



ERLANGER-ELSMERE INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS REOPENING PLAN UPDATE: JULY 27, 2020

The Erlanger-Elsmere School District takes our responsibility to provide a rigorous, standards-based, quality education in a safe learning environment very seriously. It is with this responsibility in mind that we have approached our decision on how to begin the 2020-2021 school year.

The “Healthy at School” expectations issued by the Kentucky Department of Education provide for significant safety measures, but the resulting learning environment would not be consistent with what we know is best practice for teaching and learning.

Therefore, we will begin school on August 25, 2020 with virtual learning for all Erlanger-Elsmere students.

We know this model presents its own unique challenges to our families. We will regularly revisit our approach with the goal of returning to school buildings as soon as we safely and effectively can.

What will virtual learning look like this fall?

This fall’s virtual learning will be different from the non-traditional instruction (NTI) implemented from March through May, which we recognize did not meet our expectations for rigorous, standards-based, engaging instruction.

Here’s how...

- Virtual learning will be a structured, teacher-led daily online model that will engage students in hands-on learning. It will also allow for a more interactive experience than we would currently be able to provide at school.
- Students in grades 7-12 will be able to choose from two learning options, based on what best fits their needs and learning style — online learning led by a district-based teacher, or participation in an virtual learning academy.
- Devices will be provided to any student who needs them.

Families will soon begin to receive additional information about distance learning — including curriculum details, schedules, necessary supplies, and more — from their child’s school. As always, we will work hand-in-hand with our families to break down any potential barriers to learning.

Parent Option # 1 Teacher-Led Distance Learning Model

In this plan students will participate virtually in learning new content/material, interactive lessons, graded assignments, and assessments.

Parent Option # 2 Independent Virtual Academy Model

In this plan, self-motivated students in grades 7-12 would participate in the learning of new grade/content material through a virtual platform. Students would be self-paced and would have limited interaction with teachers and staff in the schools. Students and parents would commit to this plan for at least one semester, and may choose this plan for the entire year, even if restrictions are lifted.

See following page for detailed information about each option.

Parent Option # 1: Teacher-Led Distance Learning Model

In this plan students will participate virtually in learning new content/material, interactive lessons, graded assignments, and assessments.

Expectations for the teacher-led option include:

- Students will attend class virtually, maintaining a modified daily class schedule during traditional school hours.
- Virtual instruction will include daily teacher contact.
- Students will be assigned/loaned a device as needed.
- Participation will be required and monitored daily.
- All instruction for grades 3-12 is 100% online with no paper options. We are developing a mix of age-appropriate online learning, written activities to develop motor skills, and voluntary face-to-face activities that follow district and state guidelines for our preschool, kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade students.
- Students in these programs will not come to school except by special arrangements (for example, to participate in small groups or to meet with teacher/specialist for academic, social/emotional, and health needs).
- Food services will be available for pickup.
- Students may participate in extracurricular activities as long as they meet the updated requirements.
- Schools will provide transition/orientation activities for: students newly-enrolled in an EES school, kindergarten students, 6th grade students, and 9th grade students.

Parent Option # 2: Virtual Academy Learning Model

In this plan, self-motivated students in grades 7-12 would participate in the learning of new grade/content material through a virtual platform. Students would be self-paced and would have limited interaction with teachers and staff in the schools. Students would have access to a teacher/staff member for support through office hours and email. Students and parents would commit to this plan for at least one semester, and students may choose this plan for the entire year even if public health restrictions are lifted. Enrollment details will be provided in the near future.

Expectations for the virtual academy option include:

- All instruction is 100% online with no paper options.
- Instruction will be delivered through the Edmentum Plato online platform.
- Students will be assigned/loaned a device as needed.
- A staff member will be assigned to each student to monitor progress.
- A lack of progress may result in reassignment to the teacher-led distance learning model.
- Students are responsible for reaching out to staff when there is a need.
- Participation will be required and monitored daily.
- Students in these programs will not come to school except by special arrangements (for example, to participate in small groups or to meet with teacher/specialist for academic, social/emotional, and health needs).
- Food services will be available for pickup.
- Students may participate in extracurricular activities as long as they meet the updated requirements.
- Schools will provide transition/orientation activities for students newly-enrolled in an EES school and 9th grade students.