



September 2021 The Road Forward

Franklin Township Public Schools

Prior Plans - New Policy



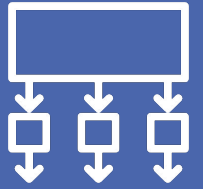
- Teaching and Learning at Franklin Township Public Schools during the 2020-2021 school year was governed by the Restart and Recovery Plan to Reopen Schools RRP which was based upon guidance from the NJ Department of Education, updated several times during the school year and acknowledged by the Board of Education.
- In June of 2021, the district created a Safe Return Plan SRP for the 2021-2022 school year. This provided some detail about how the district planned to apply the applicable guidance, available at that time from Federal, state and local governmental, educational and health agencies. This SRP was shared with the public and comments were sought and incorporated where applicable.
- Subsequently, the NJDOE provided guidance about the return to in-person learning in the 2021-2022 school year called the Road Forward. Part of the guidance pertained to Health and Safety.

Prior Plans - New Policy



- The district has utilized this guidance, as well as current recommendations from Federal, state and local health agencies, to create Policy 1648.11 The Road Forward - Health and Safety. This presentation will provide an overview of that Policy which has been reviewed by the Safe Return Committee (formerly the Restart and Reopen Committee) and is expected to be fully adopted by the Board of Education in September of 2021.
- While the Policy generally mirrors language in the NJ Department of Education and NJ Department of Health Guidance, **the details of how the district will implement this guidance can be found in the Appendices to the Policy.**

First A Few Key Points

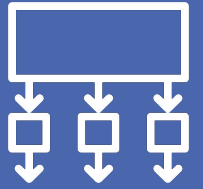


- The Road Forward Policy is based upon the latest guidance from the NJ DOE and other Federal, state and local educational and health authorities. **This means the Policy implementation may change as the guidance changes.**
- The implementation of the safeguards outlined in the Policy may vary from time to time or school to school depending upon factors such as an increased incidents of cases within a school or the number of cases in the region (regional risk classification).
- **All teaching and learning will take place *in-person*.** Remote learning is not an option.*
- **Face coverings must be worn by all students, staff and visitors in district buildings****

*Portions of Executive Order 175, which allowed remote instruction, have not been renewed.

**Executive Order 251 - There are limited exceptions for medical reasons, activity or age. See Policy 1648.11 - Appendix C.

First A Few Key Points

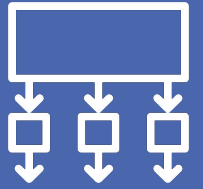


- Students will attend school for a full day, five days a week.
 - FHS Hours 7:20 a.m. - 2:21 p.m.
 - FMS Hours 7:20 a.m. - 2:26 p.m.
 - Tier 2 Elementary Schools (CRS; FPS; HIL) 8:50 a.m. - 3:10 p.m.
 - Early Childhood Development Center 9:45 a.m. - 1:50 p.m.
 - Tier 3 Elementary Schools (CES; EAS; MAC; PGM) 9:30 a.m. - 3:50 p.m.
- Breakfast and Lunch will be served during the school day.
- Extracurricular Activities and Athletics will be held in-person.
- In-Person field trip experiences will be limited in the Fall of 2021.
- Before and Aftercare is planned to be offered by the YMCA of Greater Somerset at all elementary schools and FMS (6th grade)*

*If there is insufficient interest in before and after care at a particular school, the program may not be offered at that location. However, transportation arrangements from another school may be available.

Key Area - Policy 1648.11

Appendix A - Vaccinations

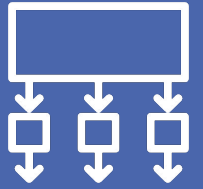


- The district encourages all who are able, to be vaccinated against Covid-19.
- A district staff survey has been issued and to date 91% of those who have responded have been vaccinated.* The survey will close on September 6, 2021.
- Information on opportunities to receive Covid vaccines is shared with staff when available.
- If enough staff members express interest in receiving the vaccine, the district will look into hosting an on site vaccination site.
- A survey of families with students eligible for vaccination against Covid 19 will be conducted when students return to school.
- If enough student families express interest in receiving the vaccine, the district will look into hosting another vaccination site for students.

*More specific information on the vaccination status of a particular individual or the staff/student population of a particular school will not be shared for confidentiality reasons.

Key Area - Policy 1648.11

Appendix B - Communication with Local Health Department



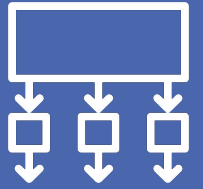
Franklin Township Public Schools will maintain close communication with the Somerset County Department of Health to provide information and share resources on COVID-19 transmission, prevention, and control measures and to establish procedures for notification and response to COVID-19 illness in district facilities.

In addition to the Superintendent of Schools; Director of Pupil Personnel Services and Director of School Management, the Franklin Township Public Schools Lead Nurse and Assistant Lead Nurse will continue to be the primary liaisons between the district and the Local Health Department.

These individuals will be aware of the current regional level of community transmission: low (green), moderate (yellow), high (orange), and very high (red); make recommendations and implement any applicable revisions to the Road Forward Policy and/or any affected protocols.

Key Area - Policy 1648.11

Appendix C - Mask Wearing Protocol

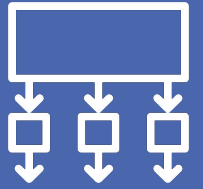


Per Executive Order 251 (August 6, 2021), Franklin Township Public School will require the mandatory use of face masks by staff, students, and visitors in the indoor portion of the school district premises, except in the following circumstances:

- a. When doing so would inhibit the individual's health, such as when the individual is exposed to extreme heat indoors;
- b. When the individual has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face masks without assistance;
- c. When a student's documented medical condition or disability, as reflected in an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Educational Plan pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, precludes use of a face mask;
- d. When the individual is under two (2) years of age;

Key Area - Policy 1648.11

Appendix C - Mask Wearing Protocol



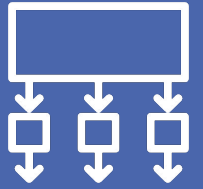
Per Executive Order 251 (August 6, 2021), Franklin Township Public School will require the mandatory use of face masks by staff, students, and visitors in the indoor portion of the school district premises, except in the following circumstances:

- e. When the individual is engaged in activity that cannot physically be performed while wearing a mask, such as eating or drinking, or playing a musical instrument that would be obstructed by a face mask;
- f. When the individual is engaged in high-intensity aerobic or anaerobic activity;
- g. When a student is participating in high-intensity physical activities during a physical education class in a well-ventilated location and able to maintain a physical distance of six feet from all other individuals; or
- h. When wearing a face mask creates an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task.

Per the current guidance of the CDC, masks will continue to be worn by all on school buses and vans.

Key Area - Policy 1648.11

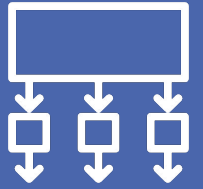
Appendix D - Physical Distancing and Cohorting



- Per the Governor's current directive, all students will return to in-person instruction every day. The district will return to a full day schedule for all students.
- The district will continue to ensure that all instructional and non-instructional rooms in schools and district facilities comply with physical distancing standards to the maximum extent practicable. Currently those standards recommend a three-foot physical distance in all school buildings.
- Physical distance will be maintained in the classroom whenever possible and when space limitations prevent the recommended physical distance in the classroom, physical barriers will be utilized.

Key Area - Policy 1648.11

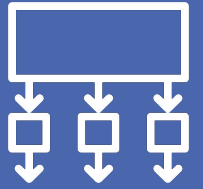
Appendix D - Physical Distancing and Cohorting



- Within the school day, elementary students will be kept in the same group (cohort) as much as possible and secondary students to the extent possible. Students within a cohort will eat meals together following all applicable physical distance requirements to the maximum extent practicable.
- Other ways to increase physical distancing:
 - Student families will continue to be allowed to opt out of transportation to and from school.
 - Before and after school care options will follow all applicable guidelines.
 - Meals and physical education classes will take place outdoors whenever feasible.
 - A limited number of off campus field trips may take place in the fall of 2021.

Key Area - Policy 1648.11

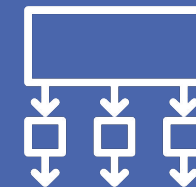
Appendix E - Hand Washing and Respiratory Etiquette Protocols



- The district will prepare and maintain **hand sanitizing** stations with alcohol-based hand sanitizers (at least 60% alcohol) or other approved sanitizers, when and where appropriate.
- These stations will be located: in each classroom (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer); at entrances and exits of buildings; near lunchrooms and toilets.
- In classrooms that have existing **handwashing stations**, stations will be prepared with soap, water, and alcohol-based hand sanitizers (at least 60% alcohol) or other approved sanitizers, when and where appropriate.
- Each school's pandemic response team, which will be renamed the Safe Return Team, will review and revise, if necessary, its school-wide plan for hand washing.

Key Area - Policy 1648.11

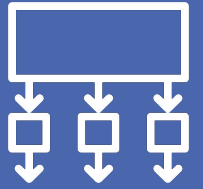
Appendix E - Hand Washing and Respiratory Etiquette Protocols



- With regard to respiratory etiquette, all staff, students and visitors will wear face coverings unless they fall under an exception (see Appendix C).
- The district will respond to areas where students may gather in the following ways:
 - Meals and physical education classes will be held outdoors whenever possible.
 - The implementation of the curriculum for physical education and fine, visual and performing arts classes will be revised to comply with applicable health department guidance, if necessary.
 - Extra and co-curricular activities will be offered in person and will follow all applicable health department guidance.
 - Athletics will be offered in compliance with the New Jersey Interscholastic Athletic Association rules. Middle school athletics, provided there is sufficient interest, will also be offered

Key Area - Policy 1648.11

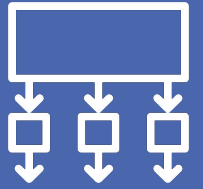
Appendix F - Provision of Meals



- Franklin Township Public Schools will offer all students breakfast. Those who elect to eat breakfast in school will do so in the cafeteria, in another large space or in an outdoor area in order to maximize the physical distance available.
- Students will be kept with their cohort during lunch periods, whenever possible. Lunch will be served in the cafeteria where the most physical distance possible will be maintained. The district will use additional large spaces inside the school building and outdoor eating spaces, when possible, to maximize the physical distance available.
- Students will be encouraged to wash their hands before and after meals.
- Food will be served by food service personnel or students will bring their meals from home.
- Students will be discouraged from sharing food items.
- Eating areas will be cleaned after each meal session.

Key Area - Policy 1648.11

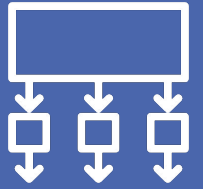
Appendix G - Transportation Protocols



- Franklin Township Public Schools has provided the opportunity for student families to waive transportation and transport their children to and from school.
- Physical distancing and the wearing of face coverings will be *encouraged at bus stops*.
- Face coverings will be required of all persons on the bus.
- The maximum amount of physical distancing possible on the bus will be maintained.
- Windows will be opened to the amount safety protocols will allow.
- Frequently touched surfaces on the bus will be wiped down after each run and the bus will be more thoroughly cleaned between the morning and afternoon runs and overnight.

Key Area - Policy 1648.11

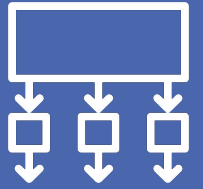
Appendix H - Cleaning, Disinfection & Airflow



- The district will **minimize the sharing of supplies**. When supplies or equipment must be shared, staff members will wipe them down between uses by different groups. Students will be encouraged to wash their hands before and after the use of shared supplies or equipment.
- The district will establish and follow **cleaning and disinfecting protocols**.
 - Appropriate cleaning supplies and equipment have been purchased for the 21-22 school year.
 - The district will continue use of its established cleaning/disinfecting schedules, targeted areas to be cleaned, and methods and materials to be used, which are contained in a procedure manual posted on the district website. This manual will be reviewed and revised as needed.

Key Area - Policy 1648.11

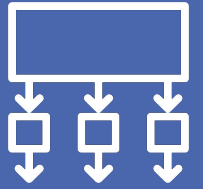
Appendix H - Cleaning, Disinfection & Airflow



- The district will **improve airflow** by continuing to follow through on the recommendations from the Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) study conducted in the 20-21 school year.
 - Including upgrading filtration systems, where and when practical, in district HVAC units;
 - providing a fresh air component to recirculated air units;
 - leaving windows open, if practical, to further assist in bringing fresh air into indoor spaces
 - and maintaining appropriate air conditioning filtration.
- The district will utilize air purifiers in common spaces, such as cafeterias, when possible.

Key Area - Policy 1648.11

Appendix I - Screening, Exclusion, and Response to Symptomatic Students & Staff Members

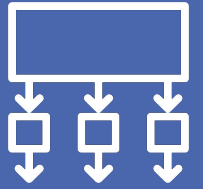


Parental Screening

- The district will post a message on all websites listing the symptoms associated with Covid-19 and questions regarding exposure to the virus.
- Principals will routinely remind their student families to check their children for symptoms and exposure to Covid-19 and to keep children who are feeling ill at home.
- The district's Attendance Policy and procedures to report an absence will be shared with student families.
- While the district **will not** utilize daily screening forms and temperature checks of all staff and students entering the building every day, the district may implement these procedures if circumstances warrant, i.e., if recommended by the applicable agencies in response to an elevated Covid Activity Level/Regional Risk Matrix or increased cases in a particular school building.

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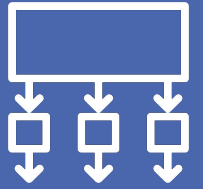


Response to Symptomatic Students and Staff

- Students or staff members who develop symptoms, including a fever of over 100 degrees during the day, will be brought to an isolation room for confirmation of an elevated temperature and a further assessment.
- Students and staff with symptoms related to COVID-19 will be safely and respectfully isolated from others. Students will continue to be supervised in the isolation area until they can be picked up by a parent/guardian.
- Staff will be referred to an ambulatory Covid testing site. Parents will be given information regarding in district testing site opportunities.
- Any child or staff member with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 will continue to be treated in a manner consistent with the recommendations of the local health department and may vary depending upon the current COVID-19 Regional Risk Matrix.

Key Area - Policy 1648.11

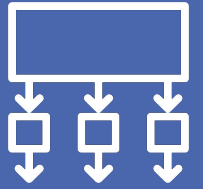
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- The district will continue to follow current Communicable Disease Service guidance for illness reporting and any incidences of students sent home will continue to be logged in the Genesis Student Information System.
- The District Lead Nurse and Assistant Lead Nurse will continue to work with the Human Resources Department to track symptomatic staff members who are sent home.
- Symptomatic staff members and students who were sent home will be allowed to return to district buildings after meeting the criteria specified in the Isolation Protocol which will continue to be posted on the district website, revised and acknowledged by the Board of Education as necessary.
- Should the district learn that a staff member or student has tested positive for COVID-19, the District Lead Nurse/Assistant Lead Nurse will continue to work with the Somerset County Health Department to report the case and assist in any contact tracing at the state, county or local level, as needed.

Key Area - Policy 1648.11

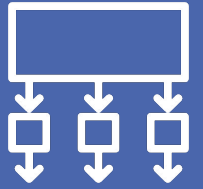
Appendix I - Screening, Exclusion, and Response to Symptomatic Students & Staff Members



- The staff member or student who has tested **positive** for COVID-19 will be notified of the appropriate **isolation** period and the required documentation, if any, needed to return to the building.
- The staff member or student who has been **identified** as a **close contact** of an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be notified of the appropriate **quarantine** period and the required documentation, if any, needed to return to the building.
- Staff or students who have been made to isolate or quarantine will be allowed to return to the district building in accordance with the Isolation Protocol.
- Applicable staff and student families will be notified of a positive case.
- The case will be included in a chart on the district website and reported to the Office of the Executive County Superintendent.

Key Area - Policy 1648.11

Appendix J - Contact Tracing

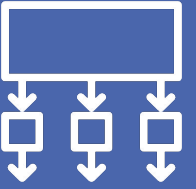


- The Lead Nurse and Assistant Lead Nurse will work with the Somerset County Health Department to report the a positive case of Covid-19 and assist in any contact tracing at the state, county or local level, as needed.
- The staff member or student who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be notified of the appropriate *isolation* period.
- Staff or students identified as close contacts will be notified of the appropriate *quarantine* period.
- Students who are unable to participate in in-person learning *due to quarantine* will be eligible for home instruction during the quarantine period. Home instruction will take place virtually after the school day has concluded.*

*Home instruction is governed by N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1-25; N.J.A.C. 6A:14-4.8; 6A:14-4.9; 6A:16-10.1 and referred to in Board of Education Policy 2412. Home instruction differs from the remote instruction offered in the 2020-2021 school year *in that it takes place after regular school hours; is limited in content area and duration and will often be taught by a certified teacher who is not the student's classroom teacher. Student families must apply for home instruction when their child is ill and such requests must be approved by the School Physician.*

Key Area - Policy 1648.11

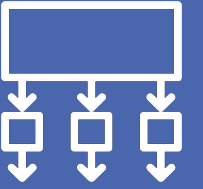
Appendix J - Contact Tracing



- Staff or students who have been made to isolate or quarantine will be allowed to return to the district building in accordance with the Isolation Protocol.
- The Isolation Protocol is developed by the district nursing staff and School Physician; based on current health guidance; updated as necessary and acknowledged by the Board of Education.
- Applicable staff and student families in a building will be notified of a positive case.
- The case will be included in a chart on the district website and reported to the Office of the Executive County Superintendent.

Key Area - Policy 1648.11

Appendix K - Testing



Diagnostic Testing

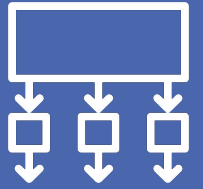
- Similar procedures as last school year.
- Symptomatic staff members will be asked to go to an ambulatory testing site for testing.
- Families of symptomatic students will be given the option to have those students tested at one of three district locations, by trained district staff.
- All will be encouraged to follow up with their medical provider as necessary.

Screening Testing

- The district will work in collaboration with the Township and other Agencies to offer screening sites.
- The district will provide information about screening opportunities in the area.
- If the need and interest warrant, the district may provide a screening event in district.

Key Area - Policy 1648.11

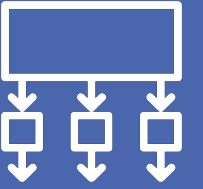
Appendix L - Student & Staff Member Travel



During the 2020-2021 school year a travel protocol was developed in accordance with Federal, state and local governmental and health department guidance. The District Travel and Quarantine Protocol was updated as necessary, acknowledged by the Board of Education and posted on the district website. Staff and student families were notified of the Protocol and any revision.

The district will follow the same procedure in the 2021-2022 school year with regard to the development, revision, acknowledgement and communication concerning a District Travel and Quarantine Protocol.

What are our next steps?



1. Virtual Assembly - August 23, 2021 at 7:00 pm



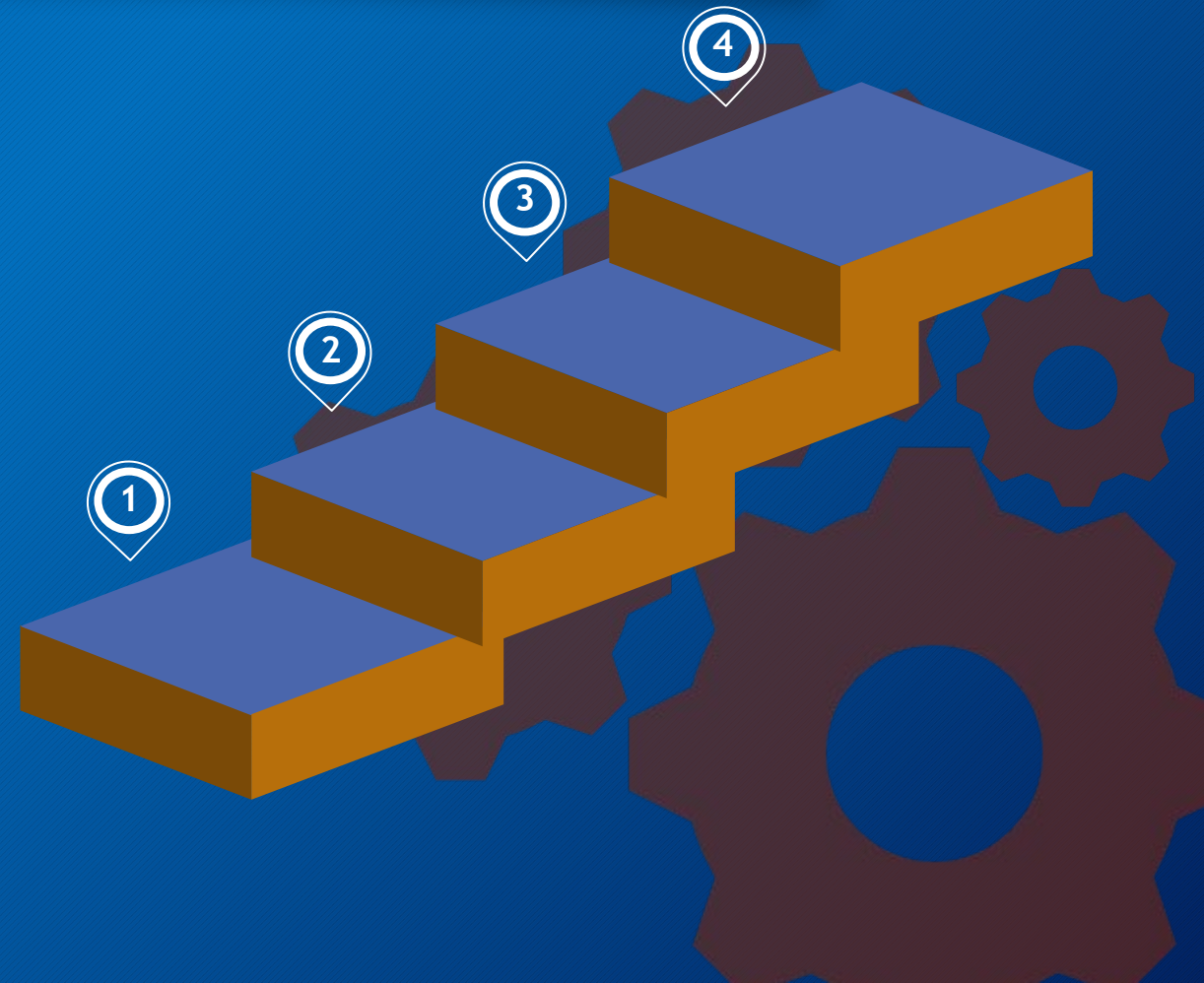
2. BOE to review and adopt Policy - August 26, 2021 and September 23, 2021.



3. Principals to provide opportunity for school specific questions - late August, early September.



4. Re-open for students (K-12) on Thursday, September 9, 2021



Opportunities to Ask Questions



Email reopen@franklinboe.org

Attend the Virtual Assembly 7:00 pm on Monday, August 23, 2021.

Register, and submit a question if you would like, by Monday, August 23, 2021 at Noon.

A link to the Assembly will be sent to you by 5 pm on August 23, 2021.