

ELPS RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN

PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY SUPERINTENDENT DORI LEYKO TO THE BOARD OF
EDUCATION JULY 27, 2020

RECAP SINCE MARCH 13, 2020

- In-person instruction was suspended per Executive Order 2020-35 beginning March 16, 2020.
- ELPS faculty and staff planned and implemented “emergency distance learning” (online or via paper packet) from April 17 – June 5.
- Executive Order (EO) 2020-142 and the Return to School Roadmap were released June 30, 2020 to provide guidance and direction for the fall 2020 reopening of schools.
- EO 2020-142 requires districts to submit three Preparedness and Response (PRP) Plans:
 - A plan if the region is in Phases 1 – 3 of the MI Safe Start Plan – this plan must include only remote instruction.
 - A plan if the region is in Phase 4 of the MI Safe Start Plan – this phase does permit in-person instruction.
 - A plan if the region is in Phase 5 of the MI Safe Start Plan – this phase includes in-person instruction.
- PRPs must be approved by the Board of Education and submitted to the Intermediate School District by August 15 or seven days before the first day of school, whichever comes first.

GATHERING INFORMATION AND DATA FROM RESOURCES AND STAKEHOLDERS

- Several district administrators have served on county, regional and state-level work groups throughout the summer.
- ELPS Return to School Work Groups have met weekly for five weeks to provide input and feedback on several topics. These groups include parents, students, administrators, faculty and staff, and representatives from community partners.
- Family and staff surveys have also been used to inform decisions.
- Building-level committees have been meeting for the past 2+ weeks to evaluate and make decisions on building logistics, procedures, and protocols.

MANY OPTIONS FOR FALL INSTRUCTION WERE CONSIDERED AND EVALUATED

- Full-time in-person instruction at all levels
- In-person instruction for elementary students with online instruction for secondary students
- Several models of hybrid instruction (a blend of in-person and remote instruction)
- Full-time online instruction
- Full-time online instruction for most with in-person instruction for some

DISTRICT PRIORITIES FOR FALL INSTRUCTION

- Health and safety of students and staff
 - Rigorous, high-quality instruction for all
 - Equity and access
 - Family preference of instructional delivery mode
 - Teacher and staff preference of instructional delivery mode
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- What we found through our exploration and surveys ... we are not able to satisfy all of these priorities with any singular model or with a combination of models.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION FOR THE START OF SCHOOL YEAR 2020-21

- To begin school year 2020-21 with 100% online instruction through September 30, 2020. COVID-19 data and conditions will be evaluated no later than the week of September 21, with a recommendation made to the Board of Education to continue 100% remote learning or to phase in face-to-face instruction.
- ELPS expects to remain with 100% online learning through Phase 4 of the MI Safe Start Plan, pending extension of the current executive order that allows for full funding for online instruction.
- The transition from online to in-person instruction will take 2-3 weeks. Students will return in phases, with our youngest learners and special populations returning first.
- The option to remain in full-time online learning will continue at least through Phase 5 for any family that chooses that option, in accordance with pupil accounting rules.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

- To place the health and safety of our students, staff and their families as our top priority
- To monitor the local impact of thousands of college students returning the area in the next month
- To provide consistency during an uncertain time
- To honor the safety and risk concerns of an in-person return of many teachers and staff members
- To allow teachers and staff to prepare for and deliver high-quality instruction with one delivery model
- To align with Executive Order 2020-142 that allows all provisions of EO 2020-65 suspending strict compliance with the School Aid Act or the Revised School Code for the 2019-20 school year to remain in effect through the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020.

FEATURES OF ELPS ONLINE INSTRUCTION

- Fall 2020 online instruction will be more rigorous than the spring “emergency distance learning” with more accountability in place:
 - Attendance will be taken daily – through participation in live sessions, two-way communication, and/or assignment completion.
 - Grades will be awarded, and standard report cards will be issued.
 - Five days of in-person instruction will be provided each week following the district calendar.
- Classes will be taught by ELPS faculty and use current ELPS Board-approved curriculum – this will allow for a smoother transition from online to in-person instruction. Students will remain with their teacher(s) when in-person instruction resumes.

FEATURES OF ELPS ONLINE INSTRUCTION

- All electives and special area classes will be included in the weekly schedule.
- Each course will include synchronous and asynchronous instruction. All content will be available for access at any time after the lesson is first delivered.
- Daily instruction and learning will include both screen time and non-screen time activities and assignments.
- More synchronous time with teachers and classmates will be scheduled. Teachers will also conduct small-group differentiated instruction, as appropriate.
- Teacher development will be supported through professional learning, coaching, and collaboration.

SAMPLE OF ELEMENTARY STUDENT WEEKLY SCHEDULE STILL IN DEVELOPMENT - SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:45-9:05 Live	Morning Meeting	Morning Meeting	Morning Meeting	Morning Meeting	Morning Meet - Attendance
9:05-10:35 Live	ELA (live lesson, live small groups, independent work time for students)	ELA	ELA	ELA	Student Independent Work Time (Specials, SEL and Make-Up Work from Week)
10:35 - 11:45	Break and Independent Work Time (Specials, Writing and SS)	Break and Independent Work Time (Special, Writing, and Science)	Break and Student Independent Work Time (Specials, Writing, and SS)	Break and Student Independent Work Time (Specials, Writing, and Science)	Assessments, individual student check-ins, communicating with families, planning
11:45 - 12:30	Lunch and Movement Break	Lunch and Movement Break	Lunch and Movement Break	Lunch and Movement Break	
12:30 - 1:40 Live	Math - Live Whole group lesson, independent work time, small groups	Math	Math	Math	Afternoon Class Meeting Weekly Wrap Up - Live
1:40 - 3:37 (Teachers hold office hours from 2:30 - 3:00)	Student Independent Work Time (Writing, SS, Specials)	Student Independent Work Time (Specials, Writing, or Science)	Student Independent Work Time (Specials, Writing, and SS)	Student Independent Work Time (Specials, Writing, and Science)	

SAMPLE OF SECONDARY STUDENT WEEKLY SCHEDULE STILL IN DEVELOPMENT - SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 st -hr. class 8:00 – 8:45	1 st -hr. class 8:30–10:00 a.m. *Students would be engaged in one hour of this time to allow for smaller live group meetings	1 st -hr. class 8:30–10:00 a.m.	4 th -hr. class 8:30–10:00 a.m.	4 th -hr. class 8:30–10:00 a.m.
2 nd -hr. class 9:00 – 9:45				
3 rd -hr. class 10:00 – 10:45				
4 th -hr. class 11:00 – 11:45				
Break/lunch 11:45 – 12:30	2 nd -hr. class 10:45 – 12:15	2 nd -hr. class 10:45 – 12:15	5 th -hr. class 10:45 – 12:15	5 th -hr. class 10:45 – 12:15
5 th -hr. class 12:30 – 1:15	Break/lunch 12:15 – 1:00	Break/lunch 12:15 – 1:00	Break/lunch 12:15 – 1:00	Break/lunch 12:15 – 1:00
6 th -hr. class 1:30 – 2:15	3 rd -hr. class 1:00 – 2:30	3 rd -hr. class 1:00 – 2:30	6 th -hr. class 1:00 – 2:30	6 th -hr. class 1:00 – 2:30

SPECIAL POPULATIONS

- Students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) and 504 Plans
 - All IEPs will be reviewed by IEP teams and adjusted based on the individual needs of each student. Families will be contacted by the case manager.
 - All 504 plans will be reviewed and adjusted as needed. Families will be contacted by the case manager.
- English Learners
 - English Learners (ELs) will be supported by EL teachers and paraprofessionals in their core subject area classes and/or in smaller virtual groups.
- At-risk students
 - Academic intervention will be provided by district interventionists for students who qualify for support. Additional academic support may also be provided by paraprofessionals or other staff.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND ATHLETICS

- Decisions regarding extra-curricular activities will be made by district administrators in accordance with current executive orders and local health data. More details will be communicated as the start of the school year arrives.
- Decisions regarding athletics will be made by district administrators in accordance with the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) guidelines, which comply with current executive orders and are informed by local health data. More details will be communicated as information and guidance is provided by the MHSAA.

HOW ELPS IS PREPARING FOR 100% ONLINE INSTRUCTION

- **Full access to devices, high-speed internet, and learning materials**
 - All preK – grade 2 students will receive an iPad.
 - All grade 3 – 12 students will receive either a Chromebook or a laptop.
 - ELPS will support families who lack high-speed internet by providing hotspots or other internet connectivity support.
 - Equipment and supply kits (math journals, writing notebooks, and other supplies) will be provided to each student via pick-up or delivery at the beginning of the school year.

HOW ELPS IS PREPARING FOR 100% ONLINE INSTRUCTION

- **A consistent learning management system (LMS) will be used.**
 - Following spring distance learning, a committee was developed to explore and evaluate learning management systems. The outcome from the committee was the following:
 - Pre-K – grade 2 students will utilize SeeSaw for instruction, meetings, and feedback.
 - Grades 3 – 12 students will utilize Google Classroom for instruction, meetings, and feedback.

HOW ELPS IS PREPARING FOR 100% ONLINE INSTRUCTION

- **Professional learning for staff**

- All teachers and faculty who deliver instruction are participating in a series of eight professional learning modules on their Learning Management System, online instruction pedagogy, and student wellness and trauma.
- These modules have been designed by ELPS instructional coaches, ELPS educational technology specialist, and instructional specialists at the Ingham Intermediate School District. ELPS faculty with expertise in specific areas are also facilitating workshops and discussions for colleagues as a part of this professional learning.
- Dedicated time for coaching and collaboration will also be provided on a regular basis.

HOW ELPS IS PREPARING FOR 100% ONLINE INSTRUCTION

- **A focus on social-emotional well-being and trauma**
 - Schools will implement a mental health screening for all students.
 - All staff will participate in a training module that will orient them to their own, their students' and their families' emotional states and gain a better understanding of the effects of living through this pandemic, the death of George Floyd and the Black Lives Matter movement.
 - Reporting requirements as a mandated reporter will be reviewed with staff, along with directions for referring a student to building-level support teams.
 - A comprehensive list of wellness resources will be provided to staff, families, and students.
 - ELPS will work with the Mental Health Advisory Committee to craft communication to parents that will include:
 - Destigmatization of COVID-19
 - Understanding normal behavioral response to crises
 - General best practices of talking through trauma with children
 - Positive self-care strategies that promote health and wellness

OTHER INFORMATION

- All district staff whose typical responsibilities may not exist during this time will be reassigned or redeployed – no district employees will be laid off during this time of remote learning.
- Meal distribution and delivery will continue during this time of remote learning.
- Teachers and staff will be permitted in their classrooms for materials or to deliver remote instruction. Screening and safety protocols will be required.
- Increased summer school opportunities will be put in place for summer 2021.

TOPICS FOR CONTINUED PLANNING

- Building-level, grade-level, and department instructional planning and scheduling
- Continued staff training
- Family and student training
- Device and material deployment
- Special populations plans
- Mental health planning with MHAC
- Start-of-year plans
- Ongoing communication with staff and families

NEXT STEPS

- Gather feedback from our stakeholders on proposed school reopening plan
 - Tuesday meetings of the Return to School Work Groups
 - ELPS staff through building committee representatives or emails to administration
 - Families, students and community through the ELPS Board of Education “Contact Form” on the ELPS website (see next slide for link)
- Prepare the final Preparedness and Response Plan for each phase for Board action on August 10, 2020
- Continue to develop detailed plans for the transition to in-person instruction

THANK YOU

To share feedback, suggestions, or additional thoughts, please contact Superintendent Leyko and/or the Board of Education members using the Board of Education “Contact” link on the ELPS website:

<https://elps.us/our-district/board-of-education/contact-/>