

School Start Zoom Parent Session FAQ Document

June 12, 2020

11:00 / 12:30 / 2:00 / 3:30 / 5:00

STAFFING

I thought that per the current distance learning MOU, teachers are not required to provide live teaching. Will the MOU be revised?

Current language coming from the legislator's talks about the distance learning models for next year must have 5 key elements:

- 1) *Is substantially similar with the curriculum used and the quality of instruction*
- 2) *Is provided in various formats to meet student and family needs*
- 3) *Includes specific strategies for students who are not performing at grade level or whom need specific instructional supports, such as English Learners and Students with Disabilities*
- 4) *Allows for documentation of student participation and progress*
- 5) *Includes outreach to families*

How many of the proposed school start learning scenarios in your presentation are financially feasible based on the current District budget? *(See Analysis of Models & Staffing Implications document on website)*

- *If we implemented a 100% digital learning model for all students, there could be a potential cost savings depending on how we use all current staffing across the District.*
- *The 100% blended Learning is feasible, but there are additional costs for custodial support and potentially childcare needs.*
- *A proposal around using both a Blended Learning Model & a Digital Learning Model can be implemented, but we don't know how much childcare support we can provide*
- *Any model that includes full day face-to-face teaching with the same teacher is not feasible due to the substantial increased costs associated with it.*

Are we able to receive a copy of these documents that you presented?

Resources, presentation, videos and links to latest information from CDE are on the district website page under the School Start Task Force link.

Can you potentially have more than 2.5 hours of classroom time if you go past 3 pm?

This is a contractual issue for teachers. Teacher's workday is 7.5 hours for the course of the day (consecutive hours)

Can teacher's workdays be extended or negotiated?

To extend the contractual hours being 7.5 hours a day would cost additional money.

What happens if we cannot afford to hire new teachers?

The current models being discussed would not require us to hire additional staff

If a parent had an issue with a Digital Learning teacher, would there be a principal to contact or whom would be contacted if there were a concern?

The site administrators of the Distance Learning Academies would handle issues regarding their staff.

With 100% distance learning projections, do you anticipate having to reduce teachers/staff?

No. The staffing ratios in the Distance Learning Academy model are the same as the hybrid model.

INSTRUCTION & CURRICULUM

To clarify...you are considering running 2 models together - the academy and the blended learning model, or will we be asked to choose either academy or blended learning model?

Parents will be able to choose between the two models

For the Blended Learning model, is the District leaning toward a split week, or am/pm model?

All teachers/administrators were sent a survey asking their model preference this week. The preferred blended learning model by staff is the am/pm model.

If we choose a model, is this for the entire school year?

We will use the models we select until guidance is given that we can return to normal operating procedures. If a parent is unhappy with a model they selected, moving to the other model will depend on space availability at a given school.

For the digital portion of the Blended Model, will it be the same teacher provide that online schooling portion?

Yes, the classroom teacher will load the science and social studies resources into the Google classroom for the child to complete while at home.

With these models, will kids stay at their homeschool or will space require kids moved around?

Students in the Blended Learning Model will remain at their homeschool. Students in the Digital Learning Academy Model may shift "virtually" depending on where the program is placed so that we can cluster students to fill the virtual classrooms.

Will live teaching and check-ins be in every classroom?

In order to meet state requirements based on the current guidelines, live teaching will be taking place in both models. Students in the Blended Learning Model get face-to-face teaching at school and the Digital Learning Academy Model will have live teaching as part of the best practice expectations for the program.

In regards to the 100% Digital Learning model, will the students be able to have workbooks rather than having screens for the entire school day?

Yes, students will have print resources for some of the content areas, but not all.

Does the Google classroom include live instruction and if so how would a child in childcare access that?

The Google classroom piece of Blended Learning Model will focus on science and social studies. Teachers will not be able to provide live teaching for these areas, as they will be meeting with their other group of students. The programs we are reviewing to use for science and social studies do have recorded lessons imbedded in the programs for students to watch,

In the Digital Learning Academy, will there be more direct instruction and interaction with the teacher

Yes, it must be similar to the face to face for funding

If a student or teacher tries the Digital Learning model for one year, will those students & teachers be able to go back to their home school the following year or do we lose our spot?

All teachers and students will be able to return to their home schools the following year.

Will orchestra & chorus still apply in the upcoming year?

Yes, we will work with different schedules and options. We are working with those teachers planning that now and even exploring how some instrumental music classes could be live with social distancing.

When you talk about clustering kids, would students be grouped with other kids at their learning level?

No, we will not be "tracking" kids. Classes are built heterogeneously.

Who would have access to AM/PM childcare? How will you determine which students go into AM and which into PM? (Lottery?)

The District is working through those decisions as we learn more about who needs this and where they attend school. Funding will drive our ability to provide onsite childcare.

In terms of who will be assigned to AM/PM, we will have to look at sibling schedules to make sure they are at the same time and also consider students who receive specific supports from our Student Support Services providers.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

My child is not in SDC but gets resource services, so would she still be pulled out during the 2.5 hours on campus?

Students receiving resource services may receive those services through a push-in model while on campus or during the opposite block of time for small group instruction.

Do RSP parents get to choose if services are virtual or in-person? Because my child has zero interest in doing virtual learning.

Yes, our goal is to provide in-person services in the Blended Learning Model

Will SDC students will be full day Monday through Friday in person?

Yes, the recommendation is for SDC to be full day on days when other students are on campus, but digital learning on the day where no students are on campus. Because SDC numbers are

smaller, the classes can function in a more traditional model, while adhering to the guidelines from the County. They will be able to go outside and engage in other activities as well.

SAFETY & HEALTH

Can we wear face shields instead of masks?

As long as it meets the county guidelines. Face shields have to go below the chin and have a drape cloth at this time.

How do you intend to keep the younger kids (T-K) from moving around and breaking social distancing rules?

This will take some teaching and educating of our youngest students from the very start of school. .

The face masks this is not a law it's a guideline; numerous organizations (CDC, WHO, AMA and New England journal of medicine) saying no one should wear masks unless sick or caring for sick

We must follow the Department of Public Health Guidelines - the challenge by not following safer guidelines puts the District at risk.

If we go into the Blended Learning model and someone in the student's cluster becomes ill, will the other individuals in the cluster be informed?

The District will take guidance from the Department of Public Health.

SCHEDULING

Will the number of educational days be extended to accommodate the AM/PM structure?

There is no discussion to extend the school year. This would need to be negotiated and would cost additional money.

For the 2.5 hour model, why is it that the kids can only be with the teacher for 2.5 hours, but then if I understand it correctly, they will be in some sort of childcare for the rest of their school day in another classroom with a yard supervisor?

The classroom teacher will teach half the students in the AM block and the other half in the PM block. If the teacher stayed with the AM block all day, we would now need a second teacher for the other group of students, which would mean our teaching staff would need to nearly double in size and cost the District an additional \$12 million.

How closely will you align with the Hart District as far as digitally, face-to-face, or blended?

We are exploring moving our full day of digital learning for both models to Wednesday to align with the Hart School District.

Did the task force consider a track schedule? One month on, one month off.

Yes, but the main concern for this model was the lack of consistency for face-to-face instruction for students.

Just to clarify, for the Blended Learning model, the children will be in class with a teacher for half the day, but we would also have an option for them to stay in school for the other half if we have to work and then a safety supervisor would watch over them the other half of the day?

If we can physically provide the space and afford to provide the childcare, we will do it. This will all depend on funding and the number of families need this support.

Have you considered having a later start date to have more time to make it as streamline as possible?

We have not received any information that this would be a benefit. The school calendar is also a negotiated item.

Would siblings be kept together during hybrid models?

Yes, for sure that would be a goal.

With 2 working parents will our children's school day online be extended beyond the 3:00pm end of school day and how do you qualify for the daycare?

The District is working on this now. We understand the needs of working families and will do our best to provide options for families.

Will Incoming Kindergarten Parents be able to select a model and be a part of the survey?

Principals sent home the initial and will send subsequent surveys for anyone currently registered who shared an email. We definitely want to connect with all incoming students.

CHILDCARE

Will the childcare in an am/pm option be free?

The District is planning to fund the childcare if we can afford it, but that depends on the funding we are able to receive.

Where would the childcare physically take place? Playground?

Everywhere we can find space, as long as we can afford it. Trying to serve as many as we can, but it currently depends on the funding stream.

MISC

How is the district going to afford the guidelines for bussing?

That continues to be a discussion with the Hart School District Transportation. The current guidelines are a bit restrictive and would definitely affect families, as there are currently not enough busses to accommodate all of our students with the current guidelines.

When will budgets be confirmed to understand what is possible?

Currently do not know, as decisions may not be made until July.