



**Cedar Rapids  
Community School District**

*Every Learner: Future Ready*

# RETURN TO LEARN

*plan*

- Student and Staff Safety
- Three Options
- Needed Flexibility

## Message from the Superintendent

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From the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, I have been proud of the way our staff, students, parents, and community members have gone beyond during this unique pandemic crisis. You'll see this pride - and hard work - reflected in the Cedar Rapids Community School District's Return to Learn plan that represents our best options to open schools for the 2020-2021 school year.

The plan is based on three guiding principles: Safety, Options, Flexibility

- Student and staff **safety** is our top priority.
- We provide three **options** for families to choose what is best for their situation.
- Varied plans provide **flexibility** as local safety conditions may change.

While this document reflects our district's best thinking within this historic time, we also realize (and have experienced daily) that much can quickly change when it comes to managing our response to this pandemic. I also understand that our district's final plan may not make everyone happy. Opinions, perspectives and voiced concerns are inevitable within our community. In our Return to Learn plan, we have developed quality options and allow our families to decide what is best for them.

### Next Steps for Families

Please take the time to read through the Return to Learn plan and, if you are a current or incoming Cedar Rapids Community School District family with PK-12 students, **please think about which of the three options you will choose. A communication will be sent requesting you to select one option per student.**



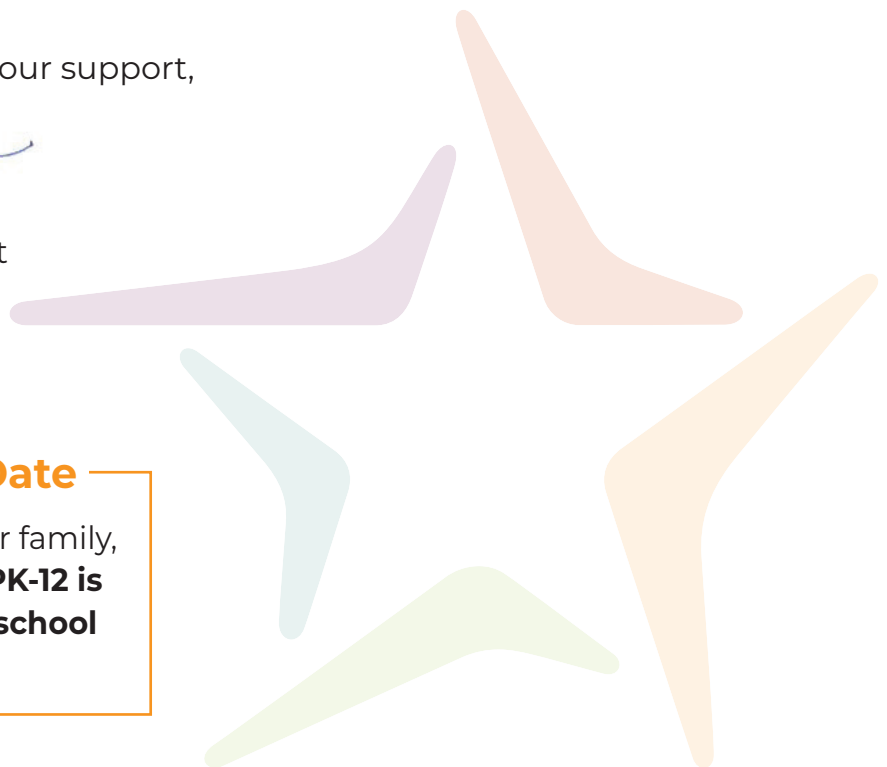
Thank you for your support,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Noreen Bush".

Noreen Bush  
Superintendent

### 2020-2021 School Start Date

Whichever option you choose for your family, **the first day of classes for grades PK-12 is August 24, 2020, and the existing school calendar will be followed.**



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## Input for Decision-Making Process

Within this unprecedented decision-making process, we garnered input from many resources.

- Families Survey
- Families and Community Feedback Sessions (in-person and virtual)
- Staff Survey
- Staff Feedback Sessions (virtual)
- Linn County Public Health guidance

## Digital Tools Supplied by Cedar Rapids Community School District

### High Schools:

- All students were issued a Chromebook (Fall 2019)
- 350+ internet hotspots available

### Middle Schools:

- All students will be issued a Chromebook in August
- 350+ internet hotspots available
- Network infrastructure updates

### Elementary Schools:

- All students will have a device issued in August
- Pre-kindergarten and Kindergarten: iPads
- Grades 1-5: Chromebooks
- 1,500 internet hotspots available
- Network infrastructure updates

## Three Educational Options

1



### IN-PERSON School Option

Elementary School ■ Middle School ■ High School

2



### SHORT-TERM VIRTUAL School Option

Elementary School ■ Middle School ■ High School

3



### PERMANENT VIRTUAL School Option

Middle School ■ High School



# IN-PERSON School Option



We all recognize the strong benefits of interpersonal human connections and how that positively affects the educational experience delivered to students. That is why we offer a fully in-person school option. But we also recognize that our in-person learning will look different during COVID-19, with increased safety measures for both students and staff.

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**Students and Families:** All PK-5 students can return to in-person instruction and will be assigned a homeroom teacher for the year. English Language Learners (ELL) and students with IEPs will still receive targeted support.

**Staff:** Student to teacher ratios will be approximately 20:1 within a cohort model.

Paras will be responsible for a range of support services in the building to maintain health and safety guidelines.

**Health and Safety:** Students and staff must follow recommended health and safety guidelines to minimize physical contact.

Masks and/or face shields will be required for staff and students at all times with appropriate accommodations made as needed.

Arrival and dismissal time will be designed for minimal contact.

**Academics:** Teachers will use the CRCSD curriculum, adjusted for the unusual circumstances of the 20-21 school year.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL

**Students and Families:** All 6-8 students can return to in-person instruction and will be assigned an advisory teacher. Each advisory cohort will remain the same to limit contact between students. English Language Learners (ELL) and students with IEPs will receive targeted support.

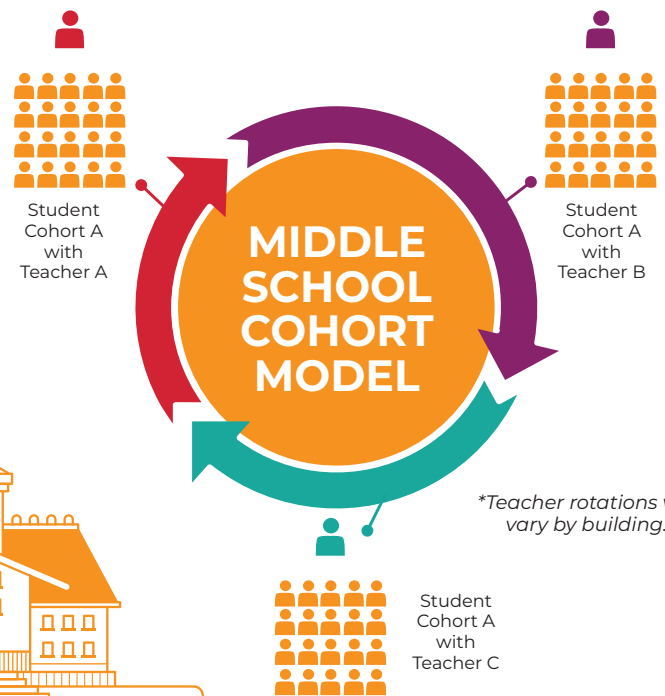
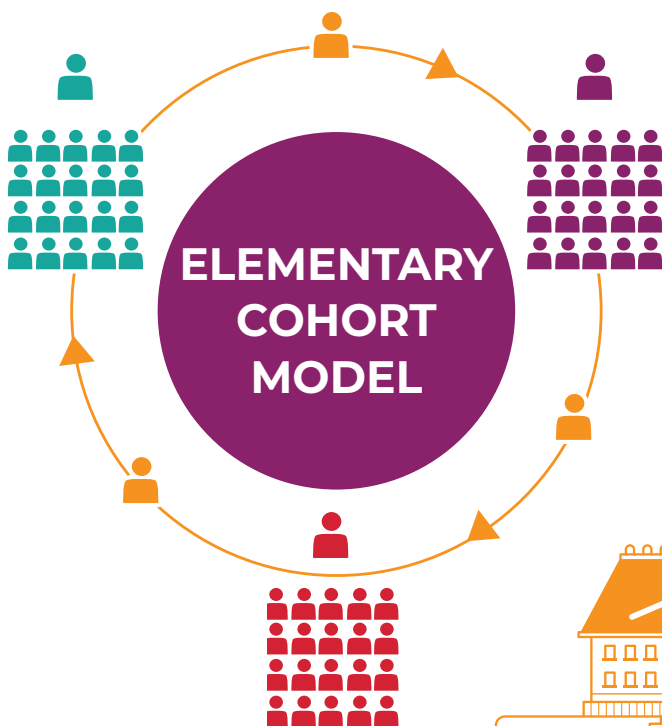
**Staff:** Advisory teachers will supervise student learning in cohorts. Learning will be designed by content area teachers and delivered virtually or in-person (depending on building and advisor). Feedback for students will be provided by content area teachers. Our goal is to maintain approximately 20 students in each advisory cohort.

Building leaders, teachers and teams will work to design teacher rotations based on staff feedback and building resources.

Paras will be responsible for a range of support services in the building to maintain health and safety guidelines.

**Health and Safety:** Students and staff must follow recommended health and safety guidelines that would minimize contact. Masks and/or shields will be required for staff and students at all times with appropriate accommodations made as needed.

**Academics:** Teachers will use the CRCSD curriculum adjusted for the unusual circumstances of the 20-21 school year. In addition, teacher teams will work as Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) to create online courses for each grade level and content area adapted from the CRCSD curriculum.



*\*Teacher rotations will vary by building.*

# HIGH SCHOOL **OPTION I**

**Students and Families:** All 9-12 students can return to a hybrid model of in-person and online instruction. Using an A/B Day Block Schedule and Cohort model, students will attend at the building for classes 2 - 3 days per week and attend online learning 2 - 3 days per week. Students will experience up to 4 classes per “A” Day and up to 4 classes per “B” Day within an alphabetical cohort model.

**\*Metro students will be contacted by advisors to develop their student schedule.**

**Staff:** Teachers will teach 6 periods over two days, teaching 3 blocked periods per day. Teachers will have a prep period every day.

Student to teacher ratios would be approximately 20:1 or less.

Paras will be responsible for a range of support services in the building to maintain health and safety guidelines.

**Health and Safety:** Students and staff must follow recommended health and safety guidelines to minimize contact. Masks and/or face shields will be required for staff and students at all times with appropriate accommodations made as needed.

Due to the smaller student enrollment, all Polk students will attend in person and will remain in a single classroom. Students with an IEP, English Language Learners (ELL), and students not currently on track to graduate with their cohort may need a modified schedule to support their learning needs.

## WEEK A (ALL “A” Day CLASSES only)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Cohort 1</b>					AM  OR
<b>Cohort 2</b>					PM  OR

## WEEK B (ALL “B” Day CLASSES only)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Cohort 1</b>					PM  OR
<b>Cohort 2</b>					AM  OR

### STUDENT COHORT 1 “A” WEEK SAMPLE SCHEDULE

Monday	Class #1 <b>A</b>
	Class #2
	Class #3
	Class #4
Tuesday	Online Asynchronous Learning <b>B</b>
Wednesday	Class #1
	Class #3
	Class #3
	Class #4
Thursday	Online Asynchronous Learning
Friday	Classes # 1 - # 4 In-Person or Online <b>C</b>

### STUDENT COHORT 2 “A” WEEK SAMPLE SCHEDULE

Monday	Online Asynchronous Learning
Tuesday	Class #1
	Class #2 <b>A</b>
	Class #3
	Class #4
Wednesday	Online Asynchronous Learning <b>B</b>
Thursday	Class #1
	Class #2
	Class #3
	Class #4
Friday	Classes # 1 - # 4 In-Person or Online <b>C</b>

**Students can take 3 or 4 classes per day.**

**A** Core subjects will be offered that align to a students path toward graduation. Elective subjects will be offered that align to a students path toward graduation.

**B** Students will continue learning “asynchronously.” This means students will complete tasks, activities, and/or flipped learning online for their courses.

**C** Fridays will provide in-person or online learning for cohorts as assigned by schools. Teachers will also offer student specific check-in, intervention, extension, and make-up opportunities.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Guidelines have been established with input from Iowa Department of Public Health, Linn County Public Health, and Cedar Rapids Community School District Health Services.

### Prevention Practices

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- Students and staff who are exhibiting any symptoms of illness should not come to school or work.
- Students and staff are expected to conduct a temperature check at home before arriving at school and will not be allowed to attend school or work if their temperature is 100.4 or above.
- Students and staff who have been exposed to a person with confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 are to follow Linn County Public Health guidelines for self isolation.
- Students and staff are educated on hand washing techniques and covering coughs and sneezes.
- Signage is posted throughout the schools promoting everyday protective measures.
- Students are discouraged from sharing items within the classroom.



### School Safety Practices

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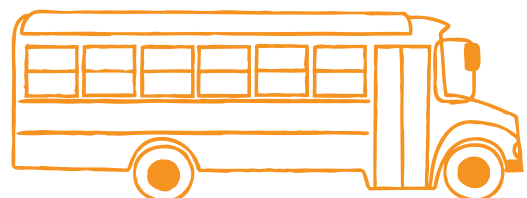
- All staff and students will be required to wear face coverings (masks and/or face shields). For students, age-appropriate breaks and accommodations will be made for those needing it.
- During arrival and dismissal times, schools will follow a pre-established entry and exit plan to avoid large gatherings in one area.
- Visitor and volunteer protocols will be reviewed and adjusted to focus on essential needs only.
- Classes will minimize movement throughout the building to reduce the number of students in the hallways.
- Smaller student to teacher ratios will be established.
  - ▶ All PK-5 students will return to a building and will be assigned a “home room” teacher for the year, with a projection of no more than 20 students per room. ELL and students with IEPs will still receive targeted support.
  - ▶ Student to teacher ratios will be approximately 20:1 in Middle Schools and 20:1 or less in High Schools. Middle School and High School ELL and students with IEPs will receive targeted support.



### Transportation

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- Students are encouraged to social distance at the bus stop.
- Students will be required to wear masks while riding the school bus.
- Students will use the provided hand sanitizer when entering and exiting the bus.
- To the extent possible, students shall load the bus from back to front and unload front to back to promote social distancing.
- Buses will be disinfected upon returning to transportation after each route.
- Transportation will create a seating chart and families will be asked to sit together.



## Facility Cleaning

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- Nightly, the custodial staff will disinfect student and staff furniture, counters, and high touchpoint areas.
- During the day, the custodial staff will increase the frequency of cleaning high touchpoint areas such as, doorknobs, handrails, and other highly touched areas in common spaces.
- Wall mount and pedestal hand sanitizers will be installed in all classrooms without sinks, and in common spaces such as the cafeteria. In addition, hand sanitizers will be at each entrance to the school.
- The students and staff will be asked to hand sanitize when they enter the building.
- The District has purchased several battery-operated pump-up sprayers and electrostatic victory disinfect guns. These will allow the custodial staff to perform disinfectant tasks efficiently.
- Classroom instructors will be asked to remove unnecessary furniture such as bean bag chairs, upholstered furniture, and stuffed toys. This will allow classrooms to be arranged in such a way to encourage social distancing and will make it easier for the custodial staff to do their daily disinfecting.
- Custodial staff will perform deep cleaning procedures on inservice days throughout the school year and in cases of outbreaks in the schools.
- Schools will be provided floor decals that will help with the social distancing as the students traverse the school.



## Food Service

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- For all students, breakfast and lunch will be served to cohorts. Arrival and dismissal time will be designed for minimal contact.



## Staff Training

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- District staff will participate in the state COVID-19 safety training module, which includes pertinent information on the use of PPE, prevention and safety measures, and maintaining a healthy and safe classroom.





# 2 SHORT-TERM VIRTUAL School Option- CRCSD Remote Learning

A fully online, short-term learning option exists for families who want their student(s) to conduct at-home learning. We reference this option as **CRCSD Remote Learning**. If Option 2 is selected, it will look different than the online learning that occurred in spring 2020:

- Online continuous learning will be **required and scheduled each week**
- **Attendance** will be taken by teachers
- Coursework will be **graded and credits will be posted**



## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**Students and Families:** Students not able or willing to return in person will participate in **CRCSD Remote Learning**, a single elementary school taught by teachers not able to return. **CRCSD Remote Learning** will include all Elementary teachers and students who select the virtual option, rather than being tied specifically to the resident Elementary building.

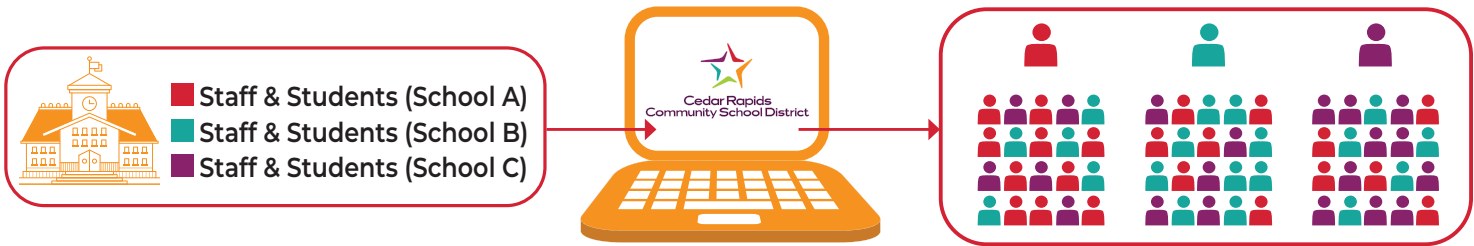
**Staff:** Teachers not able to return may be teaching students from across CRCSD, depending on the option families select.

**Academics:** Teacher teams will work as Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) to create a uniform online course for each grade level and content area adapted from the CRCSD curriculum. For example, all 3rd grade teachers will be a 3rd grade PLC and will use a single 3rd grade math class delivered virtually.

The online format for required remote learning is significantly more structured than spring's continuous learning model, and will include scheduled remote learning, asynchronous instruction, and paper packets. Attendance will be required.

### ELEMENTARY REMOTE LEARNING

Students not able or willing to return in person will participate in **CRCSD Remote Learning**, a single elementary school taught by teachers not able to return. **CRCSD Remote Learning** will include all Elementary teachers and students who select the virtual option, rather than being tied specifically to the resident Elementary building.



### ELEMENTARY REMOTE LEARNING MODEL

#### Commitments and Responsibilities

##### Student:

1. Attend all direct instruction sections via Google Meet (unless a designated excused absence)
2. Complete all independent practice activities and assignments
3. Come to class prepared, organized and ready to learn
4. Adhere to CRCSD's acceptable use policy and behavior expectations
5. Complete monthly advising session with the classroom teacher

##### Parent/Guardian:

1. Provide age-appropriate supervision during independent practice time that is not directly supervised by a teacher
2. Enable the student to attend all direct instruction sections via Google Meet and follow the district schedule for virtual learning
3. Monitor the student's progress on independent practice and assignments, including district recommended online programs
4. Engage in two-way communication regularly with the students' teacher and in monthly check-ins with student's classroom teacher
5. Support student with creating an organized learning space to complete academic activities that align with CRCSD's video conferencing guidelines
6. Adhere to CRCSD's acceptable use, attendance and behavior policies

##### Teacher:

1. Design and deliver effective online instruction that is engaging and incorporates frequent assessment and feedback
2. Deliver CRCSD's guaranteed and viable curriculum adhering to district virtual learning schedule
3. Engage in two-way communication regularly with the student and their parent(s)/guardian(s) and facilitate structured family check-ins with the student and parent/guardian at least once a month
4. Monitor the student's overall academic progress
5. Willingness to teach a grade level/content that is not aligned to your in-person assignment but is still aligned to your certification
6. Adhere to CRCSD's acceptable use policy and board policies



## MIDDLE SCHOOLS **OPTION 2**

**Students and Families:** Students not able or willing to return in person will participate in **CRCSD Remote Learning**, a single middle school taught by teachers not able to return.

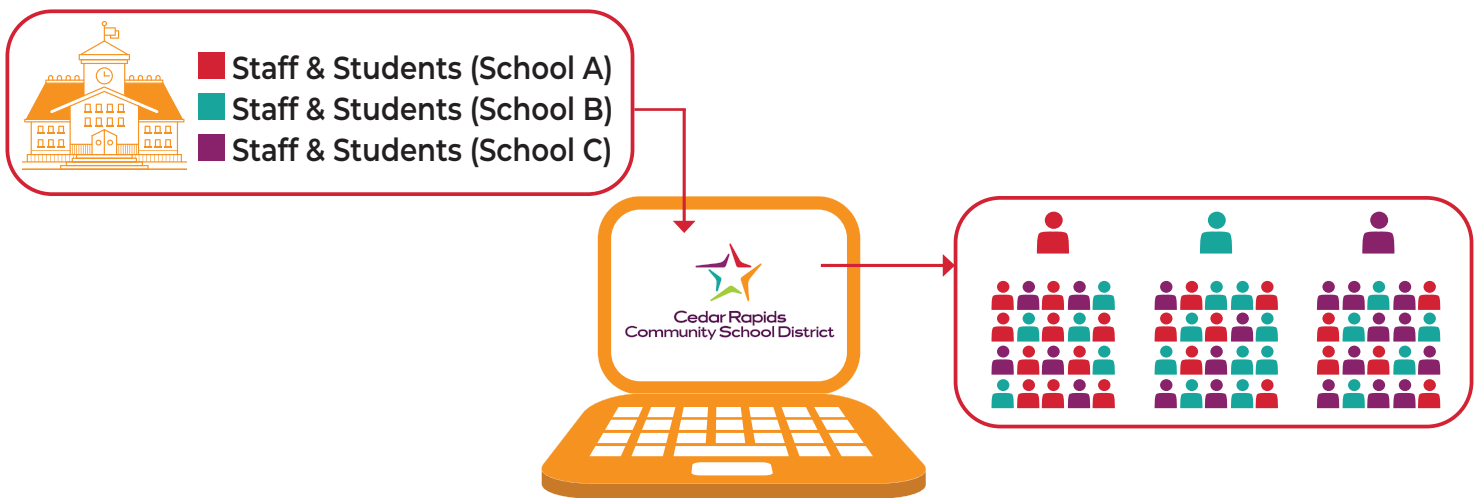
**Staff:** Teachers not able to return may be teaching students from across CRCSD, depending on the option families select.

**Academics:** Teacher teams will work as Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) to create a uniform online course for each grade level and content area adapted from the CRCSD curriculum. For example, all 8th grade teachers will be an 8th grade PLC and will use a single 8th grade math class delivered virtually.

The online format for required remote learning is significantly more structured than spring's continuous learning model, and will include scheduled remote learning, asynchronous instruction, and paper packets. Attendance will be required.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL REMOTE LEARNING

Students not able or willing to return in person will participate in **CRCSD Remote Learning**, a single middle school taught by teachers not able to return.



### MIDDLE SCHOOL REMOTE LEARNING MODEL

#### Commitments and Responsibilities

##### **Student:**

1. Complete monthly advising session with the advisor
2. Attend all direct instruction sections via Google Meet (unless a designated excused absence)
3. Complete all independent practice activities and assignments
4. Come to class prepared, organized and ready to learn
5. Adhere to CRCSD's acceptable use policy and behavior expectations
6. Complete at least 45 minutes of iReady math and 45 minutes of iReady reading weekly

##### **Parent/Guardian:**

1. Provide age-appropriate supervision during independent practice time that is not directly supervised by a teacher
2. Enable the student to attend all direct instruction sections via Google Meet and follow the district schedule for virtual learning
3. Monitor the student's progress on independent practice and assignments, including district recommended online programs
4. Engage in two-way communication regularly with the student's teacher and in monthly check-ins with student's advisor
5. Support student with creating an organized learning space to complete academic activities that align with CRCSD's video conferencing guidelines
6. Adhere to CRCSD's acceptable use, attendance and behavior policies

##### **Teacher:**

1. Design and deliver effective online instruction that is engaging and incorporates frequent assessment and feedback
2. Deliver CRCSD's guaranteed and viable curriculum adhering to district virtual learning schedule
3. Engage in two-way communication regularly with the student and their parent(s)/guardian(s) and facilitate structured family check-ins with the student and parent/guardian at least once a month
4. Monitor the student's overall academic progress
5. Willingness to teach a grade level/content that is not aligned to your in-person assignment but is still aligned to your certification
6. Adhere to CRCSD's acceptable use policy, board policies, and remote learning master teacher schedule

# HIGH SCHOOLS **OPTION 2**

## Students and Families:













High School Remote Learning will include online instruction from the student's resident school in tandem with the same courses offered for in-person classes. The student is tied specifically to their resident HS building and teachers, and students will participate in the A/B Block schedule by remoting into the class period on their cohort assigned day and time.

Cedar Rapids Virtual Academy (online school) Students not able or willing to attend classes at scheduled times can sign up for online classes through CRVA, Cedar Rapids Virtual Academy. Students wanting a completely flexible, online only option for high school classes should consider CRVA. This is an online school option where students can complete their coursework at their own pace and during their own times of day and week.













**Staff:** Teachers not able to return may still have opportunities to teach their courses through online tools from a remote setting.

**Academics:** The online format for required remote learning is significantly more structured than spring's continuous learning model, and will include scheduled remote learning, asynchronous instruction, and paper packets. Attendance will be required.

### WEEK 1 (ALL "A" CLASSES)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Cohort 1</b>					<b>AM</b>  
<b>Cohort 2</b>					<b>PM</b>  

### WEEK 2 (ALL "B" CLASSES)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Cohort 1</b>					<b>PM</b>  
<b>Cohort 2</b>					<b>AM</b>  

## HIGH SCHOOL REMOTE LEARNING MODEL

### Commitments and Responsibilities

#### Student:

1. Participate in social and emotional learning as determined by your schedule
2. Attend all direct instruction sections via Google Meet (unless a designated excused absence) and be prepared to learn
3. Complete all independent practice activities and assignments
4. Engage in two-way communication with teacher to support your learning needs
5. Create an organized learning space to complete academic activities that align with CRCSD's video conferencing guidelines
6. Adhere to CRCSD's acceptable use policy and behavior expectations

#### Parent/Guardian:

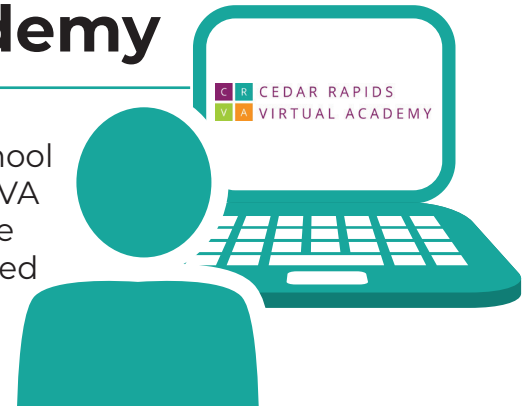
1. Provide age-appropriate supervision during independent practice time that is not directly supervised by a teacher
2. Enable the student to attend all direct instruction sections via Google Meet and follow their schedule
3. Monitor the student's progress on independent practice and assignments
4. Engage in two-way communication regularly with the student's teacher
5. Support student with creating an organized learning space to complete academic activities that align with CRCSD's video conferencing guidelines
6. Adhere to CRCSD's acceptable use, attendance and behavior policies

#### Teacher:

1. Design and deliver effective online instruction that is engaging and incorporates frequent assessment and feedback
2. Deliver CRCSD's guaranteed and viable curriculum
3. Engage in two-way communication regularly with the students and their parent(s)/guardian(s)
4. Monitor the student's overall academic progress
5. Problem-solve with school personnel, student, and family to engage students
6. Adhere to CRCSD's acceptable use policy, board policies, and the building schedule

# 3 PERMANENT VIRTUAL School Option - Cedar Rapids Virtual Academy

The Cedar Rapids Virtual Academy (CRVA) is an online middle school and high school within the Cedar Rapids Community School District that is open to all Iowa students grades 6 through 12. CRVA students take rigorous courses through an online platform, while still having access to personalized assistance from highly-qualified district teachers. CRVA allows students the flexibility to learn on their own schedule and at their own pace through full and part-time learning options.



Middle and high school families will have two virtual options: CRCSD Remote Learning and Cedar Rapids Virtual Academy (CRVA). CRCSD Remote Learning will be scheduled learning, taught by Cedar Rapids teachers, using Cedar Rapids curriculum. By contrast, CRVA is self-paced and the curriculum has been developed by our state-approved courseware provider, Edgenuity. CRVA students are assigned a Cedar Rapids teacher for each subject they are taking. To learn more, visit [Cedar Rapids Virtual Academy](#).



## SOCIAL - EMOTIONAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

We've missed one another and it has been too long since we've all been together at school. We expect to see significant student needs in the area of social-emotional behavioral health.

Whether you choose fully in-person or fully online, school-based outreach to each student will allow the district to appropriately gauge the needs of our school community and provide resources to support their social-emotional wellbeing. Staff will also be a part of the effort, as their needs may have increased during the pandemic and throughout the new school processes.



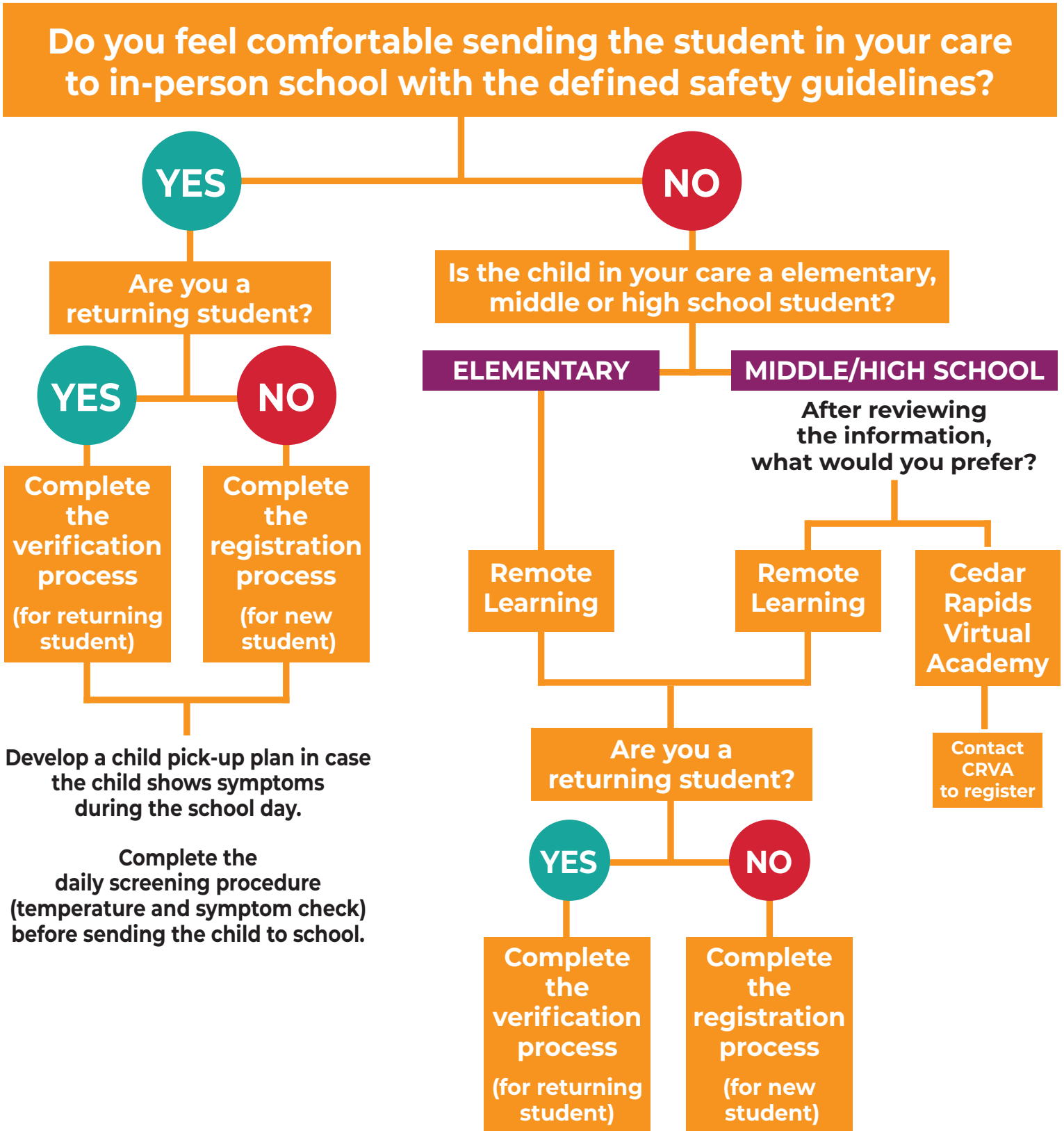
## EQUITY IS INGRAINED AND WILL REMAIN

Within all the learning options, the district remains committed to meeting the needs of every student we serve. Our mission is Every Learner: Future Ready. While we acknowledge the extra support that may be needed in these areas, please know we are working to define all the parameters and provide solutions that foster success.

- Special Education
- English Language Learners (ELL)
- Gifted and Talented (GT)
- Counselor Services

# RETURN TO LEARN DECISION MAKING CHART

The following chart may help you when reviewing your options and opportunities for your family.





## Cedar Rapids Community School District

*Every Learner: Future Ready*

### **About Cedar Rapids Community School District**

Cedar Rapids Community School District (CRCSD) encompasses the vision of Every Learner: Future Ready. It is the mission of CRCSD to ensure all learners experience a rigorous and personalized learning experience so they have a plan, a pathway and a passion for their future. Founded in 1855, CRCSD is heralded for its nationally-recognized academic programs, experienced and qualified faculty and staff, and rich diversity in enrichment and extracurricular activities.

#### **Non Discrimination Policy**

It is the policy of the Cedar Rapids Community School District not to discriminate in educational programs on the basis of race, creed, color, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, gender identity, socioeconomic status, national origin, religion, disability, age (except for permitting/prohibiting students to engage in certain activities) or genetic information and in employment opportunities on the basis of age, race, creed, color, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, religion, disability or genetic information. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy, please contact Justin Blietz, Director of Culture & Climate Secondary Education (JBlietz@crschools.us), and/or Linda Noggle, Executive Director of Talent Management, (LNoggle@crschools.us), Educational Leadership and Support Center, 2500 Edgewood Rd NW, Cedar Rapids, IA, (319) 558-2000.

6/8/20