What academic options are available for students when schools reopen in August 2020?

The District will be operating on a phased schedule, as outlined below:

- **Red Phase**: 100% remote learning
- **Yellow Phase**: 100% remote learning
- **Green Phase 1**: Grades K-12 operate on a hybrid rotational model
  - Half of the students attend on Monday and Tuesday; receive remote learning on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday
  - Half of the students attend on Thursday and Friday; receive remote learning on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday
- **Green Phase 2**: All students in grades K-5 attend daily from 8:45 - 3:30; All students in grades 6-12 follow the same schedule as outlined in Green Phase 1
- **Green Phase 3**: A full return to in-person, classroom instruction all day

The District will be offering a remote learning option which will be taught by Easton teachers. This option will allow for seamless transition to and from in-person instruction in EASD since the courses will align to those being taught within our schools.

The District also offers a more long-term remote learning option, Easton Cyber Academy. This is a district offered cyber option that is delivered through Colonial Virtual Program.

Families will have the choice to send their child to in-person/hybrid instruction via the phased plan set forth by the district OR in the remote learning option taught by Easton teachers OR enroll their child in the Easton Cyber Academy. Families interested in either the remote learning option or the Easton Cyber Academy have the opportunity to sign up between August 7 and August 12. Instructions will be placed on the EASD website.

What will a typical classroom look like when schools reopen?
Classrooms will include student desks, the teacher desk, and a designated teaching space. Student desks will be separated to the maximum extent possible. In most cases, desks will be separated by 6 feet. However, this will be dependent upon the number of students assigned to each classroom and the square footage of the classroom. This could result in desks being separated anywhere from 4.5-6 feet apart.

Desks will be staggered and facing the same direction.

**Will all staff and students be required to wear masks?**

On July 1, 2020, the PA Department of Health issued the Order requiring individuals to wear face coverings. On August 17, 2020 The PA Department of Health is requiring students and staff wear face coverings at all times while in school, even when six feet of social distancing can be achieved. There are limited exceptions. Schools may allow students to remove face coverings when students are:

* Eating or drinking when spaced at least 6 feet apart; or
* When wearing a face covering creates an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task; or
* At least 6 feet apart during “face-covering breaks” to last no longer than 10 minutes.

Students will be expected to have a mask with them beginning with their entry onto the school bus, however the District will provide them to those who are not able to provide their own. The District has purchased both face shields and neck buffs for staff members.

Medical exceptions are the only reason that individuals would be permitted to not wear a mask. These medical exceptions will be explored through the Section 504 or IDEA process for students (as outlined below) and through the ADA process for staff. Individuals may not simply choose not to wear a mask.

Guidance states "children...are required to wear a face covering unless they have a medical or mental condition or disability, documented in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or IDEA, that precludes the wearing of a face covering in a school." Again, both Section 504 and IDEA permit school officials to ask for medical documentation to demonstrate a student’s need for an exemption from any face covering requirement. If students or their families assert children cannot wear face coverings in schools for medical reasons, Section 504 and IDEA both contemplate a similar fact gathering process be used to decide whether an accommodation should be provided. If a student does not have a valid medical excuse for the wear face covering requirement, and continued noncompliance with this requirement occurs, building administration will be consulted along with the student’s parent/guardian.
**Will students be moving throughout the building during the school day?**

Student movement will be limited to the greatest extent possible, however this will vary at different levels within the school district.

At the elementary level, students will predominantly be in their designated homeroom during the day. LAMP instruction will be delivered in the student’s classroom, so most foot traffic will occur to and from the cafeteria, as a class, and socially distanced.

At the secondary level, hallways and stairwells will be labeled for one-way traffic, whenever feasible.

Masks will be required at all times when moving throughout the building.

**What will be the process for students riding district buses in the 2020-2021 school year?**

No more than 48 students will be assigned to any given bus, which allows for no more than two students per seat. Students will be instructed to board the bus from the back to the front. There will be “X’s” placed on each seat where students are expected to sit. Students will be instructed to sit with a sibling, if applicable. All students will be required to wear masks while on the bus.

The total number of students assigned to any bus could very well be less than 48, which would allow for some or all students to sit by themselves in the seat. This will depend on the number of students who are opting out of transportation and those who are opting for full-time remote instruction.

Families who wish to opt their child out of district transportation may do so by completing the form on the EASD website no later than August 12, 2020.

**What will lunches look like?**

Students will be socially distanced and all facing the same direction at the cafeteria tables. All meals will be served in grab and go fashion.

Gymnasiums and other satellite locations in respective buildings will be utilized for additional seating in order to ensure that students are socially distanced at 6 feet apart.
What classroom cleaning protocols will be implemented on a daily basis? What about when students are not in school?

All classrooms will be cleaned and disinfected on a daily basis using EPA approved disinfecting products. There will be an increased cleaning of all high touch surfaces. Custodial staff have been allotted additional working hours in order to ensure that the recommended level of cleaning and disinfecting occurs on a daily basis.

When following a hybrid schedule, Wednesdays will be utilized to perform a deep clean prior to a new set of students entering the school setting.

What other safety protocols are being put in place?

All students and staff will be expected to conduct a daily prescreening, including temperature checks, prior to coming to school. Individuals who have a fever or are symptomatic will be expected to remain at home. Students should notify their main or grade level office. Staff members should notify their supervisor. Staff and students must notify the school if an absence is due to COVID-19. There will be unique safety protocols for students with complex needs.

There will be procedures in place for students and staff who fall ill during the school day. Additionally, those who display COVID-19 symptoms will be moved to an isolation space within the school building until they are able to leave the premises.

What if my child has specific learning or medical needs?

All cases will be handled on an individual basis. Families should communicate directly with their child’s principal, school counselor, or special education case manager.

Under Section 504, a team meeting should occur to meet to answer the following given the manner with which school will be functioning: What accommodations are necessary to allow the student to participate fully in school- fully defined as outlined in the re-opening plan? How should the accommodations be implemented? Classroom Accommodations: Who should provide the accommodations? Where will it be provided? When and How often will it be provided? If it is as necessary or as needed, who will decide? The Section 504 team shall meet to discuss and the accommodations should be included in the Service Agreement. Once the accommodations are added, this will be shared with the teachers and any personnel listed on your child’s schedule. Please contact your school counselor and building principal to schedule a time to discuss specific concerns.
Similarly, Special Education Case Managers will be in close contact with families within the first few weeks of the reopening of our schools. Data will be collected during this time to determine the unique needs of each student and a revision of the student’s IEP will be discussed and implemented. A flexible plan will be put in place to ensure we are providing FAPE in both the virtual and brick and mortar setting. Throughout the process, families will play an integral role in determining the efficacy and appropriateness of programming.

**Have immunization requirements changed? What about for mandated screenings?**

The Pennsylvania Department of Health grants a 2-month deferral for students to meet vaccine requirements, in lieu of exclusion/provisional enrollment, during the COVID pandemic. Current information from the Division of Immunizations


The Division of School Health has received many inquiries concerning possible waivers for the mandated screenings and exams for the 20-21 school year. The screenings and exams are in PA Law and Regulations. There are no changes at this time.

**What is the communication plan if a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19?**

Schools are subject to CDC and PADOH guidance and will establish and maintain communication with local and state DPH officials regarding COVID-19 diagnosis and/or symptoms, preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols. This includes contact tracing and recommendations for testing and quarantine. The school district will adhere to the recommendations made by the CDC, PA Department of Health, and the school district physician.

Department of Health or county and municipal health departments (CMHDs) staff will notify the school entity immediately once it is known that a person with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 was present at the school or school event while infectious. The school should follow instructions in the guidelines to respond to the situation and will work closely with the department or CMHD on risk assessment, isolation and quarantine recommendations and other infection control recommendations.

**Will your student have to quarantine if a student or staff member does test positive for COVID-19?**
Isolation is used to separate people infected with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, from people who are not infected.

People who are in isolation should stay home until it’s safe for them to be around others. In the home, anyone sick or infected should separate themselves from others by staying in a specific “sick room” or area and using a separate bathroom (if available).

People who have COVID-19

- People who have symptoms of COVID-19 and are able to recover at home
- People who have no symptoms (are asymptomatic) but have tested positive for infection with SARS-CoV-2

Steps to take: Stay home except to get medical care

- Monitor your symptoms. If you have an emergency warning sign (including trouble breathing), seek emergency medical care immediately
- Stay in a separate room from other household members, if possible
- Use a separate bathroom, if possible
- Avoid contact with other members of the household and pets
- Don’t share personal household items, like cups, towels, and utensils
- Wear a mask when around other people, if you are able to

Quarantine is used to keep someone who might have been exposed to COVID-19 away from others. Quarantine helps prevent spread of disease that can occur before a person knows they are sick or if they are infected with the virus without feeling symptoms. People in quarantine should stay home, separate themselves from others, monitor their health, and follow directions from their state or local health department.

Who needs to quarantine? Anyone who has been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19. This includes people who previously had COVID-19 and people who have taken a serologic (antibody) test and have antibodies to the virus.

What counts as close contact?

- You were within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for at least 15 minutes
- You provided care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19
- You had direct physical contact with the person (touched, hugged, or kissed them)
- You shared eating or drinking utensils
- They sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on you

Recommended steps to take if you have been exposed: Stay home and monitor your health

- Stay home for 14 days after your last contact with a person who has COVID-19
● Watch for fever (100.4°F), cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of COVID-19
● If possible, stay away from others, especially people who are at higher risk for getting very sick from COVID-19

How will the school maintain a healthy school environment?

School staff can take everyday preventive actions to protect themselves and others from getting sick with COVID-19:

● Washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.

● Covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue or inside of elbow, throwing the tissue away, and then washing hands.

● Avoiding touching one's eyes, nose, mouth, and cloth face covering.

● Maintaining distance of at least 6 feet from other adults, and from students when feasible.

● Wearing a cloth face covering especially when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.

● Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces, including tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks.

● Staying home when sick, or after being in close contact with a person with COVID-19.

● Limiting use of shared objects (e.g., gym or physical education equipment, art supplies, games) when possible, and cleaning and disinfecting these objects frequently.

How Will COVID-19 Impact My Child's Attendance?

Current quarantine guidelines for close contacts of individuals with COVID-19 can pose attendance challenges for students who are quarantined because of a household contact with a case. The school district will support students and staff who are quarantined by allowing for leniency in absenteeism from in-person instruction and extra-curricular activities and transition to remote learning.

How will the District determine if they are going to move from one phase to another within the reopening plan?

The District will make this decision collaboratively as a Pandemic Team and in consultation with local health officials, the District’s certified school nurses, and the District’s school
physician. The decision will be guided by science and the most up-to-date information coming from the PA Department of Health.

**What should my child bring to school on a daily basis?**

Each child attending school should plan to bring their fully charged district-issued iPad, a face covering, hand sanitizer, and a water bottle. Water fountains should not be utilized for drinking, but will be available to fill water bottles.

**Will elementary students have recess daily?**

Weather permitting, students will have approximately 25 minutes of outdoor recess daily. If students are unable to go outside, additional face covering breaks and independent activity time will be implemented.

Recess will be supervised by the homeroom teacher. One class at a time will be permitted in a given play area. Students will need to be physically distanced while at recess. The playground equipment will not be utilized.

**What will Library, Art, Music and Physical Education look like at the elementary level?**

LAMP will be delivered in the homeroom or outdoor setting. To the greatest extent possible students will not share equipment. When there is a need to share equipment, it will be disinfected between users.

**What will parent drop-off and pick-up look like at the elementary schools?**

The Elementary Principals will be working with the Supervisor of Safe Schools to determine the safest and most efficient procedures. The building Principals will communicate the decided upon procedures with all families prior to the start of the school year.

**If instruction is delivered in a remote fashion, will students be held accountable for work completion and will they receive grades for their work?**

Unlike the Spring remote teaching and learning, students will be given specific timelines in which work is expected to be completed and submitted. Students will receive traditional grades for each grading period.

**If my child returns from remote to hybrid or remote to in-person instruction, will I have the same teacher?**
Every effort will be made to keep your child with the same teacher(s) when possible; however, that is not guaranteed. There will be circumstances in which we will not be able to accommodate that request.

**What does the transition look like if I want to move from remote learning to hybrid, or hybrid to remote learning?**

Both the hybrid and remote teaching and learning models will be taught by Easton teachers so the transition should be relatively seamless. The curriculum content and materials will be the same in both models.

**Why aren’t temperature checks being done by school personnel prior to the student boarding the bus or entering the school?**

Temperature checks for both staff and students on school grounds are not part of the guidelines for containment. It is the responsibility of both staff and students to take temperature prior to boarding the school bus or entering school and not enter school if feeling ill.

**Will LVCC (Lehigh Valley Child Care) provide before and after care if we are in the green phases?**

Yes, LVCC will provide before and after care under the same model they have always utilized in EASD.

**Will parents/visitors be permitted in the schools?**

To the greatest extent possible, we will be limiting entry into our buildings. Where possible, parent meetings will continue to be held remotely.

We will not be accepting items that students forgot at home unless they are medically necessary. All other needs will be accommodated by the school. This will include items such as lunches, instruments, homework etc.