



Northeast School Corporation

Revised Back to School Plan 2020-21

July 28, 2020

As you know this back to school plan may be revised again based on the State of Indiana COVID requirements.

Details on the Northeast School Corporation plan to return to school on August 11, 2020.

Dear NESC Families,

On July 22, 2020 Governor Holcomb mandated the wearing of face coverings starting on Monday, July 27, 2020. The mandate includes wearing face coverings at school. Masks or face shields will be required for students in grades 3rd – 12th. Students in grades PK – 2nd masks are still highly recommended. All faculty and staff, volunteers and anyone else in the schools will be required to wear a face covering when social distancing is not an option. [Executive Order](#)

All students, regardless of grade, and staff are required to wear a mask when riding on a school bus.

Also, masks are required for sports and extra-curricular activities. Exemptions will be made for the following:

- Medical purposes
- Strenuous physical activity: conditioning, drill work and scrimmaging
- Eating and drinking

NESC has updated our [Re-entry plan](#) to reflect this mandate.

Mask or face shield expectations:

- Each student will receive two (2) washable cloth masks (black)

- Be school appropriate
- Wear while entering and exiting the building (grades 3-12)
- Wear while riding on the school bus or sports bus (all students)
- Wear while transitioning between classes (grades 3-12)
- Wear when social distancing cannot be done (grades 3-12)
- Face coverings are NOT required during recess as long as social distancing is observed
- Masks while in the classroom are NOT required if students are spaced 6 feet apart from one another (masks are still recommended)
- Masks are NOT required when eating and drinking
- Wear while standing in line in the cafeteria but NOT when seated and eating (grades 3-12)
- Wear during extra-curricular activities - exemptions will be made for the following:
 - Medical purposes
 - Strenuous physical activity: conditioning, drill work and scrimmaging
 - Eating and drinking

EDUCATION OPTIONS

NESC will offer two educational options for the 2020-21 school year. While NESC believes that the most effective instruction for your child happens in a classroom with our highly qualified teachers, there will be an online option available for those who are not comfortable to attend school in-person due to Covid-19 concerns.

OPTION #1: TRADITIONAL SCHOOL + SAFETY MEASURES

The 2020-2021 school year at NESC will begin on August 11, 2020, as previously scheduled. **NESC will assume your student(s) will be returning as normal unless you complete the formal request for the Home/Online T-Bird Academy Learning option by Friday, July 31, 2020.**

Click on the following link to access request: [T-Bird Academy](#)

Students will be allowed to transition from virtual to traditional or traditional to virtual for the following reasons:

- 1) Student does not like their current platform – internet issues, COVID concerns, etc.
- 2) COVID situation has improved or gotten worse

****After August 21st**, students that change their instruction platform (virtual to traditional or traditional to virtual) must stay in their new platform for at least 10 school days. Exceptions would be made for those students that have to quarantine.

Traditional School

This model represents a return to the school campus and the classroom where students will interact directly with their teacher(s) and classmates. The school day will follow the standard bell times and standard schedule that includes all the core classes and other subject areas. In short, it represents a return to the traditional school environment – with several significant changes involving enhanced health and safety precautions.

Our goal is to create an environment that provides an opportunity for students to return to the traditional school experience, while providing effective safeguards to protect the health and safety of students and staff.

Please review the entire re-entry plan for more information on curriculum and instruction, bus procedures, cafeteria and recess procedures as well as masking.

OPTION #2: T-BIRD ONLINE ACADEMY - HOME/VIRTUAL LEARNING

Families must declare their intention to use the home/virtual option **by Friday, July 31, 2020**. **Click on the following link to access request:** [T-Bird Academy](#)

Students will be allowed to transition from virtual to traditional or traditional to virtual for the following reasons:

- 3) Student does not like their current platform – internet issues, COVID concerns, etc.
- 4) COVID situation has improved or gotten worse

****After August 21st**, students that change their instruction platform (virtual to traditional or traditional to virtual) must stay in their new platform for at least 10 school days. Exceptions would be made for those students that have to quarantine.

At the end of each nine week period, families will be asked to review and again request if they want their student's instruction to continue with the –T-bird Online Academy or traditional school.

This model is designed for families who would like to maintain their connection to their enrolled school, but don't yet feel comfortable sending their student(s) back to school on August 11th. Students will attend school remotely, following the standard school schedule.

Based on feedback after our eLearning experience during Quarter 4, this learning model will incorporate many of the features that parents and students valued, such as regular virtual real-time interaction with teachers each day for every class. Parents can rely on teachers to facilitate and guide student learning.

Students will have scheduled times, synchronous class meetings, and digital resources and assignments that can be completed at home. This learning model provides families the flexibility to choose an instructional model to meet their needs during these uncertain times, and reflects our district's commitment to providing a high-quality instructional experience, no matter what the setting.

Because the T-Bird Online Academy is a public school choice, students must participate in all required state assessments. However, online students **may** participate in extracurricular sports, clubs and activities with their assigned school.

What to expect from T-Bird Online Academy

- Students are at home learning and **will need access to reliable internet**
- Instruction is provided remotely and students will have access to their teachers during the regular school day hours
- Elementary students can expect daily lessons with face to face connections at least 4x's per school day
- Secondary students can expect real time daily face to face connections for every class period – every school day
- Attendance will be taken daily in each course
- Students in grades K-12 will each receive a Chromebook
- Follow the traditional school fees model with access to textbooks and ebooks associated with those fees
- Free/reduced lunch and textbook fee assistance application process applies

- Face to face connections may be in “real time” or a video recorded lesson, depending on the course or teacher.
- Students will need to be online at certain times of the regular school day; however, assignment completion times will be more flexible in the day. For example, a parent wishing to help their child complete the work in the evening will be able to do so as long as the Learning Coach at home is able to make sure the student is online during the day to see the lesson.
- A Learning Coach is an adult that is able to monitor, coach, and encourage the student during at-home learning. This does not have to be a parent/guardian.
- Students will receive their expectations, video links, and work assignments through each teacher’s Google Classroom.
- Students will stay “on pace” with their NESC Traditional model peers.
- Students may move back to the NESC Traditional model at the end of a grading period.

Additional Supports for Students and Families

- Virtual small group sessions to meet social and academic needs
- Access to trouble-shooting and tech support
- Tips and strategies to support students learning off campus
- Support from teachers to meet student needs during regular school hours

While many courses will be available through T-Bird Online Academy, some courses will only be offered through the NESC Traditional option.

CLICK HERE: [T-Bird Academy](#) to formally request At Home/Virtual Learning (T-Bird Online Academy) for your student. Please complete a separate request for each student in your family.

We understand that this document can’t answer every question about re-entering; however, we hope it gives you the framework necessary to make the best decision for your family – a return to school or online learning.

Thank you for your support of the Northeast School Corporation,

Dr. Mark Baker, NESC Superintendent