

EDUPRIZE SCHOOLS – Reopening Plan School Year 2020-2021 FAQ

Q. What is the school closure plan in the event of a positive Covid19 case in the school?

A. In the case of one COVID-19 positive we will send that child home to quarantine for the recommended 14 days and send a letter to the families who are in that classroom and any siblings classrooms. If there are more than one child we will consult the County Health Department.

Q. Will only the positive person be expected to quarantine?
Will enrolled family members be expected to quarantine?
Will classmates be expected to quarantine?
Will an entire grade?
Will the entire building?
Will the entire school?

A. The family of the positive person would be expected to quarantine. Car-pool members and other classmates may be encouraged to quarantine depending on the circumstances.

Q. How will parents be notified if/when there is a positive Covid19 case?

A. The classmates of the positive person, plus the classmates of any sibling of the positive person will receive an email.

Q. Was a third-party nurse for hire option explored for non-contact temperature taking of students?

A. No

Q. Will traditional schedule students still have access to restaurant-hot lunch service? (Gilbert Campus Only)

A. Yes

Q. Will traditional scheduled students eat lunch outside at tables?

A. Yes

Q. Will aides be sanitizing tables in addition to watching recess?

A. Yes, we have different aides on these duties

Q. Tell me more about how lunch-time will work.

A. Lunch has been modified such that fewer children are out at tables or recess at all times. Additional seating will be brought into most areas to also facilitate social distancing.

Q. Will there be a meet-the-teacher / open house night?

A. These will be done through Zoom by appointment with teachers.

Q. Will EDUPRIZE students and staff follow mandates regarding masks?

A. Yes

Q. Can an estimated RANGE of "small class sizes" be shared with parents in advance of school starting? You have the data from intent to return forms. Curious about class size DETAILS. example: 5th grade traditional schedule range 18-20 students.

A. Intent to return data is flawed and unhelpful when making decisions of this magnitude. We have surveyed and asked parents to opt in to our hybrid model in K-12, or our online option in 7-12. This in itself will reduce in class ratios on top of our planning in the younger spaces of having fewer children. Currently grade levels are 10-15% choosing the hybrid or online model for the first quarter.

Q. How often are you going to evaluate your health protection strategies?

A. We are opening in three planned phases. Phase One is the first two weeks only once in-person attendance begins. This will include all of our options as publicized to date.

Q. Do you have a task force that meets weekly? Monthly?
Who are the people in charge of these decisions?
Will there be parent representatives?

A. The task force meets twice a month, but speaks weekly with continuous updates. The administrative team and two Board members (who are parents and grandparents of attendees) make up this team.

Q. Was a later school start date considered? Example - August or September.

A. It was considered and not chosen because of state recommendations of having multiple longer breaks built into the schedule to allow for future options in case of school closure, flattening curve, etc.

Q. Will fall break or spring break be cancelled (or used as flex days for illnesses) like other schools have discussed?

A. Not under current plan, but we must remain flexible on all of these areas.

Q. How will physical distancing be met within the classroom and hallways, especially if the class size is larger than 15?

A. Some studies suggest that even three feet and masks will considerably reduce the transmission of disease. We are asking all teachers to increase separation of students to the greatest degree possible and have the teacher move to the students when possible to reduce exposure to additional surfaces or students.

Q. Will there be anything done to sanitize desks in between AM and PM tops shared classrooms?

A. Yes- they will be sanitized after one group leaves and before the next arrives.

Q. Has an alternate schedule/ flex schedule been considered to help create smaller in person settings? (ie: one or two days in school for instruction/small groups, etc and then the rest at home doing online/assigned lessons from the classroom teacher?)

A. We have considered all options. Our parent surveys have suggested that allowing them to return to work is a necessary consideration which would not be possible under split student days. We believe that our numbers will be reduced and work out with the various options parents are choosing.

Q. Will EDUPRIZE ask teachers to use face shields rather than face masks to allow students to be able to use multiple senses to understand language?

A. We want to honor the choice of each teacher and while we have discussed the benefits of this possibility, we recognize that it may not protect the teacher as well as a fitted mask.

Q. Would EDUPRIZE have access to purchase bulk face shields that the students could purchase? Face shields seem less intrusive and allow better air flow and would be less claustrophobic than a mask and this way the school could recoup some additional costs as well.

A. No, for the reason stated above

Q. Will the S.T.E.A.M. program still be offered for after care from 3pm - 6pm? And/or Tops Plus?

A. These options will be offered to limited numbers with additional space as needed once on-campus instruction resumes if our clientele want these. Principals will be in charge of offering these programs as needed.

Q. How will PE be handled? What about music?

A. Specials will be handled according to the guidelines we have provided our staff. In the case of PE, phase one will offer a health option where PE teachers go to the child's classroom to offer this instruction. Music, during phase one will be handled the same way.

Q. Is it possible to have mask wearing and non-mask wearing classrooms, so the parents can decide which they feel more comfortable with?

A. No

Q. Can we get more info about the staggered arrival and dismissal times? Will they be significantly different than what has been done in the past?

A. There have been several additions to policy regarding arrival and release. Look forward to receiving all of those instructions from your principal in their welcome back letter.

Q. If masks are mandatory, what are the negative effects of wearing them while using extra chemicals for sanitation or long-time use (ie. all day except while eating or drinking)?

A. Some sources suggest that oxygen intake is reduced to the wearer of the mask. Parents may want to inform themselves regarding this possibility by obtaining the pulse oximeter and do the simple finger test on their child, with and without a mask. Any chemicals used will be "kid friendly".

Q. So much of EDUPRIZE is hands-on/project-based/group based learning, how will you continue this type of programming while physically distancing and while each student needs their own manipulatives (no sharing of items)?

A. We have encouraged teachers to move to student desks in Phase One or limit the number of students who come to group tables to only a few, allowing for adequate distancing. Teachers have kid friendly disinfectant in each of their classrooms to wipe down tables between group use.

Q. What are EDUPRIZE's plans regarding guests on-site, field trips, assemblies, etc.?

A. Phase One will allow no guests to any classroom, no field trips off campus, and no live assemblies. Virtual experiences will allow for assemblies and field presenters to continue to offer this type of experience for our students.

Q. Can EDUPRIZE share a more specific in-school plan that notes exactly what will be done so we can make an informed decision about on-campus vs. distance learning?

A. Yes, see our web page full updated postings. All students will start the year July 22 through our hybrid distance learning option and can easily transition to on-campus once the state allows schools to open.

Q. If a student starts at home, can they seamlessly transition into a physical class mid-year? Or vis-a-versa?

A. Yes. In the K-12 hybrid model the children will be on the exact content as their peers in the other program. In grades 7-up the online content does not have the exact order of standards taught and thus we encourage families to make a semester commitment to this option.

Q. Has EDUPRIZE considered Swivel cameras in classrooms for synchronous learning/engagement with peers?

A. Yes, but we have chosen to not use these for a variety of privacy reasons.

Q. How will you manage families without technology access who cannot send their children due to underlying health conditions or other reasons? Shouldn't remote learning be available for all students, not just those who can afford the technology? Is there a way to rent or loan the new technology that was recently purchased through donations?

A. We have asked parents to commit to providing these for the most part. Families with unique need will work with their building principals for assistance.

Q. How specifically will children with IEPs who need to opt for the distance learning option be assisted?

A. Students will receive support as outlined per their IEP, after consultation with their case manager and SPED Director.

Q. Will attendance guidelines be relaxed so that kids/teachers that are sick may stay home?

A. Yes, per state modified guidelines.

Q. What happens if multiple teachers are sick and have to be out for extended periods of time? Given the difficulty of finding subs in the past couple of years how will this be addressed without mingling classes?

A. Classes will not be mingled. In these extreme cases, support personnel will be used to cover classes.

Q. What happens if a child arrives at school or becomes sick? Will there be a separate space, away from the nurse's office, to isolate suspected Covid cases?

A. Yes

Q. Will you do away with the perfect attendance award to encourage kids that are sick to stay home from school?

A. This will likely be discussed and decided by principals. They are very aware of not wanting to entice children to be in school who are not well.

Q. If we decide to go the distance learning route, do we lose our AM/PM Tops spot?

A. No

Q. If we start the year off distance learning, but decide to return to school, do we need to wait until the end of the quarter to do so?

A. We will do what is best for the child. As soon as school is allowed to be held in-person, on campus, those parents choosing this option will report to assigned classrooms.

Q. If we begin the year doing in-person school instruction, do we have the ability to switch back to distance learning?

A. In grades K-12 in our hybrid model, this would be an easy change. Since licenses are involved in the 7-12 space for on-line learning, it would depend on availability but likely this would be an option. Students in grades 7-12 in the hybrid model will consult with our admin team and guidance counselor before changing programs. Rest assured we will be looking at what is best for the child.

Q. Is the preschool still planning on running as usual?

A. Yes, but will not start until the allowed opening of school date. Currently this is Aug. 17, but please look for updates on our web page.

Q. What is being done with the HVAC system to improve ventilation and decrease risk of virus transmission in the indoor environment?

A. Greater intake of outside air is controlled at each unit. They will be set appropriately to increase greater outside air flow.

Q. Have you considered splitting classes to allow for truly smaller class sizes? For example, Mrs x has 20 students. 10 kids go the first part of the day, 10 kids go second part of the day. Or 10 go MW, 10 go TTh. And supplement with online learning.

A. Yes we considered it, but the majority of our parents want either a “normal schedule” or a distance option.

Q. I see Governor Ducey released a plan today to increase per-pupil funding for students who attend school virtually. Does this development affect EDUPRIZE plans regarding a hybrid program where students split time between in-person and remote attendance? I'd been told such a plan wasn't being considered, but I wondered if the funding change might put it back on the table.

A. No, this does not change our plan.

Q. Other districts are pushing back their start date. Will EDUPRIZE consider delaying the school start date?

A. We will not be pushing back our calendar start date in order to protect our options for multi-week closures, if required later. Our hybrid model allows us to start on-time (July 22) and have children move seamlessly to on-campus instruction as soon as it is allowed by state agencies.

Q. Can students/staff have exemptions to mask wearing for medical reasons? If so, how will others know the reason without breaking FERPA?

A. Yes, if masks are required by the town, county, or state and a child or teacher has a doctor's directive to the contrary, we will keep this on file with our nurse. That information will not be made available to any inquirer.