



2020-21 Denville Reopen Plan Summary

**This plan is subject to change per the NJ Department of Education and/or NJ
Department of Health
7/31/20- revised 9-10-20**

This is a summary of the plan to reopen our schools in September 2020. The plan is scheduled to be voted on at the August 10, 2020 Board of Education (BOE) meeting. The administration team has worked within the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) guidelines to put together what we believe is the best option for educating the students of Denville. The plan consists of in person learning five days per week, four-hour AM days with all staff and students wearing face coverings. In addition, a fully virtual plan has been prepared and is the other option for families. [For additional information please consult this website:](#)

After reviewing the documents listed below please take the survey which is due by **August 9, 2020.:**

- Reopening Plan Summary
- Reopening Plan FAQ's
- Virtual program samples

We need every family to complete this questionnaire no later than Sunday 8/9/20. The answers to these questions will determine your child's placement for the start of the 2020-21 school year. Families that do not answer the survey will have their children placed in the in-person program.

This document has been prepared to give you as much information as we currently have to aid in your decision. Information such as in person class size, how many students will occupy a space at one time, how much virtual teaching will be synchronous vs asynchronous, will largely be determined by the responses to the Student Placement Questionnaire. Once we receive parent responses, the administration will finalize student placement and that information will be shared with families as soon as possible.

Each district in the state is facing the same challenges, and many varieties of in-person instruction are being seen across the state. We wanted to briefly review other options that were considered and explain why this plan was chosen.

- A/B rotation of students in classrooms. This option cuts the in-person education time each student can receive in half, significantly decreasing the quality of their education.
- Full Day 2-3 times per week supplemented with virtual learning. The DOH recommends masks be worn by everyone to help minimize the risk of spreading



infectious disease. Asking our students to wear a mask for 8 hours a day and continue to be able to focus and learn in that environment seemed very overwhelming. This option would have required lunch and physical education classes being held in the building. By not having these events in the school day we are able to utilize our large spaces (cafeterias, gyms and all purpose rooms) for classroom space. Finally, our teachers and administration were concerned with the lack of consistency in schedule which is key to a child's education.

Our plan was created in cooperation with the district administration, NJDOE, health professionals (school district physician, St. Clare's Health System's Infectious Disease Department, District Head Nurse and the Local and County Departments Of Health) and the Denville Township Schools Reopening Committee. The committee consisted of 36 members including district leadership, teachers, parents, a Valleyview School student, and members of the Special Education Parent Advisory Committee. The committee was guided by three driving principles:

1. Student and staff safety
2. Educational benefit
3. Convenience for staff and families

[Click here for presentations and videos of the reopening committee meetings.](#)

In the reopening plan and the FAQ sheet, there are 4 categories to find information, we hope these categories help in organizing the details presented.

- Buildings, Grounds, and Transportation (Operations/Logistics)
- Instruction and Programming
- Support & Special Services
- Child care

As always, if you have any questions please feel free to reach out to your child's principal, or another member of the administrative team. [Contact information for all key district communicators can be found clicking here:](#)

We are committed to providing the best possible education while maintaining a safe and healthy environment for all students and staff. We appreciate your help in filling out the questionnaire as soon as possible so that we can provide more detailed answers soon. Thank you for your patience and understanding during this unprecedented time.



Buildings, Grounds, Transportation (operations/logistics):

- Use of large spaces like gyms, libraries and cafeterias to spread out students as much as possible- use of portable partitions to accomplish this.
- PK-8 children will wear face coverings - the schools will provide time for mask breaks throughout the day.
- Sneeze guards for all students to provide short mask breaks. See picture below.
- Sanitize all rooms and buses daily as well as frequently touched surfaces and restrooms during the day. Wipes provided for cleaning of classroom surfaces.
- Students will report directly to classrooms in all schools upon arrival.
- PK-5 Students will be assigned to a cohort group in which they will remain throughout the day to reduce the number of people with whom each child comes in contact. We will reduce the number of students in each cohort to allow for distancing.
- Lunch time will not be provided during the school day. For students attending aftercare, lunch time will be provided following the child care standards. Free and reduced lunches will still be provided for those who qualify.
- Parents are asked to provide face coverings - the district has a supply for students who do not have masks. See below for examples of what is acceptable.
- District will provide face coverings for staff.
- Water for staff and students- we ask that all staff and students bring a water bottle to school each day if needed. The fountains will be available for bottle filling only.
- Visitors and Parent Meetings:
 - a. Parent meetings will be held virtually.
 - b. Back to School Nights will be held virtually.
 - c. No visitors will be allowed past the vestibule.
- Transportation
 - All students wear masks on buses- sneeze curtains installed for drivers.
 - We are attempting to reduce the amount of students on the bus by asking parents to drive students.
 - Buses will be sanitized twice per day.
 - Transportation will be provided for our list of child care providers to and from school. Transportation will not be provided from after care to home.

Instruction and Programming:

- The district will offer a fully virtual program for students whose families select this option. (See samples of virtual programs)
- Four-hour AM days for all K-8 students every day with continued virtual components in the PM. (Pre-K hours to be determined)
- Recess and other breaks to be provided during the day including time outside for staff and students when possible (tents purchased).



- PK-5 Snack time: will be a working snack time at student desks or outside when possible. Schools will provide a list of appropriate snacks.

Support and Special Services:

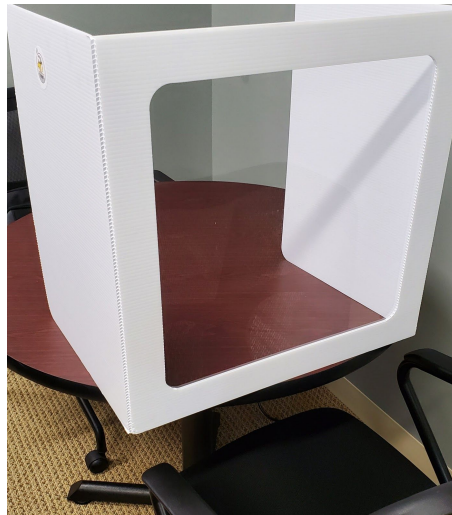
- English as a Second Language (ESL) will utilize a hybrid instruction model, part in person part virtually.
- Tiered System of Supports (TSS): All action plans continue - Goals adjusted and remote learning interventions added, as needed. Meetings will be held virtually.
- Nurses' offices will be used as confinement areas for students (2 spaces in each office) with air purification systems.
- Special Education:
 - Child Study Team (CST) will complete testing in-person using shields and masks.
 - To begin the school year, students with IEPs will follow the same school day schedule/hours as all other students in their assigned cohorts. Therapies will be provided in-person during the school day or virtually. Once the school year begins this piece will be reviewed and adjusted if needed.
 - IEP meetings will be held virtually.
 - Plexiglas shields will be utilized for one to one instruction, speech, basic skills, reading, CST testing, etc. See picture below.

Child care:

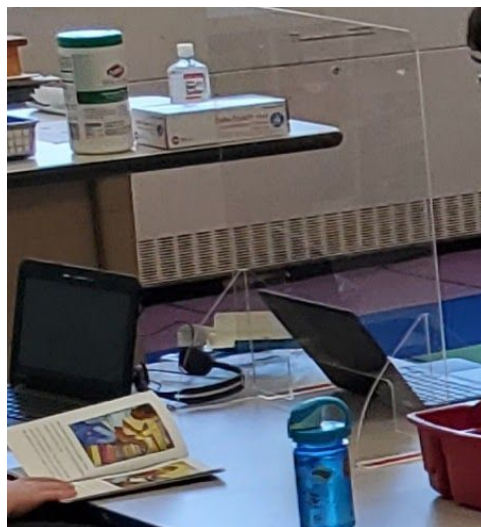
- Riverview and Lakeview Child care- Lakeland Hills YMCA will provide on site child care for students in the schools following the Department of Health child care guidelines.
- Other vendors will also offer services.
- AM child care as well as after school care until 5:00PM will be offered.
- [Click here for YMCA information](#)
- [Click here for contact information for all providers.](#)



Sneeze Guard



Plexiglas Shield for 1 to 1 instruction and therapy





Acceptable face coverings for school:



[Click here for information on masks from the CDC](#)



[Denville Schools Reopening/COVID Website Click Here:](#)

District Staff

Dr. Steven Forte, Superintendent

sforte@denville.org

Dr. Sandra Cullis, Asst Superintendent

scullis@denville.org

Grace Johnson, Director of Special Services/ESY

gjohnson@denville.org

Jessica Seidel, Head Nurse

jseidel@denville.org

Damaris Gurowsky, Business Administrator

dgurowsky@denville.org

Tina Theodoropoulos, Riverview Principal

ctheodoropoulos@denville.org

Beth Baisley, Lakeview Principal

bbaisley@denville.org

Seth Korman, Valleyview Principal

skorman@denville.org

Tom DeAngleo, Transportation Director

transportation@denville.org

[Health Department, Dr. Carlos Perez Click Here](#)