
Stronger Together:

A Working Plan for a Responsive Return to the Granby Public Schools

— Granby Board of Education —
July 22, 2020

Disclaimer

All information is draft and best thinking as of the time of this meeting and is subject to change.

3 key pieces from CSDE still outstanding:

- DPH guidance
- Opt-out guidance
- Special Education guidance

Timeline

State Plan due July 24th, 2020

July 7th Meeting: Discuss Full-Reopening

July 14th Meeting: Review Status of Draft Plan

July 21st Meeting: Finalize Plan for Submission to State

Late July/Early August: Package reopening information for families and refine building-based details

Ongoing - Work groups will be meeting to compile sections of the plan under advisement of the Reopening Task Force

"Adapt, Advance, Achieve" Reopening Plan for Granby Public Schools

Priorities:

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Operations:

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Health Practices and Protocols:

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Health Monitoring Plan:

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Cancellation of Classes, Remote Learning, and Reopening Plans:

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Academics:

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Family and Student Engagement:

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Temporarily Choosing Not to Participate

- Parents notify school upon receipt/review of plan
- Length of time TBD based on guidance
- Online learning, assignments and material posted on an electronic site, with regular check-ins, synchronous could be option
- In-sync with classroom curricular goals
- Student needs will be met per individualized planning
- Details depend on numbers

School Liaison, Communication Plans and Data Collection

- District Liaison: Assistant Superintendent
- School Liaisons: School Nurses
- Establish regular channels of communication: e-blasts, videos, School Messenger & website (dedicated page)
- Survey families
 - 1,207 Students accounted for, about 70% response
 - 65% of the children plan to return to school
 - 4% of the children do not plan to return to school (45 students)
 - 31% of the children are unsure about their return to school
 - 66% of the child have parents/guardians willing to drive them to school

Facilities

- Student workstations - spaced at least 3' up to 6', facing one direction, plastic barriers available
- Teacher workstations - front of class, if at least 6' spacing mask can be removed with plastic barrier recommended; however, when closer, mask is required and face shield/barrier recommended
- Traffic flow established and marked
- Remove additional furniture and materials
- Sanitize shared spaces between use
- Larger classes moved to larger spaces
- Building Principals/Director of Facilities conducting building walkthroughs to establish capacities and layouts for each space



Facilities (Cont'd)

All staff will be made aware of the Cleaning and Disinfecting Schedule:

- a. Prior to school opening and upon school closures of seven days or longer:
Routine cleaning and ensure water and ventilation systems are safe to use.
- b. Daily:
 - i. Routine cleaning of all areas of the school used during that day.
 - ii. Cleaning and disinfection of “high-touch” areas that you have targeted in your plan.
- c. Twice Daily: Clean and sanitize/disinfect bathroom surfaces twice per day, especially during times of full occupancy in the school and in high-traffic bathrooms that are in areas where they are more commonly used.
- d. After each use: Clean and sanitize table and high-touch surfaces in shared spaces.

Facilities (Cont'd)

All staff will be made aware of Ventilation Protocols and directed not to alter any equipment:

- Goal is to draw air out of a room and refresh the air

All staff will be made aware of Hygiene Practices:

- Touch-free fixtures/entry
- Increased hand washing and sanitizing

Professional Development/Training

- Time allocated to train and educate all including substitutes and information made available to families

Daily Operations

- PK-5: Students will travel with their classroom cohort and, when possible, staff will rotate and students will stay in the classroom. The grade level (or cluster of classes) will be the overarching cohort. If possible, specials' teachers will do longer stretches with a cohort - proposed two-week cycles.
- 6-12: Student day will be divided into 4 longer class "blocks." Each class of the day will compose a cohort. The overarching cohort will be a team or grade level and classes will be scheduled within this overarching cohort where possible. Extended passing time will allow for sanitizing of spaced surfaces between cohorts. Students may arrive late or leave early at the high school without penalty if they have a first or last block study hall.
- Teachers and staff should follow the cohorts of their students as much as possible.

Daily Operations (Cont'd)

- Cohorts should have assigned zones of the school for shared spaces and traffic patterns, including bathroom use.
- Where the cohort model cannot be maintained, increased safety measures will be enacted (i.e., main office, nurse's office, etc.) and logs will be kept to document student/staff travel.
- Shared spaces should be scheduled at reduced capacity, sanitized between waves of students and scheduled in a staggered way where possible to reduce the flow of traffic.
- Buildings will be closed to outside organizations until further notice.
- Visitors very limited and by appointment only.

Child Nutrition

- Grab and go meals
- Lunch in cafeteria, common spaces, courtyards, and outdoors with cohorts
- Students spaced 6' apart since masks will be removed
- New policies and procedures for serving, ordering, and accounting for lunches
- Water bottle fillers open, encourage bottles with built-in straw
- Planning for hybrid and remote meal plans

Transportation

Pick-up/Drop-off:

- Building Principals will work with the Director of Facilities and Public Safety Officials to review parent drop-off/pick-up routes and alter the traffic flow, if possible, to accommodate increased traffic.
- Building Principals will establish a staggered drop-off/pick-up schedule at the family level, communicate the schedule to parents along with modified drop-off/pick-up procedures that minimize contact and keep parents from exiting the car.
- District Administration will work collaboratively to establish start and end times for each school that minimizes the amount of time students are waiting to enter/exit their classrooms while taking into account the bus runs and contractual obligations.

Transportation (Cont'd)

Bussing:

- Ongoing communication and training with bus companies around health and safety.
- Busses will have cleaning protocols.
- Bus Monitor positions have been posted and will be filled as possible.
- Signage will be posted on busses that reminds passengers to wear face coverings, stay seated and keep personal space.
- Disposable face coverings will be available on busses for anyone that does not have one.
- Upon review of the need for bus transportation, building-based staff will develop seating charts.
- Upon Moderate Transmission Risk the district will transition to a hybrid model that would reduce the load on each bus.

Health Practices and Protocols

- Work with FVHD and Nursing Supervisor to establish health practices.
- Communicate and teach practices including, but are not limited to:
 - social distancing,
 - frequent hand washing and use of hand sanitizer,
 - use of face coverings that completely cover the nose and mouth,
 - respiratory and cough etiquette, and
 - enhanced cleaning/disinfection of surfaces.
- Provide and archive trainings and provide time for staff and students to practice new routines.
- Have suppliers lined up and materials needed on order.

Reporting Illnesses and Protecting Vulnerable Populations

- Educate families, staff and students about symptoms of COVID-19.
- Engage parents and staff in self-assessing prior to leaving home.
- Work with FVHD and Nursing Supervisor to establish criteria when students/staff need to be sent home and when and how they can return.
- Monitor absences and suspected cases and exposures at a school and district level while abiding by privacy regulations.

Social Distancing

- **The protective factors of social distancing, cohorting and face coverings work in concert and when one factor is decreased the others should be increased.**
- When eating in the cafeteria or taking off masks for mask breaks, recess or physical education, students should be spaced at least six feet apart.
- Based on the number of students riding the busses, seating will be assigned to maximize space between family groups.
- In music classrooms, students should be spaced at least 12 feet apart when singing and playing wind/brass instruments.
- One classroom or cohort should be assigned to designated outdoor space (field/playground/blacktop) at a time.
- Bathrooms should be limited in capacity to the number of stalls.

Social Distancing (Cont'd)

- Staff should maintain six feet of social distancing between adults at all times.
- Common adult spaces such as the office and faculty room should contain visual reminders to socially distance and be arranged so that seating is six feet apart.
- Staff may remove their mask when in a private office or a closed-door space occupied by a single adult.
- Groups of larger than 10 adults should not convene inside unless space allows.
- Virtual meetings recommended outside of staff cohorts.
- Meetings including visitors outside of Granby school staff should be held virtually.
- Education, trainings and reminders will be issued around social distancing.
- All social distancing protocols are subject to change based on health information and changes from the CSDE and DPH. Changes will be widely communicated through e-blasts and posted announcements.

Masks

- Students and staff will be required to wear face coverings while in the school building.
- Parents cannot opt students out of wearing masks but some students will not be able to wear masks for documented medical reasons.
- Exceptions are PE, lunch, select music classes, mask breaks when socially distanced, teachers when greater than six feet away, and staff in offices alone.
- Clear masks will be available as needed.
- Staff and students will have access to face shields/plexiglass workstations for additional protection.
- The district will provide disposable masks as needed.
- Education and communication around appropriate way to wear face coverings will be provided for staff and students.
- Mask wearing will be embedded in school expectations.

Planning and Distribution of Information

- Educate staff and students on symptoms of COVID-19.
- Engage parents, students and staff in self-assessment.
- Cooperate with FVHD around contact tracing.

Containment

- Establish with the FVHD guidelines for when to send students and staff home, and plan for when and how to welcome them back.
- Identify isolation rooms for suspected cases.
- Develop building-based response teams to communicate with district response team if there is a suspected or confirmed case.
- Utilize Department of Public Health's Tiered System to inform action.

Cancellation of Classes, Remote Learning and Reopening Plans

- Collaborate closely with the Department of Public Health and Farmington Valley Health District.
- When planning, consider extent of impact, length of impact and the best method for continuing instruction.
- Communicate out plans through e-blast, School Messenger and website.

Future Planning for Remote Blended Learning

- Reflection on distance learning has been compiled.
- Full reopening, hybrid model and remote learning plans will be developed to coincide with the low, moderate and high transmission rate.
- Plans will be shared with families and staff in advance.
- Professional development time for staff on developing continuous learning plan that carry through all models will be conducted regularly.

Future Planning for Remote Blended Learning (Cont'd)

- Full Reopening
 - Distribution of 1:1 devices, establish Seesaw or Google Classroom
 - Teach students appropriate use of devices and structures
- Hybrid Model
 - Maroon/gold assignment
 - 2 days on-campus, 2 days off-campus, 1 day remote learning for most
 - Daily engagement expectations
- Remote Learning
 - Daily schedule of synchronous and asynchronous instruction

Special Education

- There is flexibility in determining how to meet the individualized needs of students receiving special education services under federal disability law but there has been no waiver of requirements under IDEA for provision of a free and appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment.
- Delivery of service hours is a built-in consideration for each model.
- Maintain physical school as resource center if allowable.
- The unique needs of individual students should drive the use of additional and/or specialized personal protective equipment as needed.
- For students who have notes from medical and mental health providers that state the student cannot wear a mask, students experiencing difficulty with social distancing and students that need access to services that cannot be provided in a socially distanced way, additional layers of protection will be used to minimize and mitigate risks to both students and staff.

Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) and Mental Health

- Schools and teachers will reach out to all students and families and invite them back.
- Virtual Meet and Greet Sessions will be held.
- Trauma-informed training and annual mandated reporter training for staff will occur during back-to-school professional development.
- Engagement will be a byproduct of live instruction.
- Tier 1 SEL instruction will be embedded in remote learning options.
- Staff will focus on students that were previously disengaged and provide tiered supports as needed.

Additional Areas of Response

- English Learners
- Family Support and Communication
- After-School Programming
- Career and Technical Education
- Certification and Professional Planning

Professional Development

- Provision of 177 days allows for 3 additional days before school.
- Trainings
 - signs and symptoms of COVID-19,
 - standard public health protocols including reporting illness,
 - hygiene practices,
 - the correct use of PPE,
 - supporting SEL
- Time will be dedicated to adjusting the physical environment, establishing the daily schedule with new health and safety routines embedded and communicating with families
- There will be professional learning sessions focused on structures to support continuous learning across models.