This document represents actual emails sent by parents. These emails have been copied and pasted into this document along with the actual answers. As guidance has changed over the past few weeks, so have some of the answers. At the time, they were based on the most recent information available. The answers have been updated in this document AS OF 7/31/20 to reflect the latest decisions based on parent input and more accurate guidance from the CDC and the DoE.

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QUESTION	ANSWER
HEALTH AI	ND SAFETY
I was wondering if our district has plans in place for fully opening and what is the criteria? The number in Robbinsville was only 12 asymptomatic cases as of a few weeks ago and in Mercer County it is equally as low. The hospitals are all empty. I work in healthcare and can tell you there are no cases in any nursing facilities right now. At what point does the district feel it will be safe for the teachers to return?	Due to the extreme social distancing mandates per the DoE guidelines, we cannot meet these and, therefore, have to open school with less capacity than normal. With all we've put in place to clean, sanitize, etc., it is safe to return now. However, we are still beholden to the DoE guidelines.
Do we have any plans in place to get the students back into the classroom?	Our plan to reopen fully isdo what we always doopen school the regular way as we've always done and get everyone back. I'd love thatthat's much easier than what we're doing now.
Will students and teachers be required to wear masks (not shields, or masks with valves, which are ineffective) in school?	Masks are mandated from the bus stop and back again at all times. If a child cannot wear a mask due to medical conditions, they will be educated 100% remote and not come to school. We will be flexible and work with families in this capacity.
How will bathrooms in the schools be cleaned so that all children can use them safely? We all know that school bathrooms are an unsanitary mess in the best of times. Additionally, we know the aerosols that flushing releases into	We have the cleaning downno air hand dryers toothe flushing could be an issue. I'll speak to our buildings and grounds supervisormaybe no flushingevery 15 minutes a custodian does it after covering the toiletwow, this is insane just thinking about it. You can see the complexities and details

the air can carry COVID. What will be done to make bathrooming safe?	we are all facing. We have scheduled custodians to make bathrooms a priority and clean every 15-30 minutes. Any available staff will be assigned to monitor these rooms. Teachers will be limiting the numbers that go use the bathrooms at a time.
What is the school's plan if a teacher or staff test positive for COVID? Will the class be quarantined? Will the school be shut down? Will the entire district be shut down?	No answer from DoE but I would shut down due to the number of people that a person would still come in contact with during a socially distanced day. A lot depends on when we are notified. During the day, any staff member or student will be immediately isolated (5 days)and then removed from the school. Contact tracing will begin immediately. Until they test negative, they would need to quarantine. Anyone returning would need proof of a negative test before coming back into a building.
I still don't understand why the Robbinsville Board of Education is so bent on opening up school in the first place? Why is there such a rush to get back to school?	We are obligated by the DoE to open schools and use the guidelines as established by the Commissioner of Education. We do not have the option of not opening.
I am wondering how the ventilation systems within the Robbinsville schools will be addressed this upcoming school year? I am referring specifically to the guidance by ASHRAE.	All filters across the district in our ventilation system are being changed to meet current requirements. These are routinely changed on a 3-month cycle.
will a portable HEPA/UV air purifier be installed in district classrooms?	We have no plans to purchase HEPA UV air purifiers for the classrooms.
Has any consideration been given to moving classes outdoors, possible under tents when the weather cooperates? The schools all seem to have plenty of open fields that would accommodate this.	We will be holding as many classes as possible outside but do not intend on purchasing tents for September. Tents pose too many variables to conduct school safely (power, heat, technology, bathrooms, supplies, security).

Will there be a zero tolerance policy for not wearing a mask?	No mask, no school, no tolerance for no mask. We are also allowing face shields and will be flexible to work with families to protect everyone.
I see a question pertaining to flushing toilets and bathrooms but what about the sinks? And bathroom doors and stalls and the locking of stalls? Will sanitizer be right there after touching a door or stall or lock? How safe is a child touching the door to enter bathroom then touching stall door and lock only to wash ha do and touch door to exit? Same for classroom doors and doors to buildings. How will this be handled?	Each bathroom will be equipped with hand sanitizer devices either inside or directly outside of the doors. All hand blowers will be turned off so students will be using paper towels. When students return to the classroom, they will be trained to use the sanitizer and routinely wash hands. Since we are not serving lunch, it frees-up the custodian to make many more trips around the school to clean and sanitizebathrooms will be number one on that list. All common touch areas will be very frequently cleaned and sanitized.
Will the health screening that parents and staff have to fill out be monitored to ensure this is being done?	Via the Genesis Parent Portal, parents will be required to complete a health screening each day before leaving the home. The information will then be sent to the school nurses. If a child has a fever, we ask that she/he does not attend school that day. It may be possible for that child to attend the virtual portion of class(es) that day so the day will not count as an absence.
Will temperature checks be done at school?	Temperature checks will be done throughout the day at school but not as students enter a bus or buildings.
What protective gear will staff have besides masks?	Gloves, mask screens and in some instances, depending on the class, protective plastic screens.
What is the plan for the older staff, immune-compromised staff, staff with underlying health conditions, or staff that just is not comfortable with being a sacrificial lamb while things unfold? Where are their various options?	All staff members will have an option to work remotely if they have a preexisting condition or a health concern. With districts now able to offer 100% remote learning as an option to parents, we will need teachers to teach these students. The staff is in the process of letting the district know if they intend on returning in September.

	We've also purchased many PPE for each staff member and have put together a cleaning system and schedule so that each classroom will be as safe as we can make it. Hand sanitizer stations will be located throughout the classroom and each classroom will be equipped with a kit containing PPE, sanitizer and gloves.
I haven't seen anything yet regarding how switching classes/sitting at different desks is going to work at the high school level. Can you provide any protocols put in place?	We are still working on these details. In theory, teachers will spray down the classrooms with a steam-like electrostatic gun after every class. It takes about 4 minutes to dry but everything is sterilized. Also, each classroom will be equipped with a kit containing masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, etc. to help keep the rooms as safe as possible.
What are the details of the cleaning practices being put into place to keep students and teachers safe? How far are the desks being kept apart? How will arrivals and dismissals be handled for both busing and non-busing students?	Any structure that houses students needs to be state approved and although we considered tents, that would not be acceptable by the Department of Education. Then you would have to consider bathrooms, availability to nurse and other facilities for studentsthen where will we do recess and physical education if tents cover our fieldsit becomes a logistical nightmare even if we were to be approved, which we would not.
I would like the school to think outside of the box. Can we have teachers meet in central areas for small pod group sessions (7-8 students)? These areas can be within walking distance for the kids. Or maybe they can meet under tents with heat lamps on the school's fields or parking lots?	Every classroom will be meeting the standards of 6 feet apart, desks moved , those types of things. Students will enter the building in an organized fashion Yet to be determined , our pandemic response teams are figuring out those details this coming week. We've trained the custodians on CDC requirements and have purchased the best sanitizing cleansing equipment and resources that we could possibly find. It is getting increasingly difficult to do so because of the demand across the country.
Hybrid choice - What if a teacher or student tests positive in a specific team, how will the rest of the students be affected since they now have risk of exposure?	My process will be to contact the county health department and follow their direction to contact trace. However, with students sharing buses, siblings in different schools, etc. I would think we would shut the district down until that tracing is completed.

## ROBBINSVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS: REOPENING PLAN UPDATED 8/7/20

Will there be different teachers for virtual classes Vs hybrid classes?

This is dependent on the number of staff and students who are working or learning remotely. We will have firmer numbers in the next two weeks.

#### **INSTRUCTION**

Why can't we follow the same model as NDHS for our HS and use the resources of broadband capability we have at the school for live instruction concurrent with at home students?

- -one week on/off means the students will not be in front of a teacher for 9-10 days....our model is no more than 5; -we are also utilizing live instruction and, depending on the course, it would surpass that of other schools' offerings; -we are also using webcams (over 100 at the hs, 80 or so at the ms):
- -I think parents are not realizing what "live instruction" means...a teacher will be wearing a mask and standing in front of the class. Cameras do not move and, if the teacher does not speak loudly or talks to the board, he/she will be hard to hear..."live instruction" is not a better model than being in a classroom. I completely disagree with their (NDHS) assessment of what it will look like. Student engagement will become an issue with students logging in and then possibly tuning-out. This is why I am telling parents that the decision should be based on a health and safety issue and not a model of instruction....more weight should be given to a parent's confidence in sending their child to school based on safety.

Is it possible to generate a list of neighbors who have kids in the same grade at Sharon who may be interested in forming learning pods? As we are likely to be going 100% remote at some point soon it may prove helpful. It may be something to consider when forming classes as well. If kids with the same teacher could get together on their own in small groups to

I like the idea but, unfortunately, we cannot provide addresses for students due to confidentiality issues. There may be other ways to gather interest in your idea via social media, etc.

socialize and learn together that would be ideal. This may be something parents can do on days when their kids are remote. It also helps to foster a sense of community and may lead to working parents having an additional resource to help during these difficult times. I believe there needs to be a stronger emphasis placed on being there for one another instead of an 'every man for himself' mentality. This would be an invaluable lesson for all our students to learn.	
How is it that so many of our neighboring districts have found the loophole to offer their parents that option and Robbinsville has not. Last year Robbinsville was one of the first to start the kids on true remote learning.	I speak with the other superintendents in both Mercer and Middlesex Counties and I can tell you this came as a total surprise this week. These meetings were not pretty as many school leaders vehemently expressed the strong desire to get this changed. If you look on page 49 of the DoE Road Back, it clearly states the 100% option can be included. Now the DoE disagrees with their own guidelines. It makes no sense.  When you see other districts with this option, they either put their plan out before this week or don't care what the governor says and are doing it regardless. However, we were told the county will not approve any plan which includes this 100% option. One reason I am not releasing our plan early is that I believe the governor will change his mind and many other modifications will be made to the expectations of all of this.
Why does our plan have the lowest amount of hours in-person of any district in Mercer County?	Our average of 10 hours per week puts us 2nd in the county regarding hours in-person.  Even though we fall behind only Princeton with an average of 13 hours per week for their 6-12th grades, we are 2 hours above their 2-6th grades.

	ANDour students will go no longer than 5 days in a row without seeing a teacher in-person (the best in the county).
How could you not include it (the 100% virtual option) in our plan if that's what you truly believe is best practice for your district?	The Department of Education said they will not approve our plan if it includes 100% virtual. If that changes, and hopefully it will, I will include it in our plan. If it is approved, all parents will then be given a choice which will include 100% virtual. I just signed a scathing letter from over 157 superintendents which is now headed for the governor's desk about offering 100% virtual and it is supported by the NJPTA and NJEA groups.  This has since been approved.
Other districts have given parents the option of either a hybrid approach or all virtual. Again, I urge you and the Board to offer the all virtual option for Robbinsville students and parents. I read the statement that the governor has not allowed this, but it's clear that many districts are offering all virtual, so I'm not sure why we can't!	We are not able to offer 100% virtual to parents as of today. That may change this week by the DoE. If we include it, our plan will not be approved. Those other districts put their plan out too easy as the mandate that we are not to offer a choice of 100% virtual just came last week. Those districts will need to change or not have a plan approved so their days will not count toward the legal mandate of 180.
My concern now is what remote learning will look like for my kids. Will there be improvements over last year?	Dr. Tew and her staff have been working diligently over the past few months to improve the virtual environment for students. We are planning on aggressively addressing this during our training days before students return in September. Establishing expectations for students, staff as well as parents will be the main focus of these three days. We've used the parent and

	staff surveys as the basis for this work. I am confident the virtual component will be even better come September.
Is there any option to have input/select which week our children will be in remote learning to coordinate with a similar work schedule?	<u>UPDATE SINCE ORIGINAL RESPONSE:</u> Once we assign your child to a cohort, we will be flexible and make adjustments to the assigned cohort if requested to do so by parents.
	First, we have not gone public with our plan for reopening. The letter last week was just an overview. Going week on and a week off is not our plan at this point. Once we decide and go out to the public, the district will do our best to be flexible in one of the two cohorts a student is assignedin-person and then virtual.
If a student doesn't meet the criteria in the daily health screening to attend school will that student be allowed to work remotely from home without being penalized as absent on the school attendance records?	There will normally be a virtual component that parallels the in-person class. If a child cannot get to school but attend the classes virtually, the day would not count against the student's attendance.
Make online learning better, it is the new normal across the world. In the last academic year, we were underprepared and it was not so effective. Now that we have some time before the school opening teachers should be given training.	The curriculum and instruction department has worked diligently over the summer to improve the remote learning place. You will see a vast improvement over this past year when no one was truly prepared for what occurred. Now that teachers have learned from this time, the instruction moving forward will reflect that newly gained experience and knowledge.
If 1 of my son's teachers or classmates tests COVID positive would he be required to work remotely from home in quarantine for 14 days due to exposure?	Typically this would be the case if students and a teacher are well enough to teach and learn, the class would move to 100% virtual.

With a single session/half day schedule will the students have all classes for the same amount of time each day? Typically they follow the same schedule just for a shorter amount of time in each class.	It depends on the school and the class. Typically the main academic subject classes will be longer in duration than the others.
How will Gym class be handled to be socially distant? I'm sure the locker rooms will be closed and the students will dress to be prepared for P.E. that day.  Normally multiple classes use the gym at once and the classes all interact together.	Correctlocker rooms will be closed and students will not change for physical education class. These teachers are working on the systems to teach and have physical activity while safely socially distancing within their areas of instruction. When able, they will have class outside.
I read the tentative reopening plan and didn't see the preschool Sprouts program on here. Would they be following the half day program as well?	We are working on the structure of this program and hope to get something out to parents very soon. As it stands, the program would still be the 2.5 hours a day it currently is and not be subject to an earlier dismissal.
Also, I just heard that Murphy is now allowing the option for 100% remote to parents. Will this now be an option for parents here?	Yes100% virtual will be an option.
What are your plans for the students who are virtually learning? The virtual learning that was used last year did not work. I would like to see that all students be taught at the same time as those that are in class via Live Stream or webcam.	Agreedhowever, the district's broadband and Internet bandwidth is not the best for this type of learning system. Sharon in particular is not great due to the location of the school. There are remedies on the table but these come with not only a hefty price tag but the time it takes to get fiber installed and out there is an issue.

	In the meantime, the instruction remotely has been improved upon based on everything we learned this last year. Hopefully you'll hear and see a difference in September.
Will remote learning in the fall be composed of synchronous teacher instruction/zoom classes or will there be daily handouts with ability to check in with teachers like last spring?	We've learned a lot about remote instruction since last March. Our curriculum and instruction department has been working with staff over the summer to include much more interactive pedagogy into our offerings and much less of the busywork you're describing.
or virtual classes, will there be actual teaching via zoom call? Or will it be like March to June where kids need to join zoom only if the student has a question?	Once again, this depends on the number of staff and students who are working/learning remotely. Brian, if we do the full Friday remote option at the high school, they will have at least one full synchronous day, which could ease these concerns.
How about AP physics 2 and Chemistry AP labs for virtual classes?	When possible, labs will be virtual or modified where the teacher conducts/demonstrates the lab and students collect and analyze data. So much is dependent on which staff are able to return.
Will the students choosing remote be given different types of tests/assessments versus those choosing hybrid?	This depends on the course, but we'd be measuring the same standards that are taught in the class, whether students are learning in person or remotely.
SPECIAL EI	DUCATION
I was wondering what the status is for the integrated PreK program- for the mix of special Ed students and regular PreK students and if that may still be happening or not.	We are still discussing this program but are optimistic we can get them in for a longer period of time. An early dismissal schedule does not work for this program due to the regular

	half-day schedule so we are working on a way to get them in every day for the full early dismissal day. More on this to come.
What criteria will be used to determine if a special education student qualifies to attend school on all days? Pull out resource? Multiply disabled? Simply the IEP?	It will be based on an IEP, available staff and scheduling. Once we know who wants 100% remote, we will feverishly begin scheduling students.
What steps are planned to allow 100% virtual students and teachers (especially in the upper grades 8th & 10th in my case) to become acquainted, dialogue as they did immediately after school if needed, etc.?	We are very aware of this issue and have built time in all grade-levels for teachers to connect with their students. Once you see the final schedules, you will see teacher "office hours" where they will connect with their students. Other periods have also been built into the schedule which focus on getting to know students apart from simply academics. For example, Pond Middle School has an "advisory period" built into their day. This will pose a challenge for staff but we are aware of the issue and have been working to overcome this.
DAILY R	OUTINES
Will snacks and eating be eliminated completely?	No lunchesno eating in indoor restaurants so why can students eat in a classroom? When students eat snacks, they will be in their social distanced desk which will be disinfected afterwards. Students will also go outside as much as possibleespecially snack time outside.
Will meals be made available for free/reduced lunch kids?	Yestake home each day and for the weekend. We will ensure these lunches are distributed in a way as to not embarrass students or unduly label them in front of others
Why can't they have a full day of school? If they're going to go to school anyway, why not make it worth it by having a full day.	We based this decision on the current executive order not allowing for eating inside at restaurants. If we can't eat indoors in a restaurant, it makes sense not to allow students to do it

I also understand not having kids congregate in the cafeteria for lunch but why can't they eat in their classrooms at their desk?	either. And then we add an adult to supervise and risk exposureif we're not serving lunch, a good portion of the day is lost which ends up resulting in an early dismissal day. The decision is based on health and safety.
TRANSPO	RTATION
Is there any way to look at busing routes to help determine that regardless if a family opts out? Parents help each other out alot and having a small group of people being able to carpool, help out on in-person half days is a big stress reliever.	We will be running the same routes each day regardless and will not be altering routes based on opt-out. That way families can count on the bus being there regardless.
ATHL	ETICS
Fall sportsdoes PRMS follow NJSIAA guidance or is the plan not to hold fall sports at PRMS?	Fall sports will not be offered this year at the middle school.
Will there be extracurriculars (sports and clubs) at the high school in the fall?	I wish I had a better answer but right nowpossibly. Sports are scheduled to start practices September 15 with games beginning in October. We will be trying to run extracurriculars but those are up in the air at this point. Last year, the school held virtual clubs. We are looking to do the same this year at all three schools.
Why even have gym if we're worried about close contact, sweat, breathing heavily through masks (which is another concern), etc?	Students will not be wearing masks while exercising. Gym class will look different next year and these teachers are working on modified activities where students do not come in close contact with one another. Physical education is the only mandated

	program at a required 150 minutes per week so we still need to schedule these classes.
Extracurricular Activities. Will there be any extracurricular activities for students this year? If so, will both remote and Hybrid students have the same opportunity to participate.	So far, yes, as virtual clubs can easily happen and kids need the connection and resume boost for college. All will run virtually.
Sports, Will students that are participating in sports be tested for COVID Antibodies or Covid itself prior to the start of sports?	No, that is not a requirement as mandated by the NJSIAA.
If we choose 100% virtual classes, would the student still be allowed to participate in the sports practices/ meets( for cross country/ track/Tennis ) if it happens.	Yes, absolutely, students are still considered students and can play.
Will there be girls tennis this fall? The high school courts were closed last summer until further notice. The team was bused to MC tennis courts. Given the current situation is this a safe option?	Same as last year with the busing to MCCC.
MI	SC.
How does this impact the students who take Vo-tech classes?	We are still waiting to hear the vo-tech schedule.
Has there been any discussion on what the school year will look like for the kids attending MCTS in the fall? Will they still have 1/2 days at MCTS and then a 1/2 day at RHS? If Rville schools are only 1/2 days then would it be fully virtual learning for the MCTS kids?	I have been in contact with the vo-tech school and am aware of the need to figure this out with them. As of today, they have not set their schedule. Once they contact us, we can start planning on what it will look like for the students.

I was wondering if there have been any updates regarding students scheduled for Dual Enrollment at Mercer County Community College this year?	It's on the list of issuesbut as of right now, the guidance department is working on it. Look for more information in a few weeks.
What's the start time for high schoolers? With no after school activities or sports we are hoping we don't have to wake up high schoolers at 6AM.	After school activities and sports are still scheduled. Time of all three schools may change depending on our cleaning of buses, etc. after each bus runs daily. We should know more in a few weeks.
I am just asking/suggesting that you don't blanketly use ABC order when you split the kids up. Half the kids home when the other half are in school. I understand siblings by all means should have the same schedule but for our highschoolers it should be a mix of individuals so they get a feel for what highschool should really be like and not just a group of kids from the beginning of the alphabet one day and the end of the alphabet the next.	We are looking at all options at this point and, although our goal is to have families in the same cohort, the high school schedule necessitates we mix things up. The other two schools will be cleaner due to their schedules but the high school should approach your idea.
How will Seniors who are Scheduled for early release days be handled?	We are handling that through our guidance on a case-by-case basis.
CHILDCARE	
Will RED be open to accommodate working parents? What safety protocols will be put into place and will students receive assistance with their remote learning while they are there? Will there be a significant price increase given the fact that they will need to accommodate students for longer time periods?	We understand childcare is going to be an issue regardless of the model and schedule we select. Our RED supervisor is working with the new BA to determine new costs, staffing, etc. Our goal is to not increase costs so I'm very hopeful we can accommodate more working parents. All safety protocols will be in place which would be the same during the school day including security. I do not know for sure but I would like to

Will the district be offering the RED program both for half days and on the "off weeks?"

guess assisting students with work will be part of the time in RED (I'll check on that).

We will not be offering RED on the off-weeks due to staffing issues and the amount of students we are thinking we will be servicing. By the end of next week, we will have a better idea as to the numbers of students actually returning so that could change.

#### **COUNSELING**

PSAT Testing & College Guidance Information...How are Juniors going to take the PSAT on October 14th?

In the past, we have administered the PSAT/NMSQT to both Junior and Sophomore students. Due to social distancing, we are only administering the PSAT/NMSQT to the Junior students on October 14th. Junior year is the only year students can be eligible for the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMSQT). The October 14th date is the only date that College Board allows schools to administer the PSAT/NMSQT.

For Sophomore Students, they are eligible to take the PSAT 10. The PSAT 10 will be administered in February/March time frame.

# ROBBINSVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS: REOPENING PLAN UPDATED 8/7/20

How are the Guidance counselors planning to help Juniors & Seniors ?

School Counselors will continue to provide the personalized service that all of our students and their families are accustomed to. This August, we are hosting college planning workshops for our seniors. They will be in person following CDC guidelines. We are also hosting virtual workshops for students that are not comfortable or able to come into school. The RHS Counseling Department will continue to host all of our events (Senior College Planning Night, Financial Aid Night, Junior College Planning Night, etc.) as we have done in the past. They will be virtual instead of in person. One on one counseling meetings with our seniors will continue to take place starting in September to assist them through their college application process. The RHS Counselors will meet with their iunior students starting in January to have their course selection/career & college planning meeting. Pending the environment, those meetings will be in person or virtually.

If a student chooses remote instruction, they are at a disadvantage in terms of interaction with the teacher. Most college bound students will need recommendations from their teachers and many choose 1 from their junior year, how will the school help to overcome this disadvantage?

Despite not meeting with the student in-person, teachers are still expected to develop relationships with all of their students and consistently meet them. Junior students ask their teachers to write letters of recommendation in January each year. Every year, junior students and their junior year teachers have approximately five months to build a relationship with one another. The priority for all of our teachers is to build a community within their classroom every year. Building a community means building individual relationships among the teacher and their students. Peer to peer relationships are also important in building a community within the classroom in person or remotely. In junior year especially, students

### SUPERINTENDENT BETZE'S Q & A

	understand that they also need to take an active role in building a relationship with their teachers.
Volunteer and Service HoursHow should they achieve voluntary hours in the upcoming year?	Currently, the Class of 2021's high school community service graduation requirement will change from 30 hours to 15 hours. We will continue to monitor and adjust decisions as we progress through the year and have more information.
Will there be remote options available to volunteer?	Any and all community service opportunities that are given to the school counseling department, will be shared to students and parents via email.
Will there be free online tutoring available for students?	Yes, we will continue to offer free virtual peer to peer tutoring through the National Honor Society.