team composed of Preschool Intervention Referral Team (PIRT), Master Teachers, and a mental health specialist who can also provide teachers with suggestions and ideas.

What happens after October 9th? Is there something different happening beyond this time frame?

The district in conjunction with the Early Childhood Department will monitor the trends and data as it relates to the local health situation. Following the guidance of the local and state authorities we will decide to remain on a modified schedule or plan to welcome students back to our buildings following a traditional schedule.

Can we choose a different learning model in October if the one we initially chose doesn't work for us.

Once your option is selected, students must be prepared to remain in this learning model for the duration of one month.

Will the procedure be the same for aftercare pickup to outside daycares, for the in-school days?

Aftercare and outside daycares, just like parents, are unable to enter the building. Each site director will work with these providers to ensure a smooth transition from school to after care related services.

Will before and aftercare mix cohorts of kids?

We are still waiting on guidance from the appropriate agency regarding before and after care. Students outside their cohort are not allowed to mix, and as such our providers are still exploring different options for this program.

Can you further explain the use of masks. Will preschool students be required to wear them all day? Is there a plan in terms of "training" them to keep masks on and not fidget with them?

Children are required to wear a mask throughout the day, except when eating and napping. Masks will be handled with care and placed in a labeled paper bag or an open plastic container. As with any skill, our teachers will assist in training students to wear their masks. We highly encourage parents/ guardians to begin practicing with children wearing a mask. This will help make the transition to school easier. Additionally, this will support teacher efforts in the classroom.

What is play going to look like in this new environment?

Make believe pretend play will continue to happen in the preschool classrooms. Students will be invited to participate in most centers (water table is prohibited). Some modifications will be made to some centers ie: there will be no dress up clothes or hats in centers. We are also limiting the amount of students allowed in each center from 4 to 2 children to ensure there is enough space for children to move freely and maintain some distance. Use of shared objects will be limited when possible or cleaned between use.

Can my child come in for their on-site sessions and skip the online stuff the other three days as long as we send an email showing that we did the lesson work without watching the videos?

We highly encourage all students to participate in the remote day direct instruction and independent practice. We love to see what your child is doing at home and encourage and welcome pictures and videos of our young learners hard at work.

Is there a need for rest time in prek 4? Will you allow kids who don't nap to just quietly play in the room, read, do work with an instructor?

Rest time is important to preschool aged students. This down time ensures they have the stamina to finish their day strong. Nap time is also typically when the teacher takes his/her lunch. Students who don't wish to sleep may be given a book to read. During rest time there is no movement around the classroom.

When do we find out what cohort we are in in order to make alternative childcare plans for those days?

The Department of Early Childhood and the providers are working diligently, based on the survey results, to be able to share your child's cohort when you receive the classroom assignment around the middle of August. Please be reminded that the survey closes on Friday, August 7th.

Will students be spending more time outdoors?

That is a site by site decision. Site directors will explore all options to ensure children are getting fresh air.

Since you are offering a remote option and if the district is forced to go remote per the Governor, will you offer a remote seat to all students on the waitlist?

As a preschool program we are capped at 15 students per class. We have 70 classrooms giving us the opportunity to service 1,050 preschool children this year. We cannot service more than our allotted number of students.

If we were to hire a part-time babysitter to help our son with his remote learning, is that considered "homeschooling"?

A part-time babysitter is not considered "homeschooling".

Is there a part time option where attendance will only be counted on the in person days?

The Hoboken School District in partnership with NJDOE offers a full-day preschool program. We are not permitted to amend the school day in any way. If your child is enrolled in the preschool program attendance will be taken 5 days a week.

I am not clear on what the “pod” reference is to if the student is enrolled. Can you clarify?

Pod learning is a homeschool group of children, usually grouped closely by age. If you choose to work with other families to create a “pod”, or are seeking other alternatives to public school education, such as private home schooling or registering with a for-profit company, you must disenroll from the district. Disenrollment will ultimately affect the Hoboken Public School district resulting in the loss of state aid.

If by the beginning of October there are no upticks in COVID-19 cases, is it possible that prek will move to 5x a week in person?

Anything is possible! The Office of Licensing must increase the number of students on site from 10 to 15. Once that regulation returns to normal, and as long as local and state agencies deem we can continue to welcome children to brick and mortar, we will happily provide five days of in person learning.

Wednesday is the only “live” virtual day. Will the live sessions be recorded and posted to Class Dojo?

Yes.

Since the other two remote days are not live but actually pre-recorded sessions, can the children view them at any time or must they follow the sample schedule?

Yes children can view them at a time that works for the family. The sample schedule is merely a suggestion to help parents and stay accountable. It also creates continuity, especially for those students who are engaging in the hybrid model.

Is there an alternative that is suggested to families in which both parents work and cannot stay at home with their children 3 days a week?

The Hoboken Public School District and the Early Childhood Department has a [list of all child care providers](#) in the City of Hoboken in the event that child care is needed by families.

Are there any concrete plans to gradually move into a full week onsite learning model?

Once we have guidance from state and local agencies about returning to full traditional on site learning this will be forthcoming.

Will I be able to select the days (Monday/Tuesday or Thursday/Friday) I want to send their child for the hybrid program?

Your child will be assigned their cohort. We will make every effort to keep preschool siblings in the same letters cohort.

What will play on public playgrounds look like?

In accordance with the Office of Licensing, play on public playgrounds is prohibited. If the site has a playground that can be used by our preschool students, site administrators will stagger the use of playground equipment and establish a frequent disinfecting protocol for all playground equipment used by students.

How will you check for understanding and monitor student progress of all students?

Each site will create feedback loops with parents and families about students' academic and social emotional health and well-being, through use of remote learning conferences and/or surveys to parents about their child's experience and learning while out of school.

If I choose the hybrid option for my child will they be watching videos in school?

Children who attend in person class will not be watching any videos. The teacher will be recording those in person group sessions to post on dojo for those students on remote instruction. We'll make every effort not to have any children in the video.

If I withdraw my PK3 child from the program is there a penalty for next year?

There is no penalty for withdrawing your child from the preschool program. You must go through the process of registering your child again. If there is a seat available your child will be offered it. If there are more registrants than seats available your child will be added to the lottery.

Will classes be kept together from last year?

Looping classes is not something that we engage with in the Hoboken Public School system. We make every effort to create new classes with a few familiar faces from the previous school year.