



Frequently Asked Questions

Y115 Family Q&A

Choice Scenario Transition Plan for Restore Illinois Phases 4 & 5

This document was developed to address the most frequently asked questions for Yorkville CUSD 115's Choice Scenario, which will allow families a choice of returning to school in either an e-learning model, an on-site model, or a hybrid model (a combination of e-learning and on-site learning).

For specific questions regarding your child's educational plan, please contact your building administrator. The Y115 Transition Plan for the [Restricted Scenario](#) (used in phases 1 and 2 of the governor's Restore Illinois Plan) and [Choice Scenario](#) (used in phases 4 and 5) can provide further explanation and context.

Academics

When is the first day of school?

The first day of student attendance is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, August 20, 2020. The district is discussing the possibility of having staggering starts for grade levels throughout the first 5-7 days of school. More information will be communicated to families in the coming weeks.

What if I forget or do not fill out the student commitment form regarding which learning model I want for my child?

The default model will be on-site (face-to-face) learning.

Can families select a different learning model for each child if they have multiple students in the district?

Yes, learning model selection is based on an individual student and will not be one model per family.

If the selected learning model is not meeting the student's educational needs, can the student transition into a different learning model?

Yes, we ask that families commit to the learning model for a 9-week quarter prior to transitioning to a new learning model. Please communicate with your child's teacher and building administration with any concerns related to your child's learning model.

Will hybrid students have the same teacher for on-site and e-learning?

Elementary students in the hybrid model will have one core teacher who will provide on-site instruction for half of the day and monitor the students' progress in e-learning assignments. Students in grades 7-12 will have the same teacher of record for the course during on-site and hybrid. If a student elects e-learning, he/she will be assigned the same teacher of record as if he/she was attending on-site like his/her peers.

At the elementary and middle school level, will parents be able to place scheduling requests for either the morning (AM) or afternoon (PM) session?

Parents will be asked to indicate a preference for morning (AM) or afternoon (PM). Building administration will make every effort to honor parents' requests and collaborate with families on whether students will attend

morning or afternoon classes in the hybrid model. Based upon morning and afternoon student enrollment numbers, staff schedules, and to support the health and safety in the schools, all parent preferences may not be honored.

How will YHSA and YHS students be selected for which days they attend or which 50% cohort they are a part of?

Administration and student services will work collaboratively to divide up students based on the music sections and participation in other single-section elective courses. Students who receive services through an IEP or 504 will have their schedules determined based on their individual needs. Siblings will attend on the same day unless the above mentioned criteria impacts their cohort placement.

Will all three learning models follow the same curricular expectations?

Yes, in the Choice Scenario, all students will be expected to engage in learning activities that support the priority standards in the district's curriculum.

Will YMS and YHS/A course selection be limited for students who elect AP, honors, or electives based on the selected learning model?

No, students will still be enrolled in the courses that students selected during course selection. The only reason a student would not be able to take a course is if there is a schedule conflict between single-section elective courses.

What are the grading expectations for each learning model?

District 115 will continue to follow the [Learning and Grading Plan](#) as approved in 2016 for all learning models.

Is the supply list the same for each learning model, and what is the drop-off method?

The supply list will remain the same. Communal supplies will no longer be shared in classrooms. The district will continue to work with families who have financial restrictions or who may be on the free and reduced lunch program to help provide supplies. Students with an IEP requiring specialized instruction in programs such as LASP and STARS will continue to receive manipulatives to support their learning if they choose the hybrid or e-learning options. The committee is working on various supply distribution options. The traditional supply drop-off event will not take place this year.

Will students in grades K-2 receive Chromebooks for e-learning?

Each kindergarten student will receive a tablet. First- and second-grade students will receive Chromebooks.

Why were Seesaw (K-2) and Google Classroom (3-6) chosen as the elementary learning platforms?

The spring 2020 parent survey results overwhelmingly requested consistent and streamlined modes of communication from school to home. The transition team decided on these learning platforms for their usability within each of these grade-levels. For example, younger students can easily record themselves reading and submit it on Seesaw for teacher feedback. Students in grades 3-6 have used Google Classroom in previous years.

Will YHS students who choose the 100% e-learning option who want to participate in their after school activities (if applicable) be able to adjust their schedules to finish e-learning before 3 p.m. since most sports/music/clubs begin at 3 p.m.?

Regardless if students are attending on-site or e-learning, their school day will remain 7:25 a.m.-2:35 p.m. Students who elect the e-learning option, may still participate in sports, clubs, and activities. If a student is marked absent from school, he/she will not be allowed to participate in sports, after school clubs, and activities.

Will students who are participating in an on-site model be able to go home for lunch?

At this time, we have not discussed elementary or middle school options for leaving for lunch. If a family was able to provide transportation, that would be a viable option considering the circumstances. At the high school level, all students have a common hour lunch block that would allow students to leave the building. Parents must sign the off-campus permission form in order for their students to leave campus.

Operations

What are the increased cleaning measures and protocols for each building?

District 115 will follow all ISBE, CDC, and IDPH guidelines for cleaning and disinfecting. There will be designated times that staff members will clean surfaces in classrooms during student transition times or prior to a new group of students using common spaces in a classroom. Elementary students in a hybrid AM/PM model will have their classrooms disinfected between classes. Nightly deep cleaning will also occur.

What chemicals will be used during the day for cleaning?

The district uses an approved disinfectant for cleaning. Wipes will be used in the hallways, restrooms, classrooms, etc. during the day and deep cleaning during the evening hours. Please contact the [Facilities Department](#) if you would like a specific list of chemicals. The district is also investigating using UV machines for cleaning as well.

What are the procedures and protocols for physical distancing and disinfecting with student bathroom and drinking fountain use?

Students will be allowed to use bathrooms whenever needed. At the elementary level, there will also be scheduled breaks for classrooms to use the bathroom. Building custodians will follow specific cleaning procedures and schedules throughout the day for each bathroom. Students will receive teaching and modeling of appropriate physical distancing expectations. There will also be signage in all bathrooms to encourage appropriate handwashing and physical distancing procedures. The use of water bottles or refillable water bottles will be highly encouraged.

How will the ventilation system ensure clean air and limit any spread of COVID-19?

The district has increased its fresh air capacity so that the ventilation system provides 30% clean/outside air. If there is a confirmed case of COVID-19, the students will be relocated to a different location, and the “contaminated” classroom’s ventilation system will be turned off to prevent the spread of particles in the air.

How will classrooms be arranged to follow physical distancing guidelines?

Depending on the size of the classroom, the district will determine if a classroom will fit desks or tables. The classrooms will not look the same compared to last school year, or even compared to other classrooms in a particular building. Personal items and non-essential items will be removed from the classroom to make space to maintain physical distancing. District 115 will make every effort to provide 6 feet of physical distancing, when possible.

What are the COVID-19 prevention protocols for students and staff on school buses?

Per ISBE guidelines, no more than 50 individuals are allowed per bus, including students, drivers, and monitors. Routes may be adjusted and additional buses may be added in order to maintain fewer than 50 individuals on a bus. Students will have assigned seats, with students from the same household sitting together when possible. Students, bus drivers, and bus monitors will be required to wear a mask at all times on

the bus. Disposable masks will be available for students who do not have one prior to boarding the bus. Students will be released from the bus upon arrival to allow for a staggered dismissal, which will limit the number of students entering and leaving each designated entrance.

How will students complete the self-certification process prior to boarding the bus?

Before leaving home for school, each student will be required to complete a health questionnaire that will be provided by the district to determine whether or not he/she has a fever or any COVID-19 related symptoms. Upon arrival at each school building, students will be dismissed from the bus. As they enter the school building, a staff member will verify that the student's self-certification questionnaire was submitted. If the self-certification questionnaire was not submitted, there will be an area designated where an adult will take the student's temperature and help the student complete the self-certification questionnaire prior to being allowed access to the school building. The health questionnaire may be submitted via an app, website link, or QR code.

How will passing periods run at the middle school and high school to ensure physical distancing protocols are met?

At the middle school, passing periods are staggered to limit the number of students in the hallway at one time. Directional markings will also be present in all hallways. At the high school, passing periods are extended to 10 minutes and routes of travel will be put in place. There is a possibility that pathways on the exterior of the building will be designated to accommodate physical distancing practices and alleviate hallway traffic at YHSA and YHS.

Will students be able to use lockers this year?

Elementary students will be assigned a locker and will use that locker during staggered, scheduled times to maintain an appropriate physical distance. Students in grades 7 through 12 will be able to bring their backpacks to class and can request a locker if desired. Details on this request process will be determined shortly.

Will students in the morning (AM) and afternoon (PM) hybrid model be sharing a room, including desks?

Students in the afternoon hybrid model will use the same classrooms as students in the morning hybrid model. However, the classrooms will be disinfected during the transition time between the morning and afternoon sessions.

Is midday busing available for students in the hybrid learning model?

At this time, for students who choose the hybrid model, the district will only provide bus service to school for those students attending the morning session, and home from school for those students attending the afternoon session. Parents will be responsible for providing midday transportation for their child(ren).

Will physical barriers be used in any spaces to limit contact and exposure?

Barriers will be installed in bathrooms between urinals and sinks, in hallways, and in other communal spaces, where possible.

How will the district provide lunch to students while maintaining all physical distancing protocols?

Students will be able to purchase lunch options daily at all school buildings. At the elementary level, lunches will be delivered to classrooms where students will eat, while maintaining appropriate physical distance. An overflow room will be available in the event any classroom cannot accommodate 6 feet physical distancing during lunch while masks are removed. At the 7-12 grade level, students will be assigned to eat in designated areas throughout the building, which will be sanitized after lunch. Students at the high school will also have the option to leave campus for lunch if their parents grant off-campus privileges.

Will students in the hybrid or e-learning models still be able to receive lunch from school?

Families who opt-into the e-learning or hybrid models can purchase multi-day meals and pick them up from a central district location. Students who qualify for free or reduced meals will receive these meals at the free/reduced cost.

What sanitation measures will be put in place before, during, and after lunch?

Students will be encouraged to wash hands frequently throughout the school day. Transition time has been built into the elementary schedule to account for extended time for bathroom and hand-washing breaks. Surfaces will be cleaned before any lunch session. Elementary students will not use lunch bins to store lunch boxes--lockers will be used for this purpose.

What safety protocols will be put in place during lunches for students who have food allergies?

The school nurses will work with families who have students with identified allergies and alternate eating locations will be determined, if necessary.

How are changes to the district's educational practices being financed?

District 115 continues to maintain fiscal responsibility by ensuring that the district is implementing all safety procedures and protocols in a fiscally responsible manner. The district has applied for financial assistance through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) as well as through the Illinois Emergency Management Agency. The district will continue to pursue additional state, federal, and private funding opportunities as they become available.

Human Resources

What happens when a staff member or student tests positive for COVID-19?

Contact tracing will be done to identify individuals who were in contact with a student or employee who tests positive for COVID-19. The district will work with the Kendall County Health Department and the IDPH and implement extra cleaning and quarantine protocols.

Health and Wellness

How will physical distancing be encouraged throughout the school day?

All students and employees who are in school buildings will be required to wear masks and maintain 6 feet of physical distancing whenever possible. Elementary and middle school hallways will have directional markings, and students will be led through the hallways by staff members. Transition times in between middle school and high school classes have been either staggered or extended to accommodate physical distancing, as well as to allow for the cleaning of student work stations in the classrooms. Weather permitting, PE classes will be held outside. The PE department will develop lessons and activities that allow for distance between students whenever possible. Elementary classes will have 1-2 outdoor recesses per day to give students an opportunity to remove masks, if physical distancing can be maintained. Teachers will also be encouraged to hold academic classes outside when possible.

How will the district ensure CDC and IDPH physical distancing guidelines are met in courses such as band/orchestra, choir, or PE?

The district will use spaces in the building and maximize outdoor spaces for the above mentioned courses. At the high school level, every effort will be made to have students from the same ensemble in attendance on the same days, and practices will be put in place to maintain physical distancing guidelines.

Will training for proper mask use be provided?

Training will be provided to students on how to properly wear, remove, and store masks. A video will be shared with parents as well.

Will students have any breaks during the day from wearing masks?

Students will be allowed to remove their masks to eat. When outside for any class, students will be allowed to remove their masks when they can maintain 6 feet of distance from their teacher and peers.

Can my child wear a face shield instead of a mask? What if my child has sensory issues?

A student may wear a face shield instead of a mask with a medical exemption from a medical doctor. Students who have sensory issues can work with the school's IEP team to use social stories and a sensory diet to help the student acclimate to wearing a mask or a face shield. Families are encouraged to begin this process with their students prior to the start of school.

What will the procedure be if students refuse to wear masks or maintain physical distancing?

The guidelines state to maintain physical distance when possible, however, some students based on needs, may need to work more closely with a staff member. If a student has an underlying health condition, the parents/guardians will need to provide a doctor's exemption and then the student can wear a face shield. Administration and staff will work with the families, remain flexible, and may consider other supports or learning models to meet students' needs. Students who refuse to wear a mask without proper medical exemption documentation will be excluded from on-site (in-person) instruction until the student complies with the practice of wearing a mask. Students sent home for refusal to wear masks will be expected to engage in e-learning until they return to school.

Will there be changes to the absence policies?

The district's attendance policies will be flexible. If a parent makes a decision to exclude a child from school because the student has symptoms, that absence will be considered an excused absence. Daily absences still need to be communicated via the attendance phone line. Parents will be asked to report the reason for the absence as the health department tracks COVID-19 and flu-like symptoms.

Will there be restrictions or quarantine orders on families who have traveled within and outside the United States?

For any travel outside of the United States, parents/students/staff will be required to follow the quarantine guidelines set forth by the [CDC](#) and [IDPH](#).

Why is the district using self-certification of symptoms rather than checking employees'/students' temperatures upon arrival?

ISBE guidelines recommend self-certification of symptoms for staff and students. The intent is to mitigate the amount of exposure prior to staff and students arriving at school, and/or entering the building. A daily email will go out to parents and employees, or a QR code can be used, to certify COVID-19 free symptoms and a temperature of less than 100.4. If a student or staff member does not submit this form before the designated

time frame, they will be screened upon arriving at school. If a temperature above 100.4 is detected, a child will need to be picked up from school and an employee would be expected to go home.

Will students who have COVID-19 symptoms be in the nurse's office with students who are in the nurse's office for non-COVID symptoms?

There will be two waiting areas to enable the nurse to separate those with COVID-19 symptoms, and those without.

Student and Family Support

How will students with IEPs be supported in each learning model?

All students with an IEP will have an individualized e-learning plan that will be based on each individual student's needs; that plan will be communicated to families.

What will the dual language program look like?

The dual language program will have the same three learning model options: on-site, hybrid, and e-learning. Due to the size of the program, grades may be combined in the different styles of learning depending on what learning model families choose. The recommendation from the district is for families to choose on-site learning for the dual language program. However, family choice will be honored.

Will the YMCA's SAFE childcare program be available for elementary school students?

The SAFE program will be available and will be required to follow all ISBE and DCFS guidelines.

Communications

How will families be notified if the need arises to transition between the three learning scenarios due to a change in the governor's Restore Illinois Plan?

The district will communicate any significant changes to the learning format as soon as detailed information is available. The primary form of communication for a transition to a new learning scenario will be an email sent to the parent/guardian email addresses that are listed in the district's database. District personnel may also call parents/guardians if a significant transition occurs, as phone calls will be reserved to communicate immediate needs/emergencies. Texting, social media posts, and notifications on the district's website and mobile app may also be used to notify families that an important email has been sent. Parents/Guardians are strongly encouraged to ensure their contact information is kept up-to-date with their child(ren)'s school(s) so important messages will be received.