

CREC MAGNET SCHOOLS PLAN TO REOPEN AND RE-ENGAGE



*Based on Guidelines from
the Connecticut State
Department of Education*



CREC Magnet Schools has developed this plan for reopening its schools with a focus on four core principles:



HEALTH AND SAFETY



EMOTIONAL WELL BEING



COMMUNICATION WITH OUR PARTNERS



MAXIMIZING TEACHING AND LEARNING

CREC Magnet Schools is planning for three levels of reopening:



Level 1

All in-person learning



Level 2

Hybrid model



Level 3

All distance learning

Additional detail about Level 2 and Level 3 can be found later in this plan. What follows is the plan to welcome students and staff back to the schools for Level 1, in-person learning.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Under this core principle, CREC Magnet Schools has made modifications to the operational components of the district to mitigate the transmission of the virus.

Face Coverings

- All students in grades 1 and above, and all staff, will be required to wear a face covering at all times, including the time students are on the bus;
- Exceptions to face coverings will be made for individuals with a medical exemption;
- Frequent mask breaks will occur throughout the day when social distancing is possible;
- If a student or staff member forgets their mask, the school will provide one.

Social Distancing

- Classrooms in CREC Magnet Schools are being rearranged to maximize the amount of distance between student work stations;
- Pre-K/Kindergarten classrooms will look different as our Pre-K/Kindergarten program is grounded in play-based practices with an emphasis on socialization. We will space out activities in the classroom when appropriate;
- Signage will be posted throughout the buildings marking six feet of distance and reminding students and staff to socially distance;
- Where feasible hallways and stairwells will be one-way;
- School cafeterias are being expanded to outdoor areas and other areas of the building to allow for socially distanced lunches;
- School bus vendors will load students back to front, and unload front to back.

Enhanced Cleaning Protocols

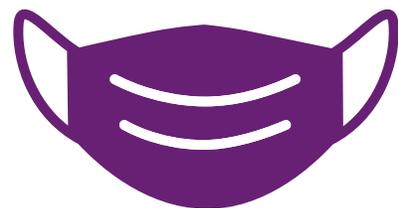
- There will be frequent cleaning of high-traffic areas and touch points throughout the school day;
- The HVAC systems have been modified to allow for maximum fresh air to circulate through school buildings without compromising the heating or cooling functions;
- After the school day, each room in the schools will be disinfected.

Personal Hygiene

- Students will have frequent opportunities to wash their hands;
- Hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms and common areas;
- Signage will be posted throughout the schools reminding students and staff of the importance of hand washing.

Minimizing Exposure to the Full School Community

- All schools are placing students into cohorts, to the greatest extent possible, to keep students together in the same group throughout the day;
- Students will be restricted to their cohort, including during the lunch time;
- An accurate roster will be maintained for each cohort to allow for quick communication should there be a case of the virus within a specific cohort;
- Visitors will not be allowed to enter the schools.



EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING

CREC recognizes that during the time of the pandemic and subsequent shutdown that both students and staff may be re-entering their school community feeling anxious and/or suffering from some form of trauma.

- At the beginning of the school year, all students will be screened to assess for trauma;
- Frequent student and staff check-ins will occur to identify those who may need additional supports and resources;
- Students will be provided the opportunity to discuss the impact of the pandemic on them, their community, and the world through “circles” facilitated by a school staff member;
- The Family and Community Engagement (FACE) team will reach out to students and families who are not yet engaged in school to offer support and connections to community-based resources.

COMMUNICATION WITH OUR PARTNERS

CREC Magnet Schools values its partnerships with their families and the community and will provide clear and timely communication.

- All reopening information will be posted, in English and Spanish, on the district website;
- Frequently asked questions (FAQs) will be developed and available on the website; the FAQs will be updated as new questions arise;
- There will be a single point of contact for the district and each school for questions about reopening;
- Timely and appropriate communication will occur in the event a member of the school community contracts the virus;
- Any changes to policies and/or procedures will be shared in a timely manner on the district website and through direct communication through SchoolMessenger.

MAXIMIZING TEACHING AND LEARNING

CREC Magnet Schools is preparing to welcome students back into the classroom, while at the same time having an eye towards the possibility that school may need to close again should there be a change to the health data and recommendations.

- Prioritized academic content has been identified to accelerate growth between last year and this year; these prioritized standards represent the most critical content in the curriculum;
- There will be strong focus on student feedback to identify where students are and what they need to order to succeed;
- CREC Magnet Schools is planning to do school differently should health indicators warrant a change; the following are the three levels of schooling:

Level 1 In-Person Learning:

All students and staff are invited back to the school building under the reopening guidelines described in this plan.

Level 2 Hybrid Model:

If health data and recommendations warrant reducing the number of individuals in a building, the hybrid model will be employed. Students will be divided into two groups (red group and blue group) and will attend school on alternating days between in-person and online learning.

Level 3 All Distance Learning:

School will revert back to full distance learning. CREC Magnet Schools is prepared to send all students home with a “Go Bag” containing the needed technology and curricular materials to continue learning from home.



CREC MAGNET SCHOOL FAMILIES HAVE OPTIONS

This plan outlines the actions taken by the CREC Magnet Schools to keep health, safety, and well-being of students and staff in the forefront. We recognize however that due to circumstances, medical or other, families may not be able to send their children back to the regular school building. CREC therefore offers an alternative with the **CREC Distance Learning Academy (CDLA)** which offers the following:

- Students remain enrolled in their CREC school;
- All instruction occurs online at home;
- Classes are taught by CREC teachers and follows the CREC curriculum;
- CREC provides the technology.

Students are welcome to return to their regular CREC school when families are comfortable with the health conditions of the community. Please email cdla@crec.org for more information.

*Thank you
and stay safe!*



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