

WJUSD

Reopening Plan

A Phased Approach to Reopening Schools

-Draft-

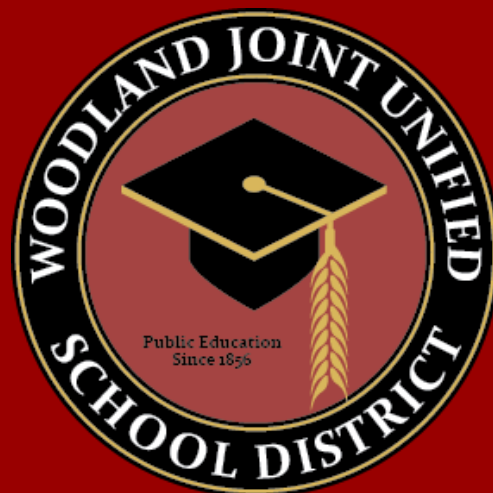


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Introduction

Dear WJUSD Community,

As speculation broadens about what school will look like this fall, our staff has been thoughtfully working to provide clarity about the educational choices our students will face this coming August. WJUSD has been preparing to reopen schools using the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and County Health guidelines for putting best practices and safety measures in place. Our shared interests of having all students and staff return to school remains our goal. However, the health and safety of students and staff at our schools continues to be the highest priority of our Board of Trustees and District, and our best chance to safeguard everyone is to open virtually.

Throughout our planning, we have used five main guiding criteria to guide our efforts:

- Ensure the safety of all students and staff
- Maximize student engagement and student academic growth
- Provide support for social-emotional needs
- Provide support for staff and parents
- Assure operational and financial viability

While the decision for full Virtual Learning was difficult and complex, the Board and Superintendent are confident that starting the school year with full Virtual Learning is the safest and healthiest way to ensure our students continue their education even during this pandemic. To support planning for the District, staff, and families, we will start the school year with full Virtual Learning and monitor through the 1st trimester of school to determine how we can phase into a model to return as many students as possible back to school depending on the health conditions of our community. The next two months will determine whether WJUSD will remain in full Virtual Learning for the rest of the semester or begin phasing into a Blended Model - all dependent on the level of spread of the virus in our community.

We have learned a lot from our experiences last March. Virtual Learning will be vastly improved from what we experienced last spring. Education continues to be identified as an “essential service.” We will continue our food services and meals for our students and families and ensure a meaningful education for all students. To maximize District resources and best support our school staff, the schools will remain closed to the public but staff will be able to fully access all teaching resources, technology, and ensure collaboration for lesson planning and peer support.

The state has provided guidelines for what virtual instruction will look like under the current COVID-19 conditions:

1. Instructional minutes are required to be met.
2. We expect daily instruction between the classroom teacher and students.
3. Lessons will be standards-aligned and we will provide grades as in our traditional school year.
4. All support staff will provide support services for our students whether virtual or in-person (depending on the “phase” we are in) for specialized services of need.

The decision to begin the year using Virtual Learning is not final for the entire school year. It is only the beginning to start school. As has been mentioned on several occasions, the COVID-19 situation is extremely “fluid” and we are planning a phased-in approach as the COVID-19 landscape improves. We look forward to starting the 2020-2021 school year with an optimistic outlook by providing students a quality education within a secure and supportive environment and preparing our students for a future of endless possibilities.

Thank you,

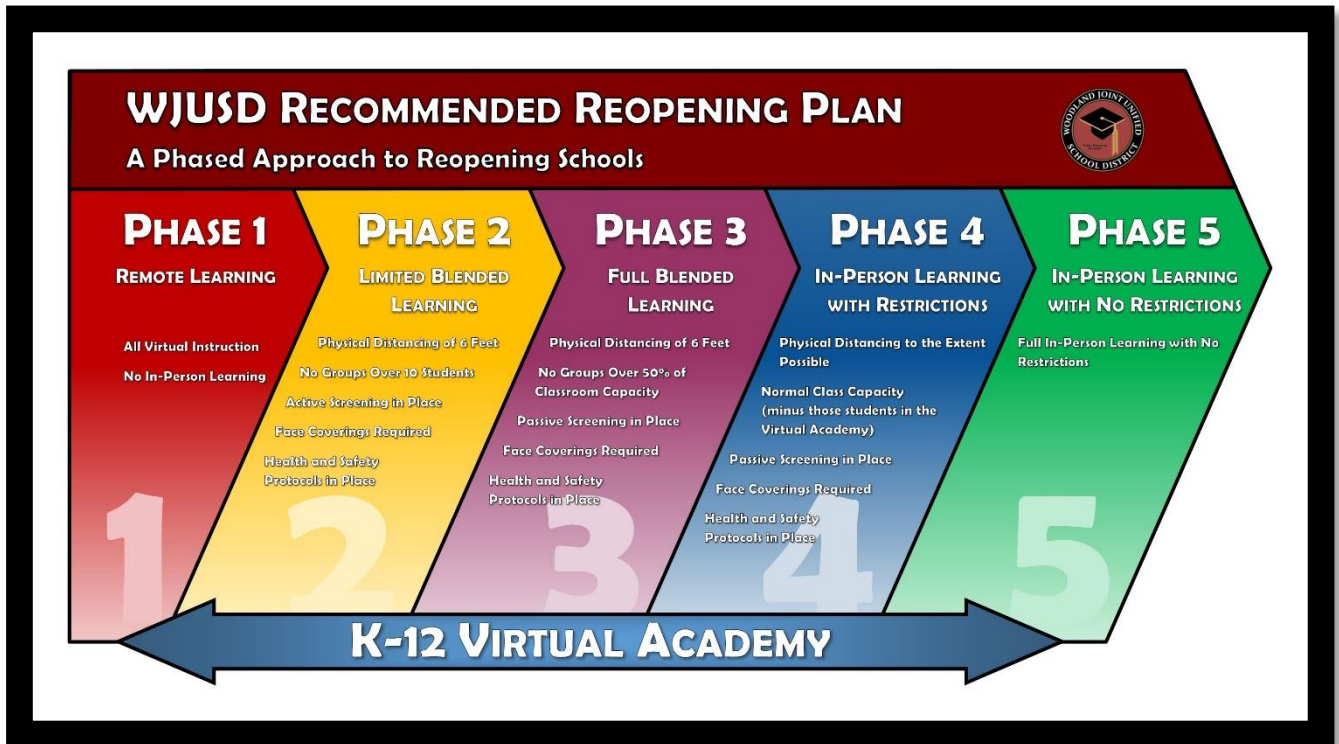
Tom Pritchard

Tom Pritchard

WJUSD Superintendent

Five Phase Plan

While we are hoping for the best, we are prepared for any scenario we may face this school year. Our Five Phase Plan intends to meet the social distancing restrictions that are likely as our community responds to ebbs and flows of the coronavirus.



Phase 1: Most restrictive situation, implemented at a single school, multiple schools, or entire district during significant community spread or as directed by the state or public health

Phase 2: Groups of 10 or smaller, with enhanced health protocols

Phase 3: Partial return of students, as directed with enhanced and encouraged health protocols

Phase 4: All students may return with encouraged health protocols

Phase 5: No restrictions

Reintroduction Priorities

Regardless of the phase, we have identified four priorities that we will focus on throughout the entire reintroduction process:

- Ensure the safety of all students and staff
- Maximize student engagement and student academic growth
- Provide support for social emotional needs
- Provide support for staff and parents
- Assure operational and financial viability

Stable groups of students (Cohorts)

During certain stages of a pandemic, it is crucially important to be able to quickly investigate cases and conduct contact tracing. By grouping students together, actions can be taken to limit interactions with other students within the building and on school grounds. Additionally, if there is a suspected case of COVID-19 at a school, it is easier to determine possible exposure and isolate and/or quarantine specific students, rather than having to close the entire school.

In education, we call groups of students cohorts.

Remote Learning

We surveyed parents at the end of the school year and have made improvements to remote learning which is a crucial component of Phases 1-4. Here are some improvements that you will see going into this year:

Learning Management System (LMS)

- Students and families will be asked to engage in a Learning Management System to conduct learning, receive updates and track student progress. The Learning Management System for the 2020-2021 school year will be Canvas.
- Students may find more engaging learning opportunities through other technology tools that we have learned to integrate into our instruction, such as, SeeSaw and Google Classroom.

Assignment Feedback

- Students will receive feedback on assignments each week and feedback will be logged in a single online location.

Attendance (for remote learning)

- Attendance will be based on attendance in daily, live virtual class meetings and completion of assignments and tracked weekly.

Grading

- Students' grades will be updated weekly in Canvas.

Engagement

- All students will receive multiple opportunities to engage in a virtual meeting with their teachers every day. In Phase 3 and 4, those opportunities may be substituted with in-person learning opportunities.



PHASE 1

REMOTE LEARNING

PHASE 1

PHASE 2

PHASE 3

PHASE 4

PHASE 5

What to Expect

Most restrictive situation, implemented at a single school, multiple schools, or entire district during significant community spread or as directed by the state or public health



Type of Instruction: During Phase 1 all WJUSD classrooms are closed and all learning is conducted remotely from home.



Physical Environment: No in-person learning.



Significantly Impacted Learners: Teachers of students with special needs work virtually with them.



Food Services: The Grab-and-Go option will be available at multiple locations for students participating in Remote Learning and the Virtual Academy.



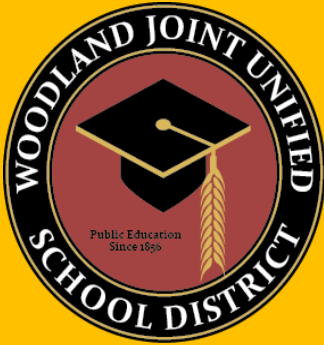
Transportation: No services are provided.



Athletics/Activities: None



Health Precautions: Student Support Services will support staff in helping students in goal setting, learning how to manage stress, maintain motivation, and building self-confidence.



PHASE 2

LIMITED BLENDED LEARNING

PHASE 1

PHASE 2

PHASE 3

PHASE 4

PHASE 5

What to expect

Groups of 10 or smaller, with enhanced health protocols



Type of instruction: Very limited return to in-person learning, prioritized by student group. Examples may include: Students that receive special education services, English Learners, and/or students receiving specialized counseling support. Most students will continue to participate in Remote Learning.



Physical Environment: Each cohort will have limited access to the building to prevent cross-contamination. Students will maintain social distancing of six-feet. Students and staff will be required to wear face coverings or other essential protective gear, per public health order.



Significantly Impacted Learners: Those who are willing and medically-able will be taught and supported in cohorts of up to 10 people, including the teacher and any required support staff. Our focus in this phase is providing services to our most vulnerable populations, knowing that they are the most impacted during remote learning.



Food Services: The Grab-and-Go option will be available at multiple locations for students participating in Remote Learning and the Virtual Academy.



Transportation: Service is limited. Social distancing requirements significantly impact the capacity of each bus. Staff will disinfect the buses after each group of students has been transported.

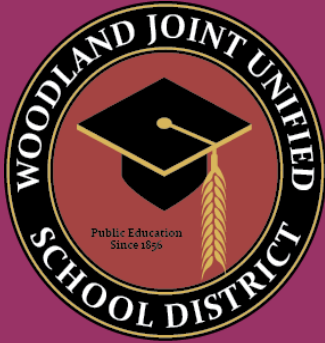


Athletics/Activities: Training and conditioning with health protocols including social distancing and screening will be allowed to start.



Health Precautions: Student Support Services will continue to support the social emotional needs of all students. Physical health will be maintained through:

- Physical Distancing of 6 Feet
- Active Screening
- Face Coverings Required
- Implementing Health and Safety Protocols



PHASE 3

FULL BLENDED LEARNING

PHASE 1

PHASE 2

PHASE 3

PHASE 4

PHASE 5

What to expect

Partial return of students (no groups over 50% of classroom capacity), as directed with enhanced and encouraged health protocols.



Type of Instruction

Blended learning at all levels. Students will have access to in-person instruction while participating in home learning assignments as directed by their teacher. The Virtual Academy will be available for students who do not yet feel comfortable returning to school.



Physical Environment: In classrooms, desks/tables will be placed at least six feet apart. Students and staff will be required to wear face coverings based on the public health orders at all times.

Access to the building will be limited to students, staff, and essential personnel. Each cohort will have access to specific areas of the building – limiting the interactions of groups/classes. Students will have designated entrances and bathrooms. There will be protocols and signage in place to promote student and staff safety.

We know that in addition to learning, students will need opportunities to be active. Best practice is for lessons to extend beyond the classroom, so we will be encouraging teachers to use outdoor spaces often during instruction and for breaks.



Significantly Impacted Learners: Continuation of Phase 2, with the possibility of additional in-person instruction as permitted by health department guidelines and feasibility.



Food Services: Breakfast and lunch will be served in the classroom.

The Grab-and-Go option will be available at multiple locations for students participating in Remote Learning and the Virtual Academy.



Transportation: In this phase, social distancing requirements will significantly impact the capacity of each bus. In order to maintain the Health and Safety of students and staff, the following protocols will be put into place.

- During boarding, each student's temperature will be taken and provided hand sanitizer.
- Students and the driver will be required to wear face coverings.
- Students will practice social distancing to the best extent possible.
- Should a student become ill while in transit, they will be isolated in a dedicated seat directly behind the driver, to the extent possible.
- Vehicles will be cleaned/disinfected at the end of each route and prior to new routes.

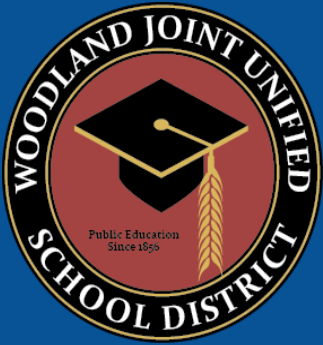


Athletics and Activities: Training and conditioning with health protocols including social distancing and screening.



Health Precautions: Student Support Services will continue to support the social emotional needs of all students. Physical health will be maintained through:

- Physical Distancing of 6 Feet
- Passive Screening
- Face Coverings Required
- Continue Health and Safety Protocols



PHASE 4

IN-PERSON LEARNING WITH RESTRICTIONS

PHASE 1

PHASE 2

PHASE 3

PHASE 4

PHASE 5

What to expect

Full enrollment in classrooms and the interactions between groups of students. Schools will still be encouraged to avoid large groups or events.



Type of Instruction: In Phase 4, most students return to in-person learning, but the Virtual Academy will be available for students who do not yet feel comfortable returning to school full-time. Health precautions would remain in effect and staff would be able to resume normal duties at their buildings.



Significantly Impacted Learners: Students who are medically able and willing to return to school receive their typical support and programming.

Students with special needs and students who are medically fragile will continue to be supported with home learning as needed.



Physical Environment: In many ways, schools return to normal operations. Face coverings will be required for students and staff as required by public health orders. Students and staff will be encouraged to continue social distancing when possible and feasible.



Food Services: Food may be served in the classroom and the cafeteria, in alignment with any applicable federal, state, and local health orders. As a result, seating may be arranged to provide some social distancing and there may be schedule changes.

The Grab-and-Go option will be available at multiple locations for students participating in the Virtual Academy and remote learning settings.



Transportation: Normal service would be provided to eligible students. Students will complete passive screening daily. Face coverings would be required based on public health orders, but no social distancing restrictions would be in place.

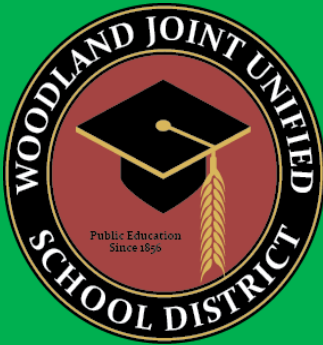


Athletics/Activities: Will be based on Public Health and State guidance on event size.



Health Precautions: Student Support Services will continue to support the social emotional needs of all students. Physical health will be maintained through:

- Physical Distancing to the extent possible
- Passive Screening
- Face Coverings Required
- Continue Health and Safety Protocols



PHASE 5

IN-PERSON LEARNING WITH NO RESTRICTIONS

PHASE 1

PHASE 2

PHASE 3

PHASE 4

PHASE 5

What to expect

Phase 5 is when all students will be able to return to in-person learning without pandemic-related health and safety measures.

Schools will be in normal operations. Students will attend class daily.

Students who have been enrolled in the Virtual Academy will continue to be supported if they wish to continue full time with home learning.