

**R.S.U. No. 67**  
**Return to School 2020-2021**  
**Frequently Asked Questions**

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**Q:** *When will the school day start and end?*

**A:** PK-6 attend school from 7:30 – 2:00  
7-12 attend school from 8:30 – 3:00

**Q:** *Will masks be provided or do I need to buy one?*

**A:** Students are encouraged to bring their own face covering to school. If not, a face covering will be provided.

**Q:** *Can my child wear a face shield instead of a mask?*

**A:** Face shields may be an alternative for those students with medical, behavioral, or other challenges who are unable to wear masks/face coverings. Face shields worn in place of a face covering must extend below the chin and back to the ears.

**Q:** *Are students required to wear masks at all times?*

**A:** All students are required to wear a face covering/mask that covers their nose and mouth when on the bus, when entering or exiting buildings, while traveling in hallways, while in the classroom and when moving about the school.

**Q:** *Will students be allowed a mask break?*

**A:** Student can have mask breaks:

- While eating
- While sitting at their desk in the classroom for a mask break when 6 feet apart
- While on the playground, if social distancing allows
- While participating in music practice, if permitted

**Q:** *Will 4-year-olds be required to wear a mask?*

**A:** Yes, our PreK learners will be required to wear a mask per DOE and Maine CDC guidelines. They will be allowed mask breaks that are developmentally appropriate.

**Q:** *What is social distancing?*

**A:** Social distancing is a term applied to certain actions that are taken by public health officials to stop or slow down the spread of a pandemic. Social distancing measures include limiting large groups of people coming together, remaining six feet apart, canceling events, etc.

**Q:** *Will students be allowed to bring backpacks to school?*

**A:** Yes, students may bring backpacks to school.

**Q:** *Will school supplies be shared?*

**A:** No, we will make sure kids have their own supplies this year as sharing is not permitted.

**Q:** *What type of school supplies can my child bring to school?*

**A:** School supplies brought in would be for personal use only, not to share, but we will make sure kids have what they need. Teachers will provide a list of supplies to families prior to the start of school.

**Q:** *Will students be allowed to use drinking fountains?*

**A:** No, students will not be allowed to use drinking fountains.

**Q:** *Will students be allowed to have water bottles?*

**A:** Yes, students will be allowed to have water bottles. A water bottle filling station will be provided in each school.

**Q:** *What will transportation look like?*

**A:** Parents/Guardians are encouraged to transport their child to and from school, if able. Students are required to wear a face covering at all times while on the bus/van, including upon entry/exit. Students will be assigned seats and must sit in the seats assigned to them.

**Q:** *What are the health screening questions that parents have to answer each day prior to coming to school?*

**A:** Prior to boarding the bus or drop-off, Parents/Guardians will need to complete a self-screening assessment daily for their child to check for symptoms of COVID-19:

- Have I been out of the state in the last 14 days?
- Do I or have I been living with anyone who is sick or quarantined?
- Do I or have I been around anyone exhibiting these symptoms within the last 14 days:
  - Do I or have I had a loss of taste or smell?
  - Do I or have I had shortness of breath?
  - Do I have a fever or feel feverish?
  - Do I have a cough or sore throat?
  - Do I feel unwell today?

**Q:** *Can I choose a remote learning option for my child?*

**A:** Any R.S.U. No. 67 student across grades Pre-K-12 will have the option of participating in remote instruction. Remote instruction is available for any student with health and safety concerns, elevated health risks or a family member with elevated health risks.

**Q:** *If my child goes remote to start, can we change our mind?*

**A:** Students who elect to participate in this remote instruction program to begin the 2020-2021 school year will be asked to remain in the program for at least eight weeks.

**Q:** *Will you do remote learning for those children who have to stay home during the time they are isolating?*

**A:** We will be looking at individual situations, but will be responsive during a time a child is quarantining for 14 days.

**Q:** *What will lunch look like?*

**A:** Students will be eating in the classrooms as they must be 6-feet apart according to the Maine State guidelines to remove masks.

**Q:** *Are kids using lockers or cubbies?*

**A:** Students may have individually assigned lockers or cubbies. Students will wear masks and socially distance when using a locker or cubby.

**Q:** *How am I going to get to know my child's teachers if parents aren't allowed in the buildings to reduce exposure?*

**A:** Our teachers and staff will work hard to try and foster those relationships with parents in other ways this year.

**Q:** *My child recently traveled out-of-state. Can she attend school?*

**A:** Students who have traveled out of state to those states not listed in the most up-to-date Governor's orders must isolate at home and monitor for symptoms for 14 days before being able to return to school.

**Q:** *Are my children going to be able to ride the bus to daycare after school where that is not their physical address?*

**A:** Students can be dropped off at a location other than their home if it is a consistent schedule. Every attempt will be made to work with families, however due to the limited number of seats on our buses, daily changes will most likely not be possible.

**Q:** *Can my child ride a different bus in the afternoons?*

**A:** It needs to be a consistent schedule and notification will need to follow the transportation bus change policy. Every attempt will be made to work with families, however due to the limited number of seats on our buses, daily changes will most likely not be possible.

**Q:** *If my child starts school in person can I switch them to remote learning if an outbreak in our area happens?*

**A:** We will work with families to make that happen as soon as feasibly possible, however once in remote learning requires an eight week commitment on the family

**Q:** *Is there a plan in place in case a student gets positive for COVID? If so, what is the plan?*

**A:** There is student and family handbook that will be sent out next week that will provide this detailed information.

**Q:** *What time can parents drop kids off at EPB, 4-6 grades and 7-12 grades? Will the protocol for drop off be different for each building?*

**A:** Students in grades K-6 can be dropped off at 7:15 and students in grades 7-12 at 8:15. More detailed protocols will be provided by building administration.

**Q:** *Is there still a Friday 1:30 release day?*

**A:** Students in grades PreK-6 will be dismissed on Friday at 1. Students in grades 7-12 will be dismissed on Friday at 2.

*Updated  
September 1, 2020*

- Q:** *What is the plan for Open House or for children to see their classroom?*  
**A:** There will be no in-person Open House. There will be a virtual tour posted online on Thursday for all three schools.
- Q:** *Can my child bring a mini-battery operated fan to school?*  
**A:** The school will be providing fans in each room to blow air out of the classroom window. Personal fans are not allowed.
- Q:** *When does remote learning start for high school?*  
**A:** For those families who have chosen the remote option, MA will be giving device and material pick-up Friday, September 4. Freshman will start school on September 8 and grades 10-12 will start on September 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Q:** *How will students be doing gym in school?*  
**A:** We will be following the DOE guidelines for PE. [Please see page 17 of the attached link.](#)
- Q:** *Will there be an orientation for the Pre-K Kids?*  
**A:** Please reach out to Penquis with specific questions regarding the PREK program. We will be doing a virtual open house for EPB that will be released on Thursday.
- Q:** *When can remote equipment be picked up?*  
**A:** For those families who are remote, you can pick up materials on Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Q:** *Will there be multiple drop-off locations for children?*  
**A:** There may be longer wait times at the beginning of the year, but due to safety concerns we will be using the protocols and routines sent out by the building administration for drop-off.

To submit your own question, please go to this link: <https://forms.gle/LjguxwdJ9rY3ws3L8>