



2021-2022 PLAN



North Allegheny
School District

northallegheny.org/backtoschool



In early 2021, the District formed a back-to-school committee. Using a collaborative approach, the committee developed a plan that ensures the District follows appropriate health and safety requirements while offering students full-time, in-person instruction. For those students who choose to learn remotely, NA Cyber Academy will be an option for the upcoming school year.

While the 2021-2022 school year may be less restrictive, returning to school will still require a great deal of planning, communication, collaboration, and flexibility from our staff, students, and parents/guardians. The District will continue to follow local, Commonwealth, and federal guidance, which may require our plans to change.

Back to School Planning Committee

In February 2021, the District formed a Back to School Planning Committee for the 2021-2022 School Year. Members of this committee include:

- NASD Executive Council
- School Administration
- North Allegheny Federation of Teachers
- Committee Groups: Elementary Advisory Council (EAC), Secondary Advisory Council (SAC), Superintendent/Parents Liaison Committee (SPLC)
- Student Services Advisory (SSA)
- Health Services and Medical Community

Back to School Planning Committee Meetings

The Back to School Planning Committee met bi-monthly. For a recap of the planning meetings, [visit this document](#).

Back to School Planning Updates

During the spring of 2021, the District shared ongoing updates with our community about the plans for the upcoming school year. If you missed an update, please visit the links below.

- February 25, 2021 - [Back to School Planning Update](#)
- March 1, 2021 - [Back to School Planning Survey 1](#)
- April 26, 2021 - [Back to School Planning Update with March Survey Results](#)
- May 10, 2021 - [Back to School Planning Survey 2](#)
- June 17, 2021 - [Back to School Planning Update](#)



Instructional Model Preference

2021-2022 Instructional Model Preference

Students and parents/guardians will be asked to select an instructional plan that best fits their needs during the **2021-2022 Instructional Model Preference *Final Decision Survey: July 19-25***. Families will be required to make a ***final*** selection between In-Person Instruction or NA Cyber Academy for the first semester of the 2021-2022 school year. Students will have the option to change enrollment at the end of the first semester.

If an option is not selected, students will default to the in-person learning scenario. If parents/guardians have additional questions, please contact the Office of K-12 Education at **412-369-5896**.

Option 1: In-Person Instruction (K-12)

The North Allegheny School District will be in-person five days a week beginning on Monday, August 23. There are two additional models for instructional delivery for in-person instruction in the event we need to respond to local, Commonwealth, and federal guidelines.

Option 2: NA Cyber Academy (K-12)

The NA Cyber Academy will begin classes on Monday, August 23 and offers families the option of online instruction from NA teachers providing online instruction using NA curriculum resources to create an online learning solution. Instruction includes both synchronous and asynchronous learning.

Detailed information about both of these options is included in this document.



Education Plan

For the 2021-2022 school year, the North Allegheny School District plans to offer full-time, in-person learning for all students K-12. We understand that many of our students need a face-to-face learning environment in order to thrive.

The District continues to implement its Health & Safety Plan and will continue to monitor the spread of COVID-19 within the county. It's possible that students who select In-Person Instruction may need to participate in full remote instruction if asked to quarantine.

We realize each of our students, their families, and our staff members are facing different challenges and obstacles as the circumstances related to COVID-19 evolve rapidly. We will continue to update our plans frequently based on recommendations from local, Commonwealth, and federal guidelines and communicate them to families as quickly as possible.



In-Person Instruction



In-Person Learning Scenarios

Full-Time In-Person Instruction

Students attend school in a physical school building five days a week.

Hybrid Instruction

A mix of in-person instruction at physical school buildings and remote instruction. Students spend two days each week in NA school buildings.

Full Remote Instruction

Students will receive remote instruction five days a week. Classes will be taught by assigned classroom teachers.

Full-Time In-Person Instruction K-12

During full-time In-Person Instruction, students and staff are face-to-face to allow for social interaction and real-time learning within the confines of the District's Health & Safety Plan. Teachers are following safety protocols while organizing students to work collaboratively. Partner work, small groups, and one-on-one meetings with teachers are taking place through the use of different collaboration tools and strategies including available technology or by maintaining recommended social distance protocols when in-person. All traditional student and staff resources and supports are available in the Full-Time In-Person Instruction setting while implementing the Health & Safety Plan protocols.

- All staff and students report to the school building daily for instruction.
- All staff and students follow enhanced hygiene protocols.
- During the first week of school, we will spend time completing activities welcoming and orienting students back to school.
- All students (grades K-12) have access to Blackboard. In this platform, students can access a variety of videos, lessons, templates, assignments, virtual tutorials, and other tools to support their learning.
- Expectations for K-12 Full In-Person HyFlex Technology Implementation can be found [here](#).

In-Person Instruction - Hybrid Instruction K-12

The District recognizes that at times it may be necessary to decrease capacity in schools and move to Hybrid instruction. If it becomes necessary to shift from full-time In-Person to Hybrid instruction, the District will utilize SchoolMessenger to notify staff, students, and families of this change. During Hybrid instruction, the following will take place:

- All staff report to school to facilitate learning for assigned student groups.
- All staff and students follow enhanced hygiene protocols.
- Students are grouped into cohorts and assigned to report to school on designated days:
 - Students assigned to "Cohort 1" attend Monday and Tuesday of each week.
 - All students work asynchronously (independent work that is not focused on real-time instruction) on Wednesdays to allow for cleaning. In addition to asynchronous instruction, teachers hold extended office hours on Wednesdays.
 - Students assigned to "Cohort 2" attend Thursday and Friday of each week.
 - Cohorts 1 and 2 are designated by the alphabet (A-L for Cohort 1 and M-Z for Cohort 2) so families with children in multiple schools are in school on the same days.
 - Families with multiple last names will default to the oldest student in the household's last name.
 - Adjustments to student assigned groups may be made as necessary for classroom size, bus capacity, or other reasons to achieve the desired goal of fewer students in school buildings.
- All schools facilitate District programming, including elementary special area classes, academic interventions, English Learners, Special Education, and Gifted programming.
- All students (grades K-12) work to complete assignments with access to their grade-level learning platform, Blackboard. In this platform, students can access a variety of videos, lessons, templates, assignments, virtual tutorials, and other tools to support their learning.
- Teachers maintain regular communication with families and students using Blackboard and other methods of communication. Google Meet or Blackboard Collaborate are the video tools that all teachers will use to hold live sessions with students.
- Expectations for K-12 Hybrid HyFlex Implementation can be found [here](#).

- Student Online Learning at Home Expectations can be found [here](#).

Full Remote Instruction K-12

The Full Remote Instruction plan is enacted when the Full-Time In-Person Instruction and Hybrid options are no longer feasible based on District, local, or commonwealth officials recognizing that the level of community spread is too great and all constituents are at heightened risk. Full Remote Instruction is also utilized by NASD Health Services staff for students who are learning remotely due to:

- District-issued quarantine due to being a close contact of a positive individual
- A doctor-instructed quarantine which will require a note
- Someone in the student or staff member's household has tested positive for COVID-19
- Someone in the student or staff members household has been instructed to quarantine

Students/families **do not have the autonomy to quarantine themselves** from school on days when scheduled to attend in-person instruction. Only NASD Health Services, Allegheny County Health Department or medical provider can initiate the quarantine process.

Full Remote Instruction is a different instructional delivery method than the NA Cyber Academy. Full Remote Instruction is a continuation of the In-Person Instruction option, which means it will be taught by each child's classroom teachers. Staff, students, and families will be notified by the District through a SchoolMessenger phone call and email.

Full Remote schedules have been developed for elementary, middle, and high schools and mimic a student's regular school day, where possible. All weekly schedules include instruction and application of skills through synchronous instruction, asynchronous learning, check-in meetings with teachers, and independent practice that meet Pennsylvania's required hours of instruction by week.

Moving to Remote Instruction

In the event that the District would need to move to a Full Remote or Hybrid schedule, classes will follow the Full Remote Schedules and K-12 Expectations for HyFlex Full Remote Implementation plan found [here](#).

All teachers K-12 will use Blackboard to communicate weekly learning plans by posting an agenda with details for the week. Each agenda will have links to where students and families can review the required work and sessions for the week.

Google Meet or Blackboard Collaborate are the video tools that all teachers will be expected to use to hold live sessions with students/families.

Students will be required to attend the synchronous/live sessions. If students do not attend these sessions, they will be counted as absent for the day unless prior arrangements have been made with the teacher. Students will be expected to "attend" class virtually daily and to complete/turn in assigned work. Attendance guidelines for 2021-2022 can be found [here](#).

Student Online Learning at Home Expectations can be found [here](#).



NA Cyber Academy K-12

We are excited to offer NA Cyber Academy, our 13th school, a K-12 online school within the North Allegheny School District taught by NA teachers.

NA Cyber Academy students remain enrolled in the District and have access to District athletics, extra-curricular activities, and after-school functions that are available throughout the school year following the guidance of District, local, and commonwealth officials. Students are also able to join the in-person clubs, activities, and athletics as well as create their own clubs with NA Cyber Academy teacher sponsors. Additionally, this program allows seniors to graduate with a diploma from the North Allegheny School District.

- The NA Cyber Academy is available for any student.
- Enrollment at NA Cyber Academy is for a full semester. Towards the end of the first semester, parents/guardians will be asked to enroll in either NACA or In-Person Instruction for the second semester. Students who have been enrolled in In-Person Instruction for the first semester will be given the opportunity to enroll in NA Cyber Academy for the second semester.
- The coursework is aligned with NASD's curriculum, allowing easier transitions back to the in-school environment.
- NA Cyber Academy's instructional delivery model will not be affected by a change to instructional delivery based upon additional guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, North Allegheny Health Services Department, North Allegheny School Physician, Allegheny County Department of Health, and the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

NA Cyber Academy Curriculum

- NA teachers provide online instruction using NA curriculum and resources.
- Opportunities for interaction with peers may include group projects, discussions, discussion boards, and scheduled community time to connect as NA Cyber Academy learners.
- NA's add/drop process defined in the Program of Studies will apply for NA Cyber Academy.
- For high school courses:
 - Final grades for any high school credit courses appear on the student transcript with the school listed as "NA Cyber Academy". All high school credits will be calculated in the student's GPA.

K-5 NA Cyber Academy Instruction

- The school will follow a similar schedule to the in-person elementary schedules.
- Core subjects, including ELA (Reading, Spelling, Grammar, and Writing), Social Studies, Science, and Math Core Content Curriculum will be offered through a blended model of synchronous and asynchronous instruction. Students will receive synchronous instruction through both whole group and small group instruction. In addition, students may also have the opportunity to work asynchronously after attending homeroom. Students will be required to complete the assignments and daily activities during a set timeline determined by the teacher.
- Special Area (Art, Library, Music, and Physical Education) classes will be offered synchronously each week. Students will be required to attend the weekly special area classes. All of the classes will start with whole group synchronous instruction and, depending on content, will transition to asynchronous instruction in order to complete the required assignment for the day.
- Ensuring that students are growing not only academically, but socially as well, students will have the opportunity to connect with their homeroom classes and grade levels through weekly community meetings and virtual clubs.
- Learning coaches are critical for elementary student success throughout remote learning. These coaches may be a parent/guardian or another adult that will support and assist the student's learning, be in contact with the teacher(s), and assist with navigating technology.
- Office hours will be offered daily to students and families. This is a time for learning coaches to ask questions or for students to work 1:1 with a teacher.

6-8 NA Cyber Academy Instruction

- Core subjects, including ELA, Social Studies, Science and Math Core Content Curriculum, and 8th grade World Language will be offered synchronously.
- Unified Arts (PE, Music, Art, Tech Ed, BCIT, and FCS) will be offered asynchronously.
- Students will follow an ABABAB schedule.
- The school will follow the middle school bell schedule.

9-12 NA Cyber Academy Instruction

- Core subjects, including, English, Social Studies, Science, and Math Curriculum will be offered synchronously.
- All other courses will be offered asynchronously.
- Some courses may not be offered due to a lack of student interest and enrollment.
- Based on feedback from the 2020-2021 school year students and staff, students benefit from in-person instruction for courses that include a lab. Students may take these courses online, however in-person is recommended to participate in hands-on learning experiences.
- Students will be required to take all summative assessments at the NAI or NASH test center.
- Students will follow an ABABAB schedule.
- The school will follow the high school bell schedule (NAI for grades 9-10 and NASH for grades 11-12).



Student Instructional and Support Services

English Language Learners

English as a Second Language [ESL] staff works with families to assist in making choices for their selection of options and to assist with any transition if the District moves between options of instruction in the building, Hybrid, or remotely throughout the year.

Students who qualify for English Language instruction can access the North Allegheny ESL curriculum in-person and in the NA Cyber Academy. The program is a standards-based curriculum that focuses on the fundamentals of academic English and literacy development for students who are learning English.

Student Services

Students in both in-person instruction and NA Cyber Academy instruction have access to the NA Student Services Team. The Student Services team is a coordinated group of professionals providing specialized services such as school-based mental health, psychological, school counseling, health/wellness, student assistance, and social work to students within the North Allegheny School District.

504 Plans

The NA School Counseling Department ensures student support through Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The School Counseling team is available to address individual student needs for students who participate in in-person instruction or the NA Cyber Academy. If your student needs support in school through a 504 plan, please contact your student's [school counselor](#).

Special Education

Special Education service providers follow the District's health and safety protocols in the Special Education environment while implementing each student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) during in-person instruction. If the District is required to transition to Hybrid or full remote learning, case managers will schedule a parent/teacher conference to discuss the contents of the IEP and create an individualized continuity of learning plan for students in a Hybrid or remote environment. When working with students through alternative delivery models, the District will make a good faith effort within available capabilities to determine how a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) will be provided by considering the following:

- Appropriate resources
- Equal access to learning and required materials

- Ability to provide the services and supports in the IEP
- Parents/guardians, students, and staff training
- Communication processes
- Related Services
- Instructional Assistants
- Assistive Technology

Eligible students enrolled in NA Cyber Academy will be assigned a Special Education case manager who will be responsible for implementing each student's IEP.

Related services will be provided to students in both the in-person and NA Cyber Academy.

Gifted Programming

The NA GOAL program provides enrichment and a broad spectrum of educational opportunities while encouraging individual learners to develop personal responsibility, task commitment, self-discipline, independent learning skills, respectful conduct, and social/emotional balance. Online and project-based enrichment and educational opportunities are made available to students through the GOAL program during all phases of In-Person Instruction as well as in the NA Cyber Academy.

Social and Emotional Wellness

North Allegheny is committed to the social and emotional wellness of our students and staff. Below are ways in which the District is addressing these needs this school year:

- **Student Assistance Program** - The Pennsylvania Student Assistance Program (SAP) is a systematic team process used to mobilize school resources to remove barriers to learning. SAP is designed to assist in identifying issues including alcohol, tobacco, other drugs, and mental health issues that pose a barrier to a student's success.
- **School-Based Mental Health** - Through a partnership with Glade Run, students in grades K-12 can be provided with outpatient mental health services both in the school setting and through teletherapy. This partnership works to effectively diminish barriers that historically have prohibited some families from accessing supportive mental health services.
- **Individual Student Supports** - Students at all levels may be afforded opportunities to address specific social and emotional concerns through individual school counseling sessions.
- **Consultative Support for School Staff** - Classroom teachers have access to consultative support from Social Workers and Positive Behavior Support Specialists to handle student concerns.
- **Employee Assistance Program** - An Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is a voluntary, work-based program that offers free and confidential assessments, short-term counseling, referrals, and follow-up services to employees who have personal and/or work-related problems.



Health & Safety Plan

The North Allegheny School District 2021-2022 Health & Safety Plan was developed based on local, Commonwealth, and federal guidance as of June 16, 2021.

Getting Ready For School Safely

Before students come to school, parents/guardians are responsible for monitoring students' symptoms. Students displaying any COVID-19 symptoms must stay home. Please refer to [Tiger Strong Live Long: Keeping Our Community Healthy and Well](#) for more information.



TIGER STRONG LIVE LONG: KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY HEALTHY & WELL

Keeping our NASD community healthy and well is a shared responsibility between our families and staff. Conducting regular screenings for illness and ongoing self-monitoring can help reduce exposure to various viruses. **Please stay home if you are sick.** If you feel ill while you are at school, please see the school nurse.

When Should I Keep My Child Home From School?

Please keep your child home if they show any of the following symptoms

- **Active vomiting or diarrhea.**
- **Fever (100° or higher), chills, or general body aches.**
- **Has shown any COVID-19 symptoms** including fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, muscle pain, repeated shaking with chills, achiness, fatigue, headache, sore throat, and a new loss of taste or smell.
- **Other symptoms of possible concern:** including rash, conjunctivitis (red eyes), swelling of the palms and soles of the feet or skin peeling in those areas, congestion/ runny nose, lymph node enlargement (swollen glands), and sharp abdominal pains.

When Can My Child Return To School After Illness?

- 24 hours since the last episode of active vomiting or diarrhea.
- 24 hours being fever free without the use of fever-reducing medication (fevers of 100° or higher).
- 24 hours after starting antibiotics for bacterial causes.
- Doctor's note of clearance for various student-specific medical conditions.
- For a known exposure to COVID-19, contact your school nurse.

NASD Health & Safety Plan

To view the District's entire Health & Safety plan, visit our website:
www.northallegheny.org

The following guidelines apply to Transportation:

- Transportation routes have been shortened and bus stops consolidated where feasible to limit the amount of time students spend on buses.
- Students should social distance at bus stops.
- **New for the 2021-2022 school year:** when students receive their transportation letter in August, the letter will include an assigned seat on the bus.
- **Face coverings are still required by the Federal government on public transportation, which includes NASD provided transportation and buses.**
- Where possible, the front seats of the bus will remain unoccupied.

Student's Health and Safety At School

Each school will have a comprehensive plan for how they are implementing the District Health & Safety Plan. These plans will be reviewed and approved by the District to ensure proper implementation. These plans will be communicated to families in each building's Back to School Newsletter in August.

Face Coverings

- **As of June 28, 2021, the Commonwealth no longer has a face covering mandate. NASD will not require face coverings on school campuses. North Allegheny parents/guardians can decide if they want to send their student to school with a face covering.**
- **Face coverings are still required by the Federal government on public transportation, which includes NASD provided transportation and buses.**
- **The District will comply if it is mandatory to implement face coverings by local, Commonwealth, and/or Federal officials.**
- **The District will continue to monitor the spread of COVID-19 within our school community. The District may decide to require masking for reasons such as (but not limited to): community spread of the illness in classrooms, individual school buildings, and across the district, or a change in the community transmission level in the county.**

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

- Information regarding late arrivals, item drop off, and early dismissals will be communicated in each building's Back to School Newsletter prior to the start of school.

Hygiene and Social Distancing

- Students and staff are encouraged and reminded to follow good hygiene practices, including frequent hand washing and/or hand sanitizing.
- Students and staff are encouraged to socially distance as much as possible in hallways and stairways.
 - Students will be provided with locations at each school to store their athletic and instrumental materials.
 - Staff should avoid congregating in communal spaces such as copy rooms and teachers lounges during breaks or planning time.

Classroom Arrangements

Desks are turned to face in the same direction, to the maximum extent feasible. Student collaborative group work will resume and desks may be moved in order to form a collaborative work space.

Food Service

As of June 28, 2021, the Commonwealth no longer has a face covering mandate requiring students to be seated 6 feet apart to remove their face covering in order to eat. Students will be seated three feet apart at lunch time for the 2021 - 2022 school year. If necessary, additional spaces such as auditoriums, gymnasiums, multi-purpose rooms, and possibly classrooms will be utilized where feasible to reduce student density during lunch periods. Students will be encouraged to wash their hands before and after lunch periods. Meal menus may be revised and limited to support “grab-and-go” style meals and limit a-la-carte and individual serving selections.

Recess

Indoor and outdoor recess will include access to permanent playground equipment and other recess resources such as sports equipment and board games. NASD will follow the Commonwealth guidelines for face coverings.

Large Assemblies and School Activities

- NASD will follow all commonwealth guidelines on face coverings, social distancing, and occupancy limits for events/gatherings.
 - Gatherings, concerts, events, assemblies, and extracurricular activities will resume.
- Field trips will be assessed based on current commonwealth guidelines.
- Clubs and activities will resume and follow the Return to Sports/Activities plan.

School Volunteers/Visitors

- Volunteers/Visitors are required to:
 - Follow the Commonwealth for face coverings and Tiger Strong Live Long: Keeping Our Community Healthy and Well guidelines at all times. In the event someone arrives without a face covering, each school has face masks available to ensure compliance with this requirement. If a visitor is unable to wear a mask, the school will make other arrangements for the visit.

Our Commitment to Keeping Schools Clean

- Custodial staff will conduct frequent cleaning of high traffic areas throughout the school day.
- HVAC systems will be set to increase air turnover and enhanced air filters will be used where practical.
- Portable HEPA air filters may be utilized in areas such as nurse’s offices that may have limited outside air circulation. Units may also be used in some large group spaces, such as cafeterias.
- Disinfecting wipes will be made available for staff.
- Many traditional water fountains have been replaced by touchless bottle filling stations across all buildings. Where traditional water fountains remain, they have been disabled or

subject to additional cleaning throughout the day. Students are able to carry water bottles in all schools.

- School buses will be cleaned regularly. When feasible, windows will be open to increase air circulation.

Monitoring Student and Staff Health

- Upon exposure to someone who tests positive for COVID-19, the student/employee should stay at home and contact their School Nurse before returning to school. Further information on self-assessment can be found through the [Centers for Disease Control](#) and Prevention, PA Department of Health, or Allegheny County Health Department. Upon contacting the School Nurse, you will be asked:
 - If a student or staff member has been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the last 90 days.
 - If a student or staff member has completed a COVID-19 vaccine two weeks prior to last exposure.
 - If one of these applies and supporting documentation is provided, the student/staff member will be excused from quarantine.
- If a student or staff member is diagnosed with COVID-19, with or without a positive test and/or symptoms, the District will follow applicable health department protocol and guidance on [contact tracing](#), quarantine, and/or isolation while respecting the confidentiality of those involved.
- If your student or someone in your student's household is being tested for COVID-19, immediately notify your building nurse.
- If a student or staff member develops COVID-like symptoms, they will be asked to follow up with their PCP.
- Vaccinations **will not be** required unless the Pennsylvania School Code is updated to reflect a requirement for school registration.

COVID-19 Communication and Response to Transmission

North Allegheny School District recognizes that information and safety recommendations are rapidly changing. The District continues to develop ongoing communications to provide staff and parents/guardians with timely information on the District's preparation for, the incidence of, and response transmission of COVID-19. We will continue to work with the North Allegheny Health Services Department and the Allegheny County Health Department on specific communication and review on a case-by-case basis.

COVID-19 Case Communication

To provide transparency to our community, the District updates the [COVID-19 page](#) on the North Allegheny School District website daily with new confirmed cases. The cases are listed by building in a table format.

The District notifies parents/guardians via email when their student has been in a **classroom, bus, sports team, or activity** with a student or staff member who has tested positive for COVID-19.

- **When a student or staff member is present in a classroom, bus, sports team, or activity where an individual tests positive for COVID-19:**

- Staff and parents/guardians receive written communication via email sharing that they may have been in direct contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19.
- The letter contains action steps to be taken and any recommendations provided by the Allegheny County Health Department.
- If there are multiple cases in one day, the District will send one email per day to staff, parents/guardians, etc. with cases grouped together.

COVID-19 Response to Transmission

The previously published charts in the *Recommendations for Pre-K to 12 Schools Following Identification of a Case(s) of COVID-19* guidelines are no longer a resource for schools in the Commonwealth. Following identification of cases of COVID-19 we will investigate the case, contact trace and quarantine and/or isolate as appropriate, clean and disinfect. The District will also continue to monitor the spread of COVID-19 within our school community and if necessary, require masks due to increased community transmission. The North Allegheny School District will continue to consult with the Allegheny County Health Department and District physician to determine next steps for mitigation and response to transmission.

Privacy

It is our commitment to provide our community with factual, transparent, and critical information in a timely manner while respecting the privacy of our students and staff. If a colleague, friend, family member, client, student, or anyone else informs you of a COVID-19 diagnosis, please keep it confidential.

Plan Subject to Change

This document was drafted on June 16, 2021 and updated on July 19, 2021. This plan continues to be subject to updates. If and when the circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic change, the federal, Commonwealth, and local guidance may also change.