FLINT, Mich. – July 16, 2020 – The Flint Community Schools district today announced plans for a return to in-person learning in the fall, prioritizing the health and safety of the school community. In keeping with the Governor’s guidelines, the potential learning environments include face-to-face instruction, hybrid learning and virtual instruction. The district intends to return for virtual instruction on Wednesday, August 5, with in-person instruction beginning on Monday, September 14, unless the Governor announces a change in guidance for schools. However, any parent or guardian who prefers to continue with virtual learning instead of face-to-face instruction will have the option to choose virtual learning.

Unique to Flint Community Schools and reflective of the district’s commitment to Community Education, the Safe Return and Recovery Plan includes protocols for Whole Child and Family Support in each of the potential learning environments.

“Our plan is centered around a safe reopening of Flint Community Schools, designed to protect the health and well-being of our school community while maintaining a commitment to excellence in academics, transparent communications and a whole child approach to education,” said Superintendent Anita Steward. “I am grateful for the diverse group of administrators, teachers, paraprofessionals, Board of Education members, community partners and parents who came together to help us develop this comprehensive plan. Despite the ever-changing circumstances, I am confident we will be ready to provide our students with a high-quality education and the wraparound supports they rely on in the fall.”

The three learning environments are as follows:

- **Face-to-face instruction:** A traditional approach to student learning where students attend school in-person each day. Bus transportation will be available, but ridership may be reduced day-to-day and students may be assigned to seats. Sanitizer will be available when students enter the bus and buses will be sanitized between routes each day, with deep cleaning daily.
- **Hybrid learning:** A combination of face-to-face and virtual learning, with students reporting to school on select days or during select periods of time.
- **Virtual instruction:** Online learning through a laptop or computer. Students attend school at a remote location while teachers lead virtual lesson plans. Daily attendance, grades and reporting will still be required, just as they are during in-person learning.

Parents and guardians interested in full-time virtual learning will need to complete the Virtual Learning Consent Form by Wednesday, August 5. To do so, families can schedule an appointment with Centralized Enrollment by calling 810-767-6158 or visiting [www.FlintSchools.org](http://www.FlintSchools.org) and clicking on the Centralized Enrollment page. All parents and guardians should consider their options and choose what is best for their family.

Teachers and students will engage through live lessons daily, whether through in-person, hybrid, or virtual instruction. In all three environments, student progress will be evaluated through common assessments, work samples and meeting course standards. The FCS athletic department is planning for youth sports for elementary and secondary levels to begin in the fall of 2020-21, while adhering to state and local guidelines. FCS will adhere to mandates from the Michigan High School Athletic Association for outdoor and indoor athletic programs.
As outlined in the Governor’s 2020-21 Return to School Roadmap, students and staff are required to wear facial coverings unless they are unable to medically tolerate such coverings, if harmed/injured or during meals. The district is also developing plans to limit student movement in hallways, during meal times, on playgrounds and other highly concentrated areas while promoting social distancing during the school day.

The FCS Safe Return and Recovery Plan was developed by the District Reopening Committee, a group of administrators, teachers, paraprofessionals, staff, community partners, Board of Education members, union representatives and parents, to ensure a safe reopening of schools. The group methodically followed Opportunity Labs’ “Return to School Roadmap” in the development of the plan. Subcommittees gathered throughout the summer to focus on planning specific to wellness, instruction, finance, governance and communications, operations and facilities, while also gathering input from parents, staff and students through online and phone surveys. For more information on the Safe Return and Recovery Plan and frequently asked questions, please visit www.FlintSchools.org.

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