



Return to School Update (8.2020)

NPFE School and System Leaders are working to develop a plan for the 2020-21 school year. This plan will be adjusted and finalized based upon the recommendations from the Governor and actions of the Michigan State Legislature. We are currently exploring and readying for all options and will continue to follow public health data to make safe, informed decisions with the intent to return staff and students to our buildings. The options include:

Full Return to School (Phase 5)	Partial Return to School (Phase 4)	Full Virtual Instruction (Phases 1-3)
<p>This option involves the return of all staff and students to our buildings, face to face school year.</p> <p>Classroom configurations, scheduling options, transportation, protective equipment needs and other safety concerns are currently being evaluated and updates will be shared throughout the summer.</p> <p>Even if this option is selected, some aspects of student work, such as homework and other activities, will be shared and submitted online so that students have practice with our online programming, should an abrupt closure be required as it was last year.</p>	<p>If conditions dictate and in order to keep staff and students safe, a partial return to school will be implemented.</p> <p>This will involve a portion of students reporting to campus for fact to face and/or distancing learning everyday/or alternating days with the remainder learning virtually from home. As much as possible, we will consider siblings in the same household that attend one or more NPFE schools when creating groups of students.</p> <p>Should this be the selected pathway, the exact schedule will be finalized and shared with families later in the summer.</p> <p>As with the full return, all safety considerations will be taken into account.</p>	<p>If necessary, we will resume at-home, virtual instruction for all students.</p> <p>This would involve some, but not all, of the same tools that were used during the spring. Other new tools that supplement our current programming would also be used.</p> <p>All online courses would be delivered by NPFE staff and would be aligned to state academic standards.</p> <p>If this option is necessary, students and families can expect the same level of quality instruction that our team of teachers and leaders provide in the traditional, in-person setting.</p>
<p>NOTE: If any form of in-person instruction is how the school year begins, a shift to virtual instruction may be necessary if a resurgence of COVID-19 cases occurs at any time. Our swift and successful response last school year, lessons we learned along the way, and feedback from families will inform our decisions should this occur. Distant learning in the 2020-21 school year would have more rigorous requirements as well as more frequent live instruction than the emergency measures put into place when the crisis began in March 2020.</p>		



Understanding Key Terms

Asynchronous Learning: Asynchronous learning is a general term used to describe forms of education, instruction, and learning that do not occur in the same place or at the same time.

Cohort: A mass of students who are grouped together and do not mix with other groups of students.

Remote learning/Virtual Learning: Remote Learning occurs when the learner and instructor, or source of information, are separated by time and distance and therefore cannot meet in a traditional classroom setting. Information is typically transmitted via technology (email, discussion boards, video conference, or audio bridge). A parent must sign off on an EDP (Educational Development Plan).

*Distance learning-*Distance Learning occurs with live instruction delivered to students via Zoom, Google Classroom, etc. Attendance is taken by the normal attendance process and students follow the schools traditional learning schedule.

Social and Emotional Learning: Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) is the process through which children and adults understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.

Staggered schedules: Certain groups of students attend school during certain days and times, thereby reducing the numbers of students in the school building.

Synchronous learning: Synchronous learning refers to a learning event in which a group of students are engaging in learning at the same time. Before learning technology allowed for synchronous learning environments, most online education took place through asynchronous learning methods.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Will students and staff members at NPFE schools be required to wear masks?

Yes, all students K-12 and staff members will be required to wear masks when inside the school building and when riding on busses (when applicable).

If a student becomes sick at school, what will happen?

If a student falls ill or demonstrates symptoms of COVID-19 while at school, a family member will be notified to pick up the student right away. The student will leave the classroom and wait in an isolated room to protect their classmates and staff members.

Can I bring my child into the building?

For the safety of our families and our staff, parents will not be permitted to enter the school building beyond the main office.