



JANUARY 15, 2021

# DISTRICT 187 HYBRID LEARNING PLAN:

WHAT PARENTS AND STUDENTS NEED TO KNOW

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NORTH CHICAGO COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 187  
2000 Lewis Avenue, North Chicago, IL 60064





January 15, 2021

Dear Parents and Community of D187:

We are all doing our best to provide a meaningful learning experience for all students. Our teachers, our students, and our parents have done an outstanding job in very difficult circumstances. This has not been easy and has required a tremendous amount of change from all of us. Thank you for your support and flexibility.

Today, we share with you our district's plan to begin the process of returning to in-person classes. As anticipated, we will begin to implement a Hybrid Learning Model which allows for a blend of in-person and remote instruction. **The attached plan is for parents who elected last December to have their student(s) participate in the first phase of hybrid learning that will start Tuesday, February 2nd. If you did not complete a survey or did not indicate interest, your student will continue at home with remote learning and should not report to school. A second parent survey for those who wish to participate in the next phase of hybrid learning will be distributed in mid February.** We are moving to Hybrid Learning for three primary reasons:

1. Despite everyone's best efforts, remote learning is not the same as in-person learning and many of our students, especially the most vulnerable, are not getting the level of education that they need and deserve. Students who are learning a new language are also struggling to keep pace with a typical sequence of learning. The only way to do better is to have students return in-person.
2. We are ready. We have stockpiled PPE for students and staff. We have the disinfecting wipes and cleaners that we need. We have created the rules and procedures that we need. We are ready to implement all of the required guidelines for in-person school.
3. Guidance from the CDC and IDPH has evolved over the past 9 months as they have learned more about COVID. When the current infection rates in our area are matched with the mitigation and control efforts mentioned above, we are ready to return students and staff to school safely. While the situation will need to continue to improve further before we resume anything close to "normal" classes, we are within the guidelines set by the departments of public health to support small groups of students learning together in class.

This document will answer many of your questions about how we are planning to return to school with our students. We will only proceed in this direction as long as conditions within our schools and within our county support this decision.

Sincerely,  
Dr. John P. Price  
Superintendent

# Hybrid Learning and COVID-19 Response Plan

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## District 187 Hybrid Learning and COVID Response Plan

District 187 was pleased to announce last December that the school district would soon allow parents to voluntarily send children to school for in-person instruction. A survey was sent to our families to record parent interest in hybrid learning which is a blend of in-person and remote instruction. 554 responses were received with roughly 50 percent of those who responded indicating an interest in hybrid learning. With 300 parents selecting hybrid, **District 187 plans to move forward with offering these children in-person instruction four days per week, Tuesday - Friday.**

As of the date of this publication, students not included in the first phase of hybrid learning will continue at home with remote learning and are not to report to school. A second parent survey for those who wish to participate in the next phase of hybrid learning will be distributed mid February.

### Delivery of Instruction

In determining which approach to implement, staff and parent feedback were discussed. The list of considerations below represents our thinking on what is most important as we enter the next phase of instructional response to COVID-19:

- Attending to the social and emotional needs of students
- Providing technology training and access
- Meeting students where they are academically
- Increased planning and collaboration time
- Establishing clear communication and new norms
- Ensuring a climate of support
- Accommodating the needs of families

The following instructional models were considered in determining how students could best be supported in an environment where social distancing is required:

- **Full In-Person**  
The teacher and the student meet physically in a set place for a set time for either one-on-one learning or, most commonly, in group classroom lessons with social distancing and health and safety measures in place.
- **Remote Learning**  
Distance learning occurs when the learner and instructor, or source of information, are separated by time and distance and cannot meet in a traditional physical classroom setting.

- **Hybrid Learning**

Hybrid learning occurs both in the classroom (or other physical space) and via distance learning.

### Hybrid Learning: Getting Students Started

Parents will receive a communication from their student's school one week prior to the start of hybrid learning with their student's daily schedule. **Please note arrival and dismissal times are different from the regular school schedule. Students will not attend in-person on Mondays.**

#### School Schedules for Hybrid In-Person Attendance (Tuesday – Friday)

School	Doors Open	Start of Instruction	Dismissal
Alexander (K-3)	7:30 am	8:00 am	2:10 pm
Forrestal (K-3)	7:30 am	8:00 am	2:10 pm
Green Bay (4 yrs. or K-bound)	7:45 am	8:00 am	11:45 am
AJ Katzenmaier (4-5)	7:30 am	7:50 am	1:55 pm
Neal Math and Science (6-8)	9:30 am	10:00 am	2:20 pm
North Chicago HS (9-12)	7:50 am	8:30 am	12:15pm

### Expectations for Hybrid Learners

The hybrid learning option permits students to attend class in-person according to a schedule provided by the school. Class schedules may not match a typical bell schedule as social distancing will be enforced and student movement within the school will be decreased. By requesting a hybrid learning schedule, parents and students agree to the following:

- If required, daily completion of self-certification questionnaire (parent);
- Comply with all school requests for temperature checks;
- Remain at home if experiencing any symptoms of illness;
- Comply with *COVID-19 Health Precautions and Expectations* stated in this document; in particular, the proper wearing of a nose and mouth covering when they board a bus or enter a school;
- Follow directives of the school health aide or principal when advised that a case of COVID-19 is suspected;
- As students participating in hybrid learning will also be remote learners as times, continue to follow *Expectations for Remote Learners* stated in this document.

## COVID-19 Health Precautions and Expectations

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the District will be required to alter many of its standard practices and procedures, including significantly reducing access to our buildings. As such, some of the processes outlined in the Student Handbook will need to be adjusted during this period. We will do our best to communicate any changes as they may arise, but please feel free to contact the Building Principal with any questions.

### Overview

As stated in the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE)/Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) Joint Guidance, schools are allowed to reopen for in-person instruction in Phase 3 of the COVID Restore Illinois Plan. In-person instruction is encouraged in Phase 4; however, this phase will not signify a return to pre-pandemic operations. Appropriate social distancing, face coverings, enhanced sanitation measures, and other accommodations will be necessary to ensure the safety of students, staff, and their families. During Phase 4, IDPH guidelines will:

- Require use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including face coverings;
- Prohibit more than 50 individuals from gathering in one space;
- Require social distancing be observed, as much as possible;
- Require that schools conduct symptom screenings and temperature checks or require that individuals self-certify that they are free of symptoms before entering school buildings; and
- Require an increase in school-wide cleaning and disinfection.

### ISBE/IDPH Health Precautions

1. Cloth Face Coverings or Disposable Masks - Except while eating and during band, cloth face coverings or medical masks must be worn at all times in school buildings, over nose and mouth, even when social distance is maintained. All individuals in a school building must wear a face covering unless they have a medical contraindication, have a manifestation of a disability, are under two years of age, have trouble breathing, or are unconscious, incapacitated, or unable to remove the face covering without assistance.

The school district will provide students with cloth masks as they are available regularly. Students who are defiant (refusing to comply after redirection) of face-covering expectations will be subject to the following:

1st incident: Staff will report incidents of defiance to building administration and record the infraction in the school discipline management system. The student will be excluded from in-person instruction and assigned to remote

learning for a time frame to be determined by building administration. Parent contact will be made by phone and a letter sent home.

2nd incident: Staff will report incidents of defiance to building administration and record the infraction in the school discipline management system. The student is placed on remote learning for the remainder of the semester. The parent will be contacted by phone and a letter sent home. The building principal will make this final determination.

2. Hand Hygiene - Students will be directed to wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer). Hand sanitizer provided by the District will be FDA approved.
3. Social Distancing - The term "social distancing" refers to measures being taken to restrict where and when people can gather to stop or slow the spread of infectious disease. In general, 6 feet of separation is the distance that should be kept between people interacting within their community.
4. Staying Home or Self-Isolating when Appropriate - Students, faculty, and staff who test positive for or are showing symptoms of COVID-19 (including a fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or greater, chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and/or diarrhea) will be directed to stay at home.

**Students who test positive for COVID-19** may not return to school until ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared, *and* the student has been fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication, *or* the student has two negative COVID-19 tests in a row, with testing completed at least 24 hours apart.

**Students who exhibit COVID-19 symptoms** without a confirmed diagnosis may not return to school until ten days have passed since symptoms have improved *and* the student has been fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication (IDPH 1/4/21). The school health aide will clear students for their return to class.

**Students who were in close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 or is suspected of having COVID-19** infection must isolate at home (quarantine) and monitor for symptoms for 7-14 calendar days after last known exposure to COVID19 positive case. If COVID19 symptoms develop, the ten day isolation period begins from the start of symptom (IDPH 1/4/21). Close contact means the student was within 6 feet of the individual who tested positive for COVID-19 or is suspected of having COVID-19 for more than 15 minutes.

**Students who present with symptoms at school** will be immediately separated from the rest of the school population, and the student's parent/guardian will be contacted to pick up the student from school. In the event emergency services are necessary, the District will call 911.

Parents/Guardians must contact the school health aide before their student may return to school following a COVID-19 related absence.

Faculty and Staff are subject to the same quarantine and return to work requirements.

5. Student Tracking/Contact Tracing – The District will track students who are excluded from school because they have COVID-19-like symptoms, have been diagnosed with COVID-19, or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 and are isolating at home (quarantine). Students who are symptomatic may be reported to the local health department for symptom monitoring and contact tracing. In the event of a confirmed COVID-19 case, the District will report the student's name and contact information to the local health department for contact tracing as required by the Illinois Infectious Disease Reporting Requirements and Board Policy 7:280, *Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease*. The District will comply with local and state health department guidelines related to informing the school community consistent with student confidentiality laws.

### **Illinois Department of Public Health Guidance: Contact Tracing**

Generally, contact tracing includes the following steps:

- **Case investigation:** Local public health department staff work with a patient to help them recall everyone they have had close contact with during the time they may have been infectious.
- **Contact tracing:** Local public health department staff begin contact tracing by notifying exposed people (contacts) of their potential exposure as rapidly and sensitively as possible, not revealing the infected patient's identity.
- **Contact support:** Contacts are provided with education, information, and support to help them understand their risk, what they should do to separate themselves from others who are not exposed, and how to monitor themselves for illness. In addition, they are informed that they could spread the infection to others even if they do not feel ill.
- **Self-quarantine:** Contacts are encouraged to stay home, monitor their health, and maintain social distance (at least 6 feet) from others until 7-14 calendar days after their last exposure to the infected patient in case they also become ill.

### **What a person diagnosed with COVID-19 can expect to happen during contact tracing.**

If you are diagnosed with COVID-19, a local health department worker may call you to check-in on your health, discuss who you've been in contact with, and ask where you spent

time while you may have been infectious and able to spread COVID-19 to others. You also will be asked to stay at home and self-isolate, if you are not doing so already.

- Your name **will not** be revealed to those you may have exposed, even if they ask unless you explicitly give permission.
- Self-isolation means staying at home in a specific room away from other people and pets and using a separate bathroom.
- Self-isolation helps slow the spread of COVID-19 and can help keep your family, friends, neighbors, and others you may come in contact with healthy.
- If you need support or assistance while self-isolating, your health department or community organizations may be able to provide assistance.
- Symptoms of COVID-19 can include fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea. If your symptoms worsen or become severe, you should seek medical care. Severe symptoms include trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, confusion, inability to wake or stay awake, or bluish lips or face.

### **What a close contact can expect to happen during contact tracing**

If you have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19, you could be contacted and informed by a local health department worker that you have been exposed to COVID-19. You should stay at home and self-quarantine for 7-14 calendar days with an improvement in symptoms and a 24 hour fever free period without the use of fever reducing medicine (IDPH 1/4/21/), starting from the last day you were possibly exposed to COVID-19. The local health department worker will help identify the dates of your self-quarantine. They also can provide resources about COVID-19 testing in your area.

- Self-quarantine means staying home, monitoring your health, and maintaining social distancing (at least 6 feet) from others at all times.
- If you need to be around other people or animals in or outside of the home, wear a cloth face covering. This will help protect the people around you.
- If you need support or assistance with self-quarantine, your local health department or community organizations may be able to provide assistance.

You should take your temperature twice a day, watch for symptoms of COVID-19, and notify your local health department if you have symptoms. In addition, you should notify people you had close contact with recently if you become ill so that they can monitor their health. If your symptoms worsen or become severe, you should seek medical care. Severe symptoms include trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, confusion, inability to wake or stay awake, or bluish lips or face.

## Transportation

In collaboration with bus providers, District 187 will abide by the Illinois State Board of Education guidelines and procedures for transportation of students during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- All students will have an assigned seat on their bus route and will be required to sit in that seat each day. Family members may be seated together. Seats will be assigned by the district transportation coordinator.
- Students must wear a mask to board the bus. Students without should be provided a disposable mask prior to boarding. The school district will provide masks for students without an appropriate face covering.

## Expectations for Remote Learners

To set expectations for parents, staff, and students, District 187 is providing the following principles and guidelines for remote learning.

### Guiding Principles

- We each have a personal and professional responsibility to “do school” and do it well
- Students will have access to academic and emotional supports
- We have high expectations for students and staff

### Guidelines for Student Commitment

- 2.5 to 3 hours of direct teacher contact via remote learning per day
- At least two hours per day, or eight hours per week, of independent learning (i.e. homework, project-based learning)

Please note that these are only guidelines for our teachers and parents/guardians to use moving forward in our remote learning environment. As needs may differ among students and subject content, adjustments will be made as necessary.

## Attendance

In person instruction will occur Tuesday – Friday per each school's hybrid learning schedule. On Mondays, all students will attend school via remote learning.

Students are expected to log into Schoology (K-12) and Seesaw (Pre-K) every school day per the school's remote learning or hybrid schedule. **Students will follow regular school attendance procedures and call the school attendance phone number to report absences.**

## Technical Support

- Students Kindergarten - Grade 12 will have personal computers to use at home during remote learning.
- Wi-Fi hotspots are available for eligible families.
- D187 students will use the Schoology (Gr. K-12) and Seesaw (Pre-K) learning management systems for remote learning. The systems are web-based, accessible for all grade levels and languages, and allows for video-guided instruction. Parents will also be able to communicate with teachers directly and monitor their students' learning.
- Call-in and web-based technical support is available and will be advertised during Back-to-School Days, school communications, and at [www.d187.org](http://www.d187.org).

## Additional Supports for Special Needs Populations

The District is dedicated to addressing the unique needs of students eligible for multilingual and special education through remote learning. We will continue to afford students a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in accordance with state and federal regulations. Special Education and English Learner services will continue to be provided with the support of teachers, instructional aides, and compensatory services. Questions should be directed to the Multilingual Programs Office at 847-775-1619 or the Special Education Office at 847-689-6333.

Remote learning plans will be incorporated within the IEP and 504 plan process to ensure that the district is taking into consideration the needs of students. Plans can be created during an annual review, revision, or initial IEP/504 meeting. See Frequently Asked Questions on page 11.

## Supports for All Students

Academic Support Sessions may be scheduled remotely with teachers during office hours or in-person if permitted with appropriate social distancing and personal protective equipment.

Counseling support is available for all students by contacting the social worker or counselor at your school.

## Visitors

Outside visitation will be limited (school business and principal approved only). **Parents and school visitors must schedule an appointment for meetings with administrators and school staff.** All visitors will need to have their temperature checked, complete a wellness questionnaire, and sanitize their hands prior to entering the building.

## School Calendar – January-May 2021

Day	Month	Date(s)	Event
Friday	February	5	3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter Progress Reports Sent Home
Monday	February	15	Emergency Make-up Day/Non-Attendance Day (District Closed) - Presidents' Day**
Monday	March	1	Emergency Make-up Day/ Non-Attendance Day (District Closed) - Casimir Pulaski-**
Thursday	March	4	End of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter
Wednesday	March	10	3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter Final Grades Due by 12:00 pm
Thursday	March	11	Student Half Day - 11:00am Dismissal (PreK-5)/11:30am Dismissal (6-12) District Institute - 12:00pm-2:30pm (PreK-5)/12:30pm-3:00pm (6-12) Parent-Teacher Conferences - 3:00pm-7pm (PreK-5)/3:30pm - 7:30pm (6-12)
Friday	March	12	Non-Attendance Day (Students) – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr Conferences & Report Cards - 8-11am
Monday - Friday	March	22-26	Spring Break
Friday	April	2	Non-Attendance Day (District Offices Closed)
Friday	April	23	Fourth Quarter Progress Reports Sent Home
Friday	May	28	Last Day of School - Student Half Day - 11:00am Dismissal (PreK-5)/11:30am Dismissal (6-12) . Staff Records Day PM. End of 4 <sup>th</sup> Qtr
Monday	June	15	Summer School Session 1 Mon-Thurs, June 15-July 3
Monday	July	6	Summer School Session 2 Mon-Thurs, July 6-July 23

### Frequently Asked Questions – General

**If I was unable to register my child for the first phase of hybrid, will there be another opportunity?** Yes. A second parent survey/registration for hybrid will be sent to parents in mid-February for a Phase 2 start date of Monday, March 1st.

**Will the NCCP Extended Care and Learning Program (ECLP) continue with hybrid?** No. However, NCCP staff will be present during the school day to support students.

**If my student participated in the NCCP ECLP, do I need to register for hybrid learning?** Yes. Since some families may decide to opt out of sending their student to school as a result of the district's shift to hybrid, parents must inform us of their choice of remote or hybrid learning.

**What if I selected hybrid learning and my family has multiple students in District 187? Will their school schedules match?**

To the fullest extent possible, hybrid schedules are designed to minimize conflicts between schools. After receiving notification from your student's school, please review schedules carefully. Please contact a principal or assistant principal to determine if an adjustment can be made. Flexibility may be limited, and in such cases, students may have to continue only with remote instruction.

**What will happen if my student is found to have a temperature when they arrive to school?**

Per the COVID-19 Health Precautions stated on page 8 of this document, “Students who present with symptoms at school will be immediately separated from the rest of the school population, and the student’s parent/guardian will be contacted to pick up the student from school. In the event emergency services are necessary, the District will call 911.”

**What if I do not want my student’s temperature checked or my student refuses to comply?**

Students who participate in hybrid learning must comply with directives for temperature checking. Non-compliance will result in a student being denied entry to class and assigned to remote learning at home.

**Must my student have a face covering to ride the bus?**

Yes, bus riders must wear a face covering prior to boarding and comply with directives to sit in an assigned seat. Students will be removed from bus transportation for non-compliance.

**How will students be served lunch? Will COVID-19 precautions be in place?**

Pre-K - 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students will be served lunch in classrooms. Grades 4 – 8 will utilize the school’s cafeteria for lunch and maintain social distancing while at lunch tables with plexiglass dividers. Due to the shortened high school schedule, grades 9 -12 will receive a grab and go lunch at the end of the school day.

**Will students receive breakfast at school?**

Breakfast will be provided for Pre-K - 5 students when they arrive at school for consumption in classrooms. Grades 6 -12 will receive a grab and go breakfast as they enter the building time to eat before they enter classrooms.

**Frequently Asked Questions – Special Needs****How will student evaluations (initials and re-evaluations) be conducted?**

The district is not exempt from meeting both state and federal requirements concerning referrals and evaluations. We will handle all referrals and evaluations in a manner that complies with federal and state requirements.

IEP teams will consider all options for convening evaluations/re-evaluations cautiously and consider the legal requirements, best practices, and safety risk when completing assessment planning procedure for both IEPs and 504s.

**How will IEP and 504 meetings be held?**

In-person, meetings can be held given the implementation of PPE guidelines, social distancing, and disinfecting practices. This may mean that some IEP participants will have to join the meeting remotely.

If it is determined that the meeting should be conducted virtually, the parent or guardian must provide consent for the team to hold the meeting remotely/virtually. Preferred consent should be provided in writing (email or paper). If there are barriers to providing written consent, verbal consent will be accepted.

All IEP/504 team members must be present, even if held by alternate means unless the parent/guardian and the Assistant Director give consent for the excusal of any team member from the meeting.

### **How will transportation companies verify safety compliance?**

For outplaced students attending in-person, transportation services will follow the Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) guidelines to ensure the safety of students and staff. This includes wearing a mask for the entire route, social distancing guidelines (assigned seats), hand sanitizer, and disinfecting during and/or after each route.

Students exhibiting visible signs/symptoms of illness with family/guardian present will not be permitted entry onto the transporting vehicle. Students showing visible signs/symptoms of illness without family/guardian present will be permitted entry onto the transporting vehicle following PPE guidelines, will have an alternate spot on the transporting vehicle designated, and upon school, arrival will be escorted by an Administrator for appropriate evaluation of COVID-19 symptomatology conducted by trained District personnel.

### **Homebound or remote learning?**

Students who receive homebound services can participate in remote learning. The IEP/504 team should hold a meeting to discuss and determine the resources and structure of remote learning.

If it is determined that the student requires face-to-face instruction, the district will take measures to ensure that the home setting is compliant with state and local orders and health and safety guidelines and procedures. This will include PPE precautions, face covering, temperature checks of both the provider and the student, regular cleaning and sanitizing of equipment and materials, restrict sharing of items, provide learning materials and tools that can remain in the child's home, and limited capacity in any space while adhering to social distancing guidelines.

## Who do I call if I have a question?

Parents and guardians are encouraged to direct questions to their student's school. For support regarding District programs and services, please refer to the department list below or call the District Office at 847-689-8150.

<p><b>Green Bay Early Childhood Center</b> Grade Pre-K Nicole Johnson, Director of Early Childhood Initiatives 847-775-7100 njohnson@d187.org</p> <p><b>Evelyn Alexander Elementary</b> Grades K-3 Dr. Ana Fuhrer, Principal</p> <p>847-689-7345 afuhrer@d187.org</p> <p><b>Forrestal Elementary</b> Grades K-3 Inez Mitchell, Principal 847-689-6310 imitchell@d187.org</p>	<p><b>AJ Katzenmaier Academy</b> Grades 4-5 Michael Grenda, Principal 847-689-6330 mgrenda@d187.org</p> <p><b>Neal Math &amp; Science Academy</b> Grades 6-8 Wayne Williams, Principal 847-689-6313 wwilliams@d187.org</p> <p><b>North Chicago High School</b> Grades 9-12 Dr. Lilith Werner, Principal 847-578-7400 lwerner@d187.org</p>	<p><b>Multilingual Department</b> Yamilette Sosa, Director of Multilingual Programs 847-775-1619 ysosa@d187.org</p> <p><b>Special Education Department</b> Dr. Monique Auxila, Director of Special Education 847-689-6333 mauxila@d187.org</p> <p><b>Registration</b> Jaqueline Silva, District Registrar jsilva@d187.org 847-775-1610</p> <p><b>Transportation</b> Tasha R. Coleman, Transportation Specialist 847-775-1324 tjohnson@d187.org</p>
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