
SCHOOL REOPENING PLAN



On March 13, 2020, our work, lives and world changed. The Watson Institute's schools and programs, like all of the other schools in the state, quickly moved to some kind of remote learning. In the spring and then through the summer conditions continued to change.

We instituted a Pandemic Committee and began working on our Health and Safety Plan in early June. It is August and we accomplished much of what we wanted to accomplish, and yet uncertainty remains.

The cases of the virus are still high and the uncertainty surrounding the virus makes decisions challenging. From the feedback we have gained from parents and staff, we know they too have these uncertain feelings about how to return to in-person school for the students. We all want to return to in-person school. We also want to ensure the health and safety of our students, their families and our staff. We must balance the concerns of these stakeholders with the guidelines from the PA Department of Education, the PA Department of Health our County Health Department and the CDC.

The Watson Institute has decided on the following Reopening Plan for the 2020-2021 School Year:

Ed. Center Sewickley, Ed. Center South, Friendship Academy, WISCA Sharpsburg (North) and WISCA South will reopen on 8/26/2020 with total remote instruction for all students.

LEAP Preschool will begin on 8/26/2020 with three (3) days of remote instruction. On 8/31/2020 in-person school will begin with individualized schedules for each child. Families will be contacted the week of 8/17/2020 with their individualized in-person school schedule.

Throughout this period and on an ongoing basis, it may be necessary to change course due to the conditions of the pandemic in the area. The Pandemic Committee will continue to monitor cases throughout the school year.

Ed. Center Sewickley, Ed. Center South, Friendship Academy, WISCA Sharpsburg (North) and WISCA South will move to a Blended model, on 9/28/2020, if conditions permit / warrant.

Blended will mean some students will be assigned Monday & Tuesday (A Group) in-person classes and some students will be assigned Thursday & Friday (B Group) in-person classes. Wednesday will be remote for all students so that the buildings can be thoroughly cleaned. The days the students are not in **in-person** school they will receive remote instruction.

Approved: August 5, 2020

In all cases families may choose total remote instruction for their child(ren) out of safety/health concern. These plans will continue until a decision is made to continue with these plans or move to a total reopen plan. We hope that will occur in late October, 2020.

Student and staff safety will be the principal factor in determining the pace at which we will move from one model to the next.

More details about the Education Models used in the schools will be developed by each Program Director and detailed in our Continuity of Education Plan that will be available on our website in late August, 2020.

We will provide periodic updates regarding our Reopening status.