

Frequently Asked Questions about
K-5 Student Placement Decisions for February 1, 2021
V.3

In August, 2020 the school district asked parents of students in grades K-5 to make placement decisions for their children for the first half of the year. Parents could choose to send their children to school in-person, or could choose to have their children participate in our Elementary Full Remote Program. Parents were asked to commit to their decision until January 29, 2021.

We are asking parents to make a decision by December 15th regarding their desired placement for the second half of the school year. This will give the school district time to make all of the necessary changes to satisfy these requests. As you may have some questions prior to making these decisions, please see the questions and answers below:

1. Q: Why do I need to make a decision for the second half of the school year so early in December?

A: Our initial survey indicated that upwards of 25% of students may have a placement change for the second half of the year. This has the potential to impact hundreds of student schedules, as well as teacher schedules and the need to move certain in-person classes to larger locations. This will all need to be completed prior to February 1, 2021. We anticipate needing 4-6 weeks to work through these changes.

2. Q: What will the social distancing guidelines be for in-person students for the second half of the year?

A: Based on our initial survey (which indicated the possible return of 25% of the students enrolled in the Elementary Full Remote Program) we believe by moving certain classes into larger spaces (cafeterias, gymnasiums, "all-purpose rooms") we will be able to absorb the additional students into the buildings without reducing the 6 feet of social distancing. Of course if these needs change dramatically this could require us to change this decision.

3. Q: If I choose to send my child back to in-person learning, will my child have a new teacher?

A: Yes.

4. Q: Is it possible that my child's teacher may change for the second half of the year even if I make no change to my child's placement?

A: Yes. Please know that the district will make every effort to minimize the disruption to the schedules of all students, but based on the number of students

either returning to in-person instruction or opting for remote instruction, it may require us to make changes that impact the schedules of children whose placements are not changing. For instance, if 75% of the student in Teacher A's remote class choose to return to in-person instruction, it may require us to dissolve that class and return the teacher to one of our schools. The remaining students in that class would be placed in other remote classes where there is room.

5. Q: What if I make a placement change for my child and then want to undo that change several weeks later? For instance, if I select for my child to go back to in-person instruction and then want to change that back to remote two weeks later, will that be approved?

A: We are asking for parents to commit to this decision for the remainder of the school year.

6. Q: I am interested in finding out more information about how the Elementary Full Remote Program works. Where would I find that information?

A: There are presentations and videos located on our reopening website at <http://www.levittownschools.com/reopening/>.

7. Q: I am considering sending my child back to in-person instruction. Where would I find information about the health protocols used in the schools?

A: You can find reopening videos and FAQs on our reopening page at <http://www.levittownschools.com/reopening/>. In general, student desks are spaced 6 feet apart and have desk shields on them. Students wear face coverings all day (and are provided with breaks throughout the day). Hand sanitizer is available and students wash their hands throughout the day. Social distancing markers are placed through the hallways. Student temperatures are taken each day (using a walk-through temperature scanner). Students eat lunch in their classroom and are generally kept as a "cohort"- special area teachers push in to the class and students go outside for recess when the weather permits.

8. Q: I have heard that some classes might be moved to the cafeteria. Why would that be the case?

A: The district is endeavoring to keep the 6ft of social distancing between student desks. We expect additional students to return to in-person learning for the second half of the year. In order to accommodate these students, and to preserve the 6th of distance, some classes may need to be moved to larger locations. These locations include the library, cafeteria, gymnasiums, and all-purpose rooms.

9. Q: What happens if I choose remote but then have to return to work at some point and my child has no supervision?

A: Just as we have done since the start of this school year, we will continue to work with parents on addressing unexpected issues as they come up during the school year.

10. Q: If a remote class ends up being dissolved due to students going back in person, is it possible to place the remaining students in other remote classes where they have friends?

A: We will look into this possibility. Our goal is to create the least amount of disruption as possible.

11. Q: Will in-person students who opt to go full remote be placed in a class that is already established?

A: This depends on the number of students returning, but this is the most likely scenario.

12. Q: Would it be possible to perhaps place all of the "new" students from the remote program in a in-person class together?

A: It would depend on the number of students requesting to go back in-person and the available space in the buildings. It is more likely that a few students would be placed in multiple classes.

13. Q: Will 5th grade, 8th grade and 12th grade students be given an opportunity to visit the schools they are leaving before the end of the year?

A: Our plan is to allow these students to participate in their respective moving up/graduation ceremonies. We will discuss other opportunities as the year progresses.

14. Q: Will 5th grade students be given priority to return to their home school should the spring bring marked improvement in conditions?

A: For the mid-year placement shifts, our goal is to send students back to their home school (if they request to return to in-person instruction). If for some reason we are unable to do this, the parents would have the opportunity to have their child remain in the remote class. Beyond this mid-year placement change, it is hard to predict what may happen this spring. Our goal is to always provide students with the best possible experience in school. If conditions change that allow us to reduce social distancing requirements and have more students return in-person, we will absolutely strive to accomplish that.

