REOPENING OF SCHOOLS PLAN
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
K-8th grade students will have the option to return to a hybrid learning model blending in-person and virtual learning.

A fully Remote Learning (e-Learning) option will be available for all families who opt out of in-person learning.

All schools will follow public health guidelines for school facilities and individuals.

Safe transportation will be provided with social distancing, bus capacity limits, and thorough cleanings.

This Executive Summary explores the highlights of the NSSD112 Reopening of Schools Plan. You can view the full plan by clicking here. The District has also developed a Frequently Asked Questions Guide. You can also view this information along with videos, and an archive of reopening messages, and more at www.nssd112.org/COVID-19.
North Shore School District 112 is dedicated to ensuring our students and staff return safely in-person to school for the 2020-2021 school year to the degree possible and practical in light of IDPH health guidelines and regulations. In person learning at the start of the year will look different than what we are used to as we are currently recommending a hybrid learning model consisting of two shifts of students, morning and afternoon, to allow us to implement risk mitigation of COVID-19 with a smaller population in school at one time. We will focus on providing an environment that is caring, supportive, and compassionate, with the understanding that the health and wellbeing of our students, staff, and community is our highest priority.

**INTRODUCTION**

North Shore School District 112 is dedicated to ensuring our students and staff return safely in-person to school for the 2020-2021 school year to the degree possible and practical in light of IDPH health guidelines and regulations. In person learning at the start of the year will look different than what we are used to as we are currently recommending a hybrid learning model consisting of two shifts of students, morning and afternoon, to allow us to implement risk mitigation of COVID-19 with a smaller population in school at one time. We will focus on providing an environment that is caring, supportive, and compassionate, with the understanding that the health and wellbeing of our students, staff, and community is our highest priority.

**Learning**

Ensure that all students receive instruction that meets Illinois State Learning Standards and provides necessary supports for success.
- Equitable access to technology
- Social-emotional well-being and health are supported
- Ensure we provide support to meet the needs of specific student groups.

**Safety**

Provide safe learning environments for our students and staff.

**Communication**

Provide proactive, and concise communication to all families, staff, and students.

**HYBRID LEARNING MODEL**

The hybrid model is the administration’s recommended model to begin the school year. The hybrid model consists of five instructional hours with a combination of in-person learning and virtual learning. It consists of an AM/PM schedule where students attend school in-person school for 135 minutes either in the AM or in the PM sessions. The remaining 165 instructional minutes will be a combination of synchronous (live) and asynchronous (without live interaction) learning from home. At the elementary level Music, Art, Library, and Physical Education will be a combination of synchronous and asynchronous learning. At the middle school level Social Studies, Science, Creative Arts, and Physical Education will be a combination of synchronous and asynchronous learning.
Early Childhood programming will be delivered through an in-person model, unless the school is closed. Sessions are scheduled for 2-hour sessions:

8:55 - 10:55 AM  1:10 - 3:10 PM

Hybrid Model Hours (Monolingual Elementary and Dual Elementary)

8:40 - 10:55 = AM session (2 Hours & 15 Minutes)
10:55 - 12:55 = Teacher lunch/plan/cleaning/transportation (2 Hours)
12:55 - 3:10 = PM session (2 Hours & 15 Minutes)

HYBRID LEARNING OPT-OUT PROCEDURE

We will begin the year by giving parents a choice between the Hybrid Model and the Virtual Learning Model as described below. Parents will be sent an electronic form on July 22, 2020, and asked to select either the hybrid or virtual learning model for their child(ren). If a parent does not complete the form, their child(ren) will be automatically placed into the in-person Hybrid Learning Model. Due to the complexity of scheduling, families will be assigned to an AM or PM session and will not be given the option to switch between sessions. Scheduling consideration will be given to keep siblings within the same building together. Enrollment in the Hybrid Learning Model or Virtual Learning Model will be from September 3, 2020, to November 2020. Selections cannot be changed as the information obtained drives staffing and class placement decisions. Special considerations may be reviewed as appropriate. The forms are due on July 29, 2020.
General Education Early Childhood sections will be limited to ten students. A waiting list will be created based on current registrations and student needs. Morning and afternoon sessions cannot be guaranteed due to the reduced capacity. The Instructional Learning Program (ILP) will consist of two half-day sessions to allow for smaller class sizes based on student needs and safety precautions. When appropriate, related service minutes could be provided via teletherapy during the other half of the day. Placement will be determined based on risk factors and balance of language allocations. Students who only attend Green Bay for itinerant services will receive them via teletherapy. Speech and Language services will be provided via teletherapy when appropriate either during the school day or from home. Early Childhood programming will be held outside to the extent possible. To make this possible, additional outdoor areas will be created. Indoor and outdoor environments will be modified for safety. To reduce visitors in the buildings, guests will only be permitted with prior approval from the building principal. Parents, guest readers, volunteers, and other non-essential visitors will not be permitted until we are in Phase 5 of the Restore Illinois Plan. For students who receive special education services and due to a medical condition are unable to attend in-person school, an IEP meeting will be held to discuss delivery of services. Should the need arise to switch to remote learning, materials will be sent home and asynchronous and synchronous learning will occur remotely.

**VIRTUAL LEARNING MODEL (OPT-OUT OF HYBRID)**

For parents who opt out of in-person hybrid learning, virtual learning is an option. Virtual learning will consist of five hours of learning via synchronous and asynchronous instruction. In this model, there will be allocated times for each content area. Learning standards will be the same as those utilized for the K-8 hybrid model and will ensure rigorous instruction. A variety of learning platforms will be utilized, including OTUS, PlayPosit, SeeSaw, and Zoom. All instruction will occur remotely. Elementary students will be instructed by a District 112 teacher either live-streamed and/or by an assigned virtual learning teacher. Middle school students who opt out of hybrid instruction will receive virtual learning either through the Illinois Virtual School or a District 112 teacher.
HYBRID LEARNING MODEL OPERATIONS

Health and Safety
District 112 is committed to providing staff with information and risk mitigation expectations to help alleviate concerns as people transition back to work. We ask that all employees do their individual part to follow healthy and safety expectations to keep themselves and others safe. If staff have concerns about the cleanliness of their rooms or school, please contact the building principal in order for them to have the issue addressed by the custodial and maintenance staff. Read more about staff health and safety in the full Reopening Plan.

Families are required to self-monitor their child(ren) prior to getting on the bus or dropping off at school for symptoms related to COVID-19 (fever of 100.4 or higher, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, the new loss of taste or smell). All families are required to self-certify daily for each child that they are COVID-19 symptom-free utilizing the NSSD112 COVID-19 Student Self-Certification plan. The District will also complete symptom checks to include temperature taking when students are suspected of having possible COVID-19 symptoms.

Please do not send a child to school or on the bus in the event a child presents with any of the following:

1. Tested positive of COVID-19
2. Had close contact with someone who has tested positive of COVID-19
   a. The guidance defines “close contact” as being within 6 feet of an individual with symptoms for more than 15 minutes.
3. Suspected having COVID-19

Parent(s)/guardian(s) must call the school nurse and/or the principal to inform them. This information will then be reported to Dr. Holly Colin, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, so contact tracing can take place. Per CDC and IDPH guidelines, parents of students who were suspected of having COVID-19 must keep a child home, whether they were tested or not, for 72 hours from resolution of fever without fever reducing medication and 10 days must pass after symptoms first appeared.
Per ISBE, all students and staff will wear face masks. Hand sanitizer will be provided throughout the schools. Regular hand washing will be incorporated into the school day. Sensors will be added to sinks that do not have them. Portable hand washing stations will be added where appropriate. All staff and students will be required to check their temperatures at home every day before coming to school. An online signoff will be utilized by all to certify that they are healthy enough to be in the building that day.

The District has hired outside contractors to complete a detailed cleaning and services of all ventilators, air handling units and rooftop units. All exhaust fans will be cleaned and serviced as well. Additionally, the District will be utilizing portable air conditioning units that will increase air flow and cool common areas in buildings for the first month of school when temperatures are often high. The district is renting at least two outdoor large tents per school to be used by staff for outdoor learning spaces to provide shade and protection from inclement weather.

Each school will stagger arrivals/dismissals as appropriate for the school, given the size of the student population and the building configuration. Where possible, multiple entrance and exit points will be utilized. Designated spots for bus pick-up and drop-off will also be assigned. Classroom preparation and cleaning will be significant. All buildings will be cleaned and disinfected thoroughly on a daily basis. Desks and tables will be arranged to allow for a 6-foot distance in all directions, facing the same direction when possible. Students will sit only on one side of tables, and plexiglass partitions will be used if needed. Assigned seating will be used. Students will remain seated as much as possible to limit movement inside the classroom. Classroom doors will remain open. Mechanical systems will be scheduled to take in more outside air.

Directional, handwashing and spacing signage will be posted throughout all buildings in English and Spanish, and transition times for classes will be scheduled to minimize the number of students in common areas at one time. For all grades, bathroom visits will be scheduled by the classroom teacher to ensure that a limited number of students enter the bathroom at one time. Water fountains will be turned off, but bottle fillers will be available. Bottled water will be provided for all students on heat action days or those who do not bring one from home. Students will be provided with a safe space to store essential items brought to school. Personal items (stuffed animals, etc.) will not be allowed in school. No classroom supplies will be shared.
VISITORS

To reduce visitors in the buildings, guests will only be permitted with prior approval from the building principal. Guest readers, volunteers, and other non-essential visitors will not be permitted until we are in Phase 5 of the Restore Illinois Plan.

EVENTS

In order to protect our staff and students, we are reducing the number of in-person or large scale meetings and school events until we are in Phase 5 of the Restore Illinois Plan. The following list of events or meetings (which is not exhaustive) will occur virtually: parent-teacher conferences, back-to-school events, open houses, musical concerts, fine arts performances, etc.

FIELD TRIPS

Per ISBE guidelines, field trips will not be taken until local and state health guidelines have determined it is safe to do so. Virtual field trips will be utilized as an alternative when appropriate to the learning objective.

TRANSPORTATION

In a hybrid instructional model, buses will be limited to 30 people and masks are required. Assigned seating will be used to ensure appropriate social distancing. If there are siblings on the bus, we will assign a seat with a sibling. Parents are required to check students’ temperatures at home before they board the bus. Drivers and monitors will wear PPE and perform regular hand hygiene. Buses will be cleaned and disinfected twice daily, in between routes. The District will limit bus ridership to only students who are eligible for free transportation or special education transportation per the student’s Individual Education Plan. Schedule changes and riding additional routes outside what is assigned will not be permitted. Route time will be minimized by combining pickup and dropoff locations.
FOOD SERVICE

In a hybrid environment, breakfast and lunch will be a grab and go option for students who qualify for the lunch program, with students picking up meals as they leave the building. (AM students take with them as they are leaving for that day, PM students take with them as they are leaving for the next day). For students who will attend an extended day program, lunch will be eaten in the cafeteria, with appropriate spacing and supervision.

TECHNOLOGY

In order to facilitate both onsite and remote learning, all staff and students will be provided with the appropriate technology and support. All students will be issued a device according to grade level. Students in Kindergarten-2nd Grade will receive iPads, and students in 3rd Grade and up will receive Chromebooks. iPads will be content filtered by Securly and Chromebooks will be filtered by GoGuardian. Students will utilize their home internet connection to use these devices. Families without internet access will be issued hotspots. Parents and guardians will utilize support.nssd112.org to report technology issues. Physical repairs and device collection/distribution will be handled by a combination of the building’s Technology Specialist and shipping, depending on the case. There will be no shared devices in the classrooms.

STUDENT SERVICES

Face coverings are to be worn at all times by all students, per ISBE’s guidelines. This includes entering and exiting District 112 buildings and walking in common areas, hallways, and walkways, including bathrooms. Students are asked to bring two masks to school with them daily. The district will supply students with disposable masks if needed. Teachers will provide students with mini lessons at the beginning of the school year on the importance of mask wearing, including how to properly wear a mask and keep them safe and clean. Parent(s)/guardian(s) will be provided with resources and are encouraged to work with their child on mask wearing prior to the start of school. Students will be directed (and assisted if needed) to sanitize their hands upon entering the building. Teachers will provide times (and instruction/guidance) for students to wash and/or sanitize their hands throughout the school day. Please refer to the CDC’s guidance to stop the spread of germs for further information.
Employees and students must quarantine at home and monitor for symptoms for 14 days per ISBE’s return to school guidance if they:

1. Tested positive of COVID-19
2. Had close contact with someone who has tested positive of COVID-19
   a. The guidance defines “close contact” as being within 6 feet of an individual with symptoms for more than 15 minutes.
3. Suspected having COVID-19

Employees should contact Deputy Superintendent, Monica Schroeder, immediately if they experience any of the above and do not report to work. Contact tracing will be initiated by Dr. Schroeder in collaboration with the Lake County Health Department.

Parent(s)/guardian(s) must call the school nurse and/or the principal to inform them. This information will then be reported to Dr. Holly Colin, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, so contact tracing can take place. According to ISBE’s Guidance for Reopening School, the areas of the school used by a sick person will be closed. These areas will not be used until after proper cleaning and disinfection procedures have been completed. The area will be opened for use once it has been appropriately disinfected.

REPORTING

Attendance

Daily attendance and engagement of students is expected whether students are participating in classes in-person or remotely. Building principals will oversee attendance in their building. Schools will make daily contact with all students and families, especially those who are not in attendance or not engaging in classes, whether in-person or remotely. During remote learning (Virtual Learning Model or Remote Learning Model), attendance will be tracked by attending synchronous sessions and/or work completion.

Assessment

The COVID-19 global pandemic caused a significant disruption in the education of all students. We acknowledge that our students will return to learning with varying degrees of mastered skills and learning needs. As a result, all North Shore School District 112 students will be assessed at the start of the year, utilizing a combination of assessment tools to fully understand each student’s individualized needs.
Grading and Report Cards
Students will be held accountable for the completion of assignments and assessments. Grading and assessments are meant to provide feedback and communication to students and families, with the focus on learning, growth, and progress. Report cards will be provided at the end of each trimester or quarter, using our established report cards.

Extracurricular Activities and Clubs
Extracurricular and club activities are an important part of a student’s experience in school. While in the hybrid and remote learning models, these activities will not occur in person but pre-budgeted ones may occur remotely with principal pre-approval outside of working hours (or duty free lunch). Any new clubs/activities will follow the same pre-approval process that has been in place in the past.

Innovation Learning
Innovation Learning will be available for before and after school programming for students enrolled in the Hybrid Learning Model. Students who are enrolled in the AM session of the Hybrid Learning Model, may choose to register for before school programming; students enrolled in the PM Hybrid Learning Model, may choose to register for after school programming. Innovation Learning will follow state and local safety guidelines.

English Language Learners
The specific needs of English Learners (ELs) will be reviewed on a case by case basis. English Learners will receive support during synchronous and asynchronous portions of the remote or hybrid learning models. EL teachers and classroom teachers will collaborate to ensure appropriate supports and scaffolds. Students who require services that can only be done in-person, may receive an extended day in the hybrid learning model.

Special Education Services & Section 504
District 112 is committed to ensuring that our students with Individual Education Plans (IEPs) and 504 Plans are provided their educational services in compliance with all state and federal safety guidelines related to the COVID-19 Global Pandemic. We are committed to providing a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) pursuant to the child’s IEP, regardless of how school looks during the various state phases.

Meetings
To limit the number of individuals visiting a building, the District encourages IEP and Section 504 meetings to be held virtually and intend to schedule meetings to take place over a remote platform. If parent(s)/guardian(s) prefer an in person meeting, please inform the child’s case manager so accommodations can be made.
IEP & 504 Review
Case managers will conduct a review of IEPs and 504s at the beginning of the school year in partnership with parents and the student’s school team to determine if the plan is still appropriate to support the student and their needs; meetings will be held as needed. If it is determined that recovery services are necessary to assist students in light of the rapid switch to remote learning in Spring 2019, the IEP team will develop a plan to provide the services.

Evaluation/Reevaluations
Teams will prioritize meetings postponed in the Spring and complete any extended evaluations no later than September 30, 2020. In the event of school closure, assessments will be completed virtually when appropriate.

Delivery of services
IEP or 504 teams will review each student’s plan at the beginning of the school year, in consultation with parent(s)/guardian(s), and amend as needed. The team will create a remote learning plan for eligible students to ensure services align with the model for delivery of service.

Interventions
District 112 will use nationally normed assessment data (e.g. NWEA, MAP tests) in addition to classroom assessments to identify students in need of academic support and services. In the hybrid learning model, reading development teachers will support elementary students during the remote portion of the day. In middle schools, identified students will be enrolled in a Reading or Math Plus course in lieu of a World Language course. Students who require services that can only be done in-person, may receive an extended day in the hybrid learning model.

Mental Health Resources
Staff - The district recognizes that in the spring, staff members were learning how to do their job remotely, taking care of students, and looking after their families. We anticipate that staff members will be returning in the fall with their own needs. We plan to use existing structures such as staff meetings to address these mental health needs. These will occur through interactive professional development that we have created through works by Shawn Achor, Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL), Safe Schools and other pertinent support resources.

Students - To support student mental health, the District references materials from multiple organizations, including the National Association of School Psychologists (Returning to School). To meet the needs of our students, a variety of resources will be utilized for the 2020-21 school year. Second Step has created a COVID-19 Response page which provides resources for
teachers and families and a Back to School series which will be released in August to support the transition back to school. Calm Classroom will extend through grade 8 this school year. It will be implemented in classrooms 2-3 times per day both in person and virtually to provide students with strategies. In elementary grades, social stories (example) will be utilized to support students in transitioning back to school and the new expectations. In the middle grades, expectations will be clearly communicated to students (e.g. social distancing, masks, etc.). Students will have bi-weekly social emotional check-ins with an assigned teacher. Student Services will continue to provide both students and parents with a toolbox of resources to support them both in and out of the classroom via the website and communications.

Crisis Response & Mental Health Liaison - Each building has a mental health team consisting of school psychologist(s) and social worker(s). Families are encouraged to reach out to the building team for support. Additional questions or concerns can be addressed to Dr. Holly Colin, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services.

Mental Health Screening and Evaluations - Prior to the start of the school year, the District will send the Student Intake/Needs Assessment to all families. Information collected from this assessment will assist the District and buildings in supporting students and families as they return in the fall. The District will also utilize the BASC-3 Behavioral and Emotional Screener (English & Spanish) regardless of the learning model. All students in grades K-8 will be screened in the beginning of October and again early February. Teachers will complete the screener for students in grades K-8; students will complete the self-screener in grades 4-8. In the event additional information is needed, parents will be asked to complete the screener.

FINANCE AND BUDGET

Reflections and Forecasting

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, signed into effect in March 2020, allocated approximately $13.2 billion to K-12 schools in the form of the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (or ESSER). ESSER funds were made available to states based on their Title I allocations. North Shore School District 112 was allocated $381,498 in ESSER funds to address the global COVID-19 pandemic. The district was not eligible for Public Assistance under the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The administration presented a balanced Tentative Budget to the community on June 9th, 2020. The $81 million annual budget includes $1.2 million of COVID-19 contingency. This constitutes approximately 1.5% of the budget. This was possible in part to curriculum initiatives planned for the 2020-2021 school year being deferred due to the inability to implement them with fidelity, and a substantial amount of capital work planned for the summer being started earlier than originally planned after our schools closed in March 2020. The Indian Trail access road will be ready for the opening day of school on September 3rd.
The district has approached COVID-19 contingency by allocating in two main expenditure areas:

1. $500,000 for teaching and learning expenses, such as curriculum supplies to support the reopening initiatives.
2. $760,000 for capital improvements to our buildings, for example building isolation areas.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>FUNDS</th>
<th>REVENUES</th>
<th>% CHANGE VS FY20 BUDGET</th>
<th>EXPENDITURES</th>
<th>% CHANGE VS FY20 BUDGET</th>
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If expenditures exceed the $1.2 million COVID-19 contingency, it will result in the district deficit spending in 2020-2021. The revenue saved in the Spring of 2020 due to the closures of the school district’s buildings gave the budget an additional, one-time financial cushion.

**BUDGET CUTS AND INCREASES**

We believe there is no need to modify the FY21 budget, at this time. The staffing plan for the 2020-21 year was previously set in March, and it was communicated to all staff that there wasn’t a need for reductions-in-force for the upcoming school year. The FY21 budget included the negotiated salary increases in the North Shore Education Association (NSEA) and North Shore Support Staff Association (NSSSA) collective bargaining agreements.
We believe there is no need to modify the FY21 budget, at this time. The staffing plan for the 2020-21 year was previously set in March, and it was communicated to all staff that there wasn’t a need for reductions-in-force for the upcoming school year.

The FY21 budget included the negotiated salary increases in the North Shore Education Association (NSEA) and North Shore Support Staff Association (NSSSA) collective bargaining agreements.

Throughout the 2020-21 school year, District 112 will utilize the following communication methods to keep stakeholders up to date on changes regarding all protocols:

- NSSD112 Website (www.nssd112.org)
- Email, text, and voice alerts
- District 112 mobile app
- Lighthouse 112 the District 112 Podcast
- Social media (www.facebook.com/nssd112 | twitter.com/NSSD112)
- COVID-19 related information can be found at www.nssd112.org/COVID-19

**Who do I contact if...**

- **I have questions/concerns about Remote Learning:**
  First point of contact is the teacher, second point of contact is principal

- **My student tests positive for COVID-19:**
  School Nurse or School Main Line

- **I have questions/concerns about transportation:**
  Call First Student at 847-724-7200.

- **My student needs tech support for Virtual Learning:**
  Report technology issues to support@nssd112.org