



Back-to-School Decision Making for the 2020-2021 School Year

The start of the 2020-2021 school year will be among the most challenging that parents have ever faced. With the coronavirus pandemic creating havoc across the country, schools are faced with creating a safe in-person learning environment, a robust and effective remote learning option, or hybrid in-person/remote programs, as well as dealing with school transportation and programming for students receiving special services and supports. Parents are charged with understanding what is being offered and balancing the school program with their other work and family responsibilities.

Use the questions below to see where your family lands on a variety of important school issues. Lots of **“yes” answers**? It looks like you are pretty comfortable with your school’s plan. Lots of **“no” answers**? You may wish to get back to the school with your concerns or look for alternatives or additional supports for your child and family. Pay special attention to those areas where you selected **“needs more discussion,”** and work through your questions and concerns with your family and your school contacts.

School Planning Process	Yes	No	Needs Discussion
I am satisfied with how the school is addressing parents’ or caregivers’ concerns and questions.			
I am satisfied with how the school communicates with families about the changes it is considering.			
I am comfortable with the school’s plan if a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19.			
The School’s Academic Program			
In-school learning...			
I am comfortable with the school’s in-person reopening plans for reducing risk of spreading COVID-19.			
I believe the school has the resources to implement its in-person reopening plan (e.g., staffing, supplies, training).			
I believe the school has a plan to provide an effective program of instruction every day of the regular school week (which may include both in-person and remote learning).			
Remote learning...			
The school’s remote learning option allows students to have real-time interactions (live instruction) with their teachers.			
My child will receive quality education through remote/at-home learning.			
My child’s learning style and needs are compatible with digital modes of learning.			



Remote learning (cont'd.)	Yes	No	Needs Discussion
My child will be able to keep up academically through remote/at-home learning.			
I have access to reliable internet and a computer or tablet that my child can use for remote learning.			
My child has a space to work that is free of distractions during school hours.			
I am able to work (at my workplace or telework) while my child is not in school, and I can still successfully do my job.			
I can supervise or identify someone who can supervise my child during periods of remote/at home learning.			
After-School and Extracurricular Activities			
My child has an alternative to the after-care services provided by school that adequately meets my family's needs.			
About My Child			
My child knows how to wear a cloth face covering correctly and understands the importance of doing so.			
My child can wear a cloth face covering for an extended time, if required by the school.			
Getting to and from School			
My child has reliable transportation to and from school (e.g., school bus, carpool, walk/bike, public transit).			
If my child is taking the school bus or public transportation, I am satisfied with the ways the school/transit company is reducing the risk of spreading COVID-19 (e.g., decreased bus/transit capacity, wearing masks, increased cleaning and disinfecting).			
Social-Emotional Wellbeing			
My child will be sufficiently engaged during prolonged periods of remote/at-home learning.			
My child will be able to stay socially connected during prolonged periods of remote/at-home learning.			



Special Education Services & Supports	Yes	No	Needs Discussion
<p><i>If your child uses specialized adaptive communication devices, equipment, or learning aides:</i> I am able to have these where I live.</p>			
<p><i>If your child has an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan:</i> My child will receive the required special education and related services, supports, and accommodations whether in school or remote/at-home learning to meet my child's needs.</p>			
<p><i>If your child receives school-based learning services (e.g., tutoring before or after school, , speech/language therapy, occupational therapy):</i> My child will receive needed school-based learning services whether in school or remote/at-home learning to meets my child's needs.</p>			
<p><i>If your child receives school-based behavioral services (e.g., social skills training):</i> My child will receive needed behavioral services through a virtual/at-home option that meets my family's needs.</p>			
<p><i>If your child receives school-based emotional or mental health services:</i> My child will receive needed emotional or mental health services through a virtual/at-home option that meets my family's needs.</p>			
<p><i>If your child receives school-based nutrition services (e.g., school breakfast and/or lunch):</i> My child has an alternative to the nutrition services provided in schools that adequately meets our family's needs (Check your school district's website or call the school to learn how it is handling its nutrition program.)</p>			

Adapted from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) Back to School Decision Making Tool