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Archuleta School District 50 JT Opening Plan-DRAFT **2020-21 School Year**

Overview

The Archuleta School District is committed to ensuring all our students experience an outstanding educational experience that prepares them for college, careers and life. We realize the impact that closing our schools has had on students, families and our community. We greatly appreciate your patience and understanding as our team has worked to develop a comprehensive plan for returning our students back to school this fall. The goal of this plan is to address district-wide processes, procedures and instructional models. Following our district process, each school will convene a work group to develop appropriate plans and procedures specific to that school. Those plans will also be shared with families and the community.

We are grateful for the almost 450 families and over 100 staff that provided input through our surveys. The feedback gave us a clear indication that families and staff are optimistic that we can return to school through a face-to-face format, in some way. Given that over 70% of families and staff are hopeful we can make that a reality, we are working hard to build a plan that certainly provides that as one of our options for serving our students. We know we cannot mitigate every risk that we will face within this pandemic. That said, our students' and staff's health and safety are a top priority, so we will continue to work with the recommendations of the CDC, the state of Colorado and our local public health authority, San Juan Basin Health. We also acknowledge that the information and guidelines we build into our plan are likely to change from time to time. We appreciate your understanding and patience as we work to keep our plan up to date and in the best interest of our students and staff.

While many of our staff and families are hopeful for an in-person school experience, we recognize that in-person learning may not be the fit for every family. Our district will offer an online option for those who are interested. No matter which option is best for you and your family, we are committed to working with you to ensure your child has a positive, engaging, supportive educational experience.

Over the month of July, our leaders will engage with staff and families over Zoom to solicit feedback, questions and suggestions regarding our plan. The feedback gathered from all our stakeholders along with updated information from the health authorities will guide our planning process. It is our intent that the plan we develop for our district be a true collaboration among staff, families, leadership and health authorities.

Considerations for Reopening School in August 2020

We believe it is in the best interest of our students' overall physical and social emotional well being to attend school, interact with their teachers and peers in-person when possible. As we plan for returning to school this fall, the health and safety of our students and staff is our top priority. Therefore, our plan

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contains various models, from complete in-person teaching and learning to complete online learning. It is absolutely our hope that we can serve our students and families through in-person learning for the majority of the school year. In order for this to be a reality, we will have to adhere to guiding principles that are required or recommended by our local, state and national health authorities.

Guiding Principles

- Recognize that the health and well-being of our students, staff and community are our top priority.
- Develop processes and protocols in accordance with state and local health authorities to minimize the risk of infection.
- Ensure we can identify and contact anyone who has been in close contact with individuals who have been infected.
- Provide predictable routines and stability to students and families as much as possible, with in-person face-to-face instruction being our overall goal.
- Recognize the need for flexibility and adaptability, depending upon the guidance of our local health authority and the overall health of our students, staff and community.
- Develop and engage in instructional options for our families that include a spectrum of in-person, blended, and online models.
- Maintain appropriate social distancing and appropriate group size in each classroom and/or building, as per health guidelines to the extent possible.
- Provide support and appropriate accommodations to students with unique learning needs who might face obstacles in accessing appropriate educational services and/or instruction.

Parent Choice

Parent choice is key to the successful return to school this fall. Protecting the health of vulnerable populations, including students, families and staff is important. Each family may have a different level of comfort during this time, which is why we have developed learning pathways to serve our students' needs.

Families will have the opportunity to choose between:

- In-person learning
- Online instruction
- Or, at the District's discretion for student health reasons, a pathway that involves components of in-person learning as well as a blended learning option.

The decision to engage in online or in-person instruction should be made in collaboration with the student's parent/guardian and their medical provider. In the 453 survey responses we received from families (adults were allowed to select more than one answer):

- 66% want us to return to an in-person model and an additional 26% are open to an in-person model, depending on learning model;
- 37% would like to see a blended model of in-person and digitally supported learning; and
- 10.6% want to see a full-time online learning model.

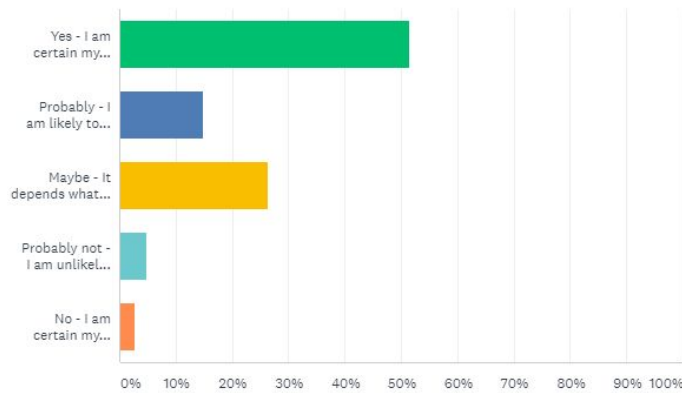
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Family Data -

Should our public health officials believe it is safe to allow in-person instruction for the 2020-21 school year, are you planning to have your child(ren) return to their school buildings(s)?

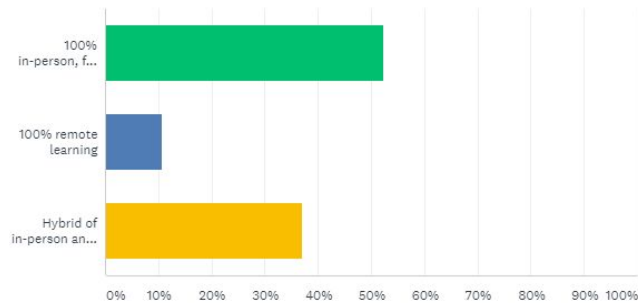
Answered: 453 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes - I am certain my child(ren) would attend in-person instruction.	51.43% 233
Probably - I am likely to send my child(ren) for in-person instruction.	14.79% 67
Maybe - It depends what reopening looks like.	26.27% 119
Probably not - I am unlikely to send my child(ren) for in-person instruction.	4.86% 22
No - I am certain my child(ren) would NOT attend in-person instruction.	2.65% 12
TOTAL	453

Given the current health and safety conditions in Archuleta County, which learning model best meets the needs of your child(ren) and family?

Answered: 451 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
100% in-person, face to face learning	52.33% 236
100% remote learning	10.64% 48
Hybrid of in-person and remote learning	37.03% 167
TOTAL	451

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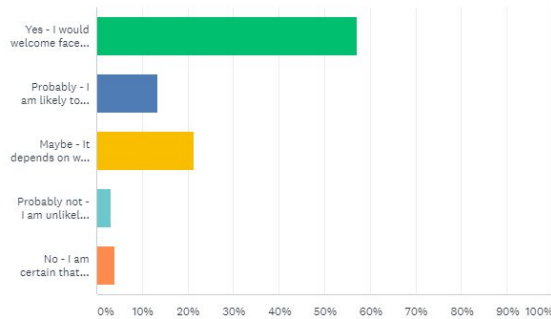
As respondents were allowed to select more than one response, in the 126 responses we received from our staff we learned that:

- 70% want us to return to an in-person model and 21% are open to an in-person model, depending on learning model;
- 49% are in favor of a blended model of in-person and digitally supported learning; and
- 5.5% are in favor of a full-time online learning platform.

Staff Data -

Should our public health officials believe it is safe to allow in-person instruction for the 2020-21 school year, would you confidently return to the school building?

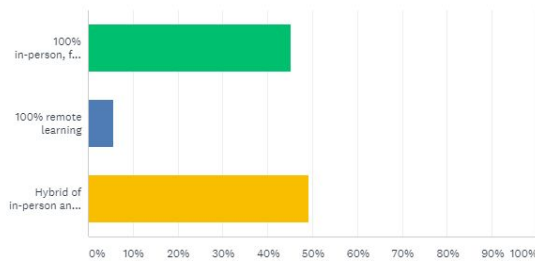
Answered: 126 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes - I would welcome face to face instruction	57.14% 72
Probably - I am likely to return confidently	13.49% 17
Maybe - It depends on what instruction looks like	21.43% 27
Probably not - I am unlikely to have confidence in face to face learning model	3.17% 4
No - I am certain that face to face is not the best model for the 20-21 school year	3.97% 5
TOTAL	126

Given the current health and safety conditions in Archuleta County, which learning model best meets the needs of ASD students and families??

Answered: 126 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
100% in-person, face to face learning	45.24% 57
100% remote learning	5.56% 7
Hybrid of in-person and remote learning	49.21% 62
TOTAL	126

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Proposed Learning Models

Based on health mandates and guidance, educational best practices, and survey data we have developed four learning models to prepare for the 2020-21 school year. We will adhere to the appropriate models based on phases defined by the governor's office and the Colorado Department of Health.

Archuleta School District 50JT Proposed Learning Models Model breakdowns

- Extensive Online Learning**

This model is applicable if a parent selects a full-time online option, or if students district-wide are unable to attend school in person. This may be a necessary option if there is an outbreak at school or if the pandemic situation worsens dramatically in our community.

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- Targeted In-person Instruction (mostly Online Learning)**

This model would include a very limited return to in-person learning, similar to what has been allowed under the governor's current Safer-at-Home order, which limits group sizes to 10 or less people.
- Blended Learning**

This would likely include an A/B model where students would attend school in person a portion of the week, and engage in online learning the other days of the week. This would allow for a reduced number of students in school buildings to support appropriate social distancing as well as for extensive cleaning of our facilities during the week. Will be determined by health mandates.
- Primary In-person Learning**

Students would be able to return to school for in-person learning. Health safeguards will remain in effect, however, staff would be able to resume normal duties in their buildings. Blended learning may be utilized when necessary, but the primary delivery model of instruction will be face to face, in-person learning.

Extensive Online Learning:

This model is applicable if a parent selects a full-time online option, or if students district-wide are unable to attend school in person. This may be a necessary option if there is an outbreak at school or if the pandemic situation worsens dramatically in our community.

** Students who enroll in online learning full-time will be served through an online learning system endorsed by the Colorado Department of Education. Teachers within the program will be the teachers that deliver instruction and interact with students. It is not feasible for our ASD staff to serve self-selected, full-time online students as they will be engaged in serving a class of students through a blended model or an in-person, face-to-face model as their primary responsibility.

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Targeted In-person Instruction, Mostly Online Learning:

This model would include a very limited return to in-person learning, similar to what has been allowed under the governor’s current Safer-at-Home order, which limits group sizes to 10 or less people.

Our focus would be on ensuring that our most significantly impacted students would be served first. If willing and medically able, we would begin with students who have severe special needs. As space allows, we would then provide in-person learning for specialized student populations such as English Language Learners, and those students who are significantly behind, academically.

Blended Learning:

This would likely include an A/B model, in which students would attend school in person a portion of the week and engage in online learning at home the other days of the week. This would allow for a reduced number of students in school buildings to support appropriate social distancing as well as for extensive cleaning of our facilities during the week. The three district schools would coordinate schedules with families.

Primarily In-Person Learning:

Students would be able to return to school for in-person learning. Health safeguards will remain in effect, however, staff would be able to resume normal duties in their buildings. Blended learning may be utilized when necessary, but the primary delivery model of instruction will be face to face, in-person learning.

Social and Emotional Learning Support

At Archuleta School District, we are committed to the social and emotional health of our students, families, and staff, especially in these uncertain times. Each school has a Building Mental Health team including school counselors, school social workers, school psychologists, and other local mental health providers as needed. Mental health staff work closely with teachers and school administrators to provide all students with the appropriate social-emotional support. In order to ensure access to essential resources and services, school and district administrators will work closely with educators throughout the building to proactively identify, provide, and monitor additional supports for students who are struggling socially, emotionally, behaviorally, or academically. In every school, teachers are able to refer students to the Mental Health Team if they need additional support. Also, parents are always welcome to share concerns with their child’s educators or the school counselors and/or access support through the district website for mental health services.

Targeted Health Precautions

- Archuleta School District has employed a full-time nurse and three health aides to assist with meeting health guidelines.
- In accordance with CDC guidelines and the American Academy of Pediatrics, we will use temperature screening as well as recommended COVID-19 screening questions.
 - If a student is running a temperature, they will be isolated safely, then sent home. The student should stay home until they have been fever free for 24 hours or more.

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- If a student is found to meet any of the COVID-19 screening question criteria, the student may be sent home if appropriate. The school will send current contact and screening information from San Juan Basin Health Department to the family as well.

Safe Learning Spaces & Healthy Practices

- According to the Center for Disease Control and the American Academy of Pediatrics, wearing a non-medical face mask helps minimize the spread of the virus. Given the guidance by the governor's office, Colorado Department of Education and our town elected officials, we strongly recommend that face coverings be worn by staff and students. However, if the town, state or federal mandated guidelines change to a requirement, ASD will adhere to the mandate.
- All of our district facilities will operate with the expectation of social distancing. Our plan is built on the expectation that we are able to maintain a distance of 6 feet of physical distance. In the event that social distancing is not possible, we will expect our staff to wear a face covering.
- Students will be taught appropriate hand washing techniques and will be provided opportunities to wash their hands and/or use sanitizer throughout the day.
- In order to support healthy, hygienic practices, each student will be expected to have his/her own supplies and materials.
- Each student will be issued a chromebook for their use. This will be exclusively theirs for use and responsibility. The school will determine if the student will solely use their technology at school or whether it is appropriate for them to take it home.
- Students will not be utilizing lockers during the 20-21 school year.
- Communal water fountains will be disconnected until further notice. Students are asked to bring a refillable water bottle from home.
- To the maximum extent possible, we will limit the number of personal interactions a student experiences throughout the school day. During any expected passing period, traffic flow will be designed so that students may maintain appropriate social distance and avoid face-to-face interactions.
- Any recesses and/or student breaks will be staggered to ensure the number of students in a designated area meets current guidelines.
- The schools will utilize clear barriers for cafeteria or front office when possible.
- Custodians will engage in deep cleaning and sanitizing as per CDC and Colorado Department of Education guidelines.
- Given the need for deep cleaning and sanitizing throughout the day and over each evening, the district will not allow community use of facilities at this time. If state and local health guidelines change, we will re-examine this decision.
- The schools may not have outside visitors at this time and parents will not be able to eat lunch with their children at this time.

Transportation

Providing transportation to our students will be a unique and ongoing challenge. A typical school bus has capacity for 60-78 riders, depending upon the size of the bus. During this COVID-19 pandemic, it becomes incredibly challenging due to the close proximity of seating and need for ongoing cleaning measures. In

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order to meet current health and safety guidelines, the following procedures and expectations will be instituted:

- Buses will be subject to cleaning and sanitizing after each run.
- Social distancing will be implemented where possible, therefore the number of riders allowed on each bus will likely decrease.
- Due to current guidelines, masks will be required for all students who choose to ride the bus.
- Every student will have an assigned seat.
- Students will ride designated buses separated by schools (HS-1 bus, MS-1 bus, ES-1 bus).
- Bus Aides will be utilized on buses when possible.
- A roster will be collected on every run to comply with contact tracing.

Nutrition Services

Our nutrition services staff will work with the work groups at each of our schools to determine the best way to ensure students can be served healthy, nutritious meals in a safe way. This will include considerations for in-class versus cafeteria settings for meals, pre-packaged versus hot serving line meals, and the availability of off-site meals in the case of blended learning or online learning. We will update this plan as well as the school specific plans with current schedules and guidelines as they are developed.

In order to meet current health mandates and guidelines, we will be making the following changes:

- Temporary removal of salad bars.
- Staff will be expected to wear face coverings, and sneeze guards will be in place on service lines.
- Students will be expected to wear a face covering while in line for food service and we will stagger groups of kids to minimize lines.
- Students will be unable to use microwave ovens.
- There will be no shared utensils in serving lines.
- Students will be expected to wash hands before any meal.
- We are investigating an ID card system that would eliminate having to touch a keypad to key in student ID codes for meals.

Potentially High Risk Activities

Athletics

- Archuleta School District will follow San Juan Basin Public Health, Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA), National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), and SMAC (Sports Medicine Advisory Committee) Guidelines for opening school athletics and activities. ALL DATES AND PROCEDURES ARE TARGETS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE, contingent on keeping the spread of COVID -19 at a manageable level. Below are two document links outlining our current guidelines.
 - [Current Athletics/Activity Guidelines](#)
 - [Specific Athletics/Activities Quick Reference Guide](#)

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Choir, Instrumental Music, and Elementary Music

- Choir and band will practice in-person when physical distancing can be achieved.
- Adequate supplies will be provided to reduce sharing of instruments.
- The amount of time playing band instruments and singing during class time will be limited until restrictions have been eased.
- Students will be encouraged to video themselves playing instruments/singing and use class time for review and/or individual instruction.
- Music will be projected on screens whenever possible or students will be provided a personal copy of the music. There will be no sharing of music.
- Use of a handheld microphone will be highly discouraged with students and a lapel microphone should be used in its place when possible (unless disinfecting can be done between uses).

Lab Classes

- Adequate supplies will be provided to eliminate sharing of high-touch materials to the extent possible (lab supplies, equipment, etc.) or limit use of supplies and equipment by one group of students at a time and disinfect between use.
- Virtual learning options will be utilized to the extent possible.

Playgrounds

- Students will remain with the same (grade level) group of students to the extent possible.
- Students will practice 6 feet of physical distancing during all breaks.
- Students will wash hands or use hand sanitizer before entering and after exiting the playground.
- Students will be encouraged to engage in hands-free activities such as soccer, shadow tag, jump rope, hopscotch, running and other similar activities.
- The number of students and time allotted on playground equipment will be limited and thorough disinfecting will be done between student usage.

Assemblies/Field Trips

- All school events such as school assemblies, pep rallies, plays, dances, concerts, back-to-school nights, etc. will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to determine whether or not they can safely be held.
- All field trips and/or other activities outside of school will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Communications

Archuleta School District is committed to providing families and staff with updated information as we reopen our schools for the fall 2020. Information can be found via our District Website as well as on our Archuleta School District Facebook page. Families can also expect to receive regular correspondence via District and School newsletters and emails.

ASD Website:

www.mypagosaschools.com

ASD District Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/mypagosaschools/>

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Summary

We want to thank the numerous leaders throughout the Archuleta School District who contributed to the development of this plan. While our times are challenging, this group of leaders embraced the challenge, thought innovatively and worked hard to develop ways for our schools to operate safely, in the best interest of our students and our staff. Their hope is that this plan is the starting place for great, engaging collaboration with staff and families. The design team also acknowledges and fully expects that with evolving local and state conditions, as well as future guidance from the governor, state health officials and local health authorities, the plan will need to change and evolve over time. We ask that our staff and families be understanding of the changes that need to be made in order for us to keep our students and staff safe. We look forward to serving our students and our community for the 2020-21 school year.