



NEWS

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

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For Immediate Release

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Board Votes to Postpone In-Class Instruction for Nine Weeks *District to Hold All-In to Reopen Our Schools Topic Specific Webinars for Families and Stakeholders*

PITTSBURGH July 31, 2020 – All Pittsburgh Public Schools students will begin the 2020-2021 school year online following a unanimous vote by the Board of Directors at its Special Legislative Meeting. The action postpones in-class instruction for students in the first nine weeks of school and moves all instruction online. The Board additionally approved the District’s state required Health and Safety Plan.

“We want to thank the Board for leading the way in mitigating the spread of COVID-19 in our area,” said Superintendent Anthony Hamlet, “As part of our All In to Reopen Our Schools planning, we developed strategies to improve our learning management system in order to support online instruction and strengthen support for students. Our staff and families will experience significant improvement to teaching and learning in an online environment.”

The Board’s resolution goes on to direct the Superintendent to modify the District’s current plans for blended instruction and to prepare strategies for all students to begin the school year equipped to succeed in remote learning. The resolution goes further to direct the District to provide contingency plans for Special Education students, parents of students who are essential workers, and those parents not able to support their child’s remote learning journey.

“Because of our All-In planning, we are in good shape to pivot to full time E-Learning for all students,” said Dr. Hamlet. “We will retool our plan based on the Board’s requirements and continue to move forward with our work to ensure the safety of students and staff within our buildings and equip our students with the support they need for success in online learning.”

Further details of the District’s All In to Reopen Our Schools plan will be shared with the Board at its upcoming August 4, Education Committee Meeting. In addition to Tuesday’s presentation to the Board, the District will launch a series of All-In to Reopen Our Schools Topic Specific Webinars for families and stakeholders. All sessions will be held on Zoom and streamed live on the District’s [Facebook](#) and [website](#). Participants will receive a 15-20 minute presentation with an opportunity to ask questions. Each webinar will be recorded and closed captioning will be added before being posted online.

Please see below a full schedule of All-In to Reopen Our Schools Webinars on the following page.

Topic	Date	Time
Becoming a 1:1 Device District	Wednesday, August 5	6:00 – 7:00 PM
Transporting students during COVID-19	Monday, August 10	6:00 – 7:00 PM
Supporting Our Students with IEPs and 504 Plans in an E-Learning Environment	Tuesday, August 11	6:00 – 7:00 PM
Meeting our youngest learners needs in PreK and Early Head Start in both an E-Learning and Blended Environment	Thursday, August 13	2:00 – 3:00 PM
Preparing Our classrooms for instruction with health and safety as a priority virtual tour	Thursday, August 13	6:00 – 7:00 PM
Supporting our English Language Learners	Monday, August 17	2:00 – 3:00 PM
Supporting the Mental Health Needs of Students During the COVID-19 Pandemic	Tuesday, August 18	2:00 – 3:00 PM
Keeping Student and Staff health and safety as priority # 1.	Tuesday, August 18	6:00 – 7:00 PM
Accessing healthy food in school and during E-Learning	Thursday, August 20	2:00 – 3:00 PM
Out of School Time Supports	Thursday, August 20	6:00 – 7:00 PM
Parent Academy: Engagement and Instruction in an E-Learning Environment and Schoology Training	Tuesday, August 25	5:00 – 7:00 PM
Athletics: Practicing Playing and Safety	Thursday, August 27	6:00 – 7:00 PM