

The following questions are a collection of my own and those submitted to me by concerned parents/guardians, my constituents, staff, community members and even students via email, phone, social media and some conversations in-person.

As of August 13, 2020 at 6pm, the following questions do not have answers that appear on the Boards Return to School Flyer, on the Frequently Asked Questions page, and/or may require further clarification to the information that has been provided.

GENERAL PRE REGISTRATION

1. After making a choice on the pre-registration survey, can parents/guardians change their minds BEFORE the first day of school on September 3?
2. What are the exact “point of entry” dates for in-person learning should parents/guardians change their minds AFTER first day of school on September 3?
3. For parents/guardians who may experience technical difficulties with completing the two methods of the return to school survey – is there another option?
4. If a parent/guardian switches from in-person learning to remote what will that transition look like? Will there be a gap in instructional time?
5. What is the process for families who choose remote learning and either do not have internet access and/or choose not to utilize that form of technology? What will interactions with school/teacher and feedback look like for these students?
6. The Frequently Asked Questions section of the Board website (under Communication) states that the Board will be “mailing out information on the health and safety protocols that families will be required to follow.” Is this being mailed via a postal service? If so has this been done already and is there adequate time remaining to ensure delivery prior to the start of school?

LEARNING & INSTRUCTION

1. When can parents/guardians expect to see more details on what a remote learning school day will look like?
2. What if a parent/guardian needs to drop something off for a student during the school day – what is the process for that?
3. Will student personal belongings be limited and if so when will parents be made aware of any limitations?
4. Are all school desks able to be properly distanced be in each classroom at both elementary and secondary? What about in portables?

5. How will Second Language programming be offered and/or impacted for in-person and remote learning?
6. When will parents/guardians be informed who their child's teacher will be and if there will be any other supervising adults in a class room (EA's/DECE's)?
7. Will remote learning students be provided opportunities to take part within their school community? Will there be opportunities for them to create bonds and communicate with other students?
8. Will remote learners be required to participate in the National Anthem?
9. What will a school's code of conduct look like in terms of remote learners? As an example: students are not permitted to wear hats or head wear while in a class. Will those rules apply during remote learning?

Elementary

1. How many supervising adults (teacher/DECE/EA/administration/support teams members) are expected to be in contact with each cohort?
2. Will parents/guardians know the size of their student's cohort prior to the first day of school?
3. What will gym class look like? What type of physical activities can students do?
4. How will students keep physical distance with play-based learning? What will a Kindergarten classroom look like? Will the current Kindergarten teaching model with a teacher and ECE in each classroom? Will parents/guardians be invited to join earlier year classes?
5. Are extra supports and/or additional resources being offered for early year students and their families who are attending school for the first time?
6. Will students be permitted to use playground equipment?
7. Is there any additional procedure/parameters for our Kindergarten students who are not fully toilet trained? What types of additional PPE will be required by the Board to accommodate these students?
8. Who is responsible for supervising students at nutrition breaks, both indoors and out?

Secondary

1. When and how will exams take place? What will this process look like for remote learners?

2. Will there be additional safety procedures for specialty programs such as music, physical education, technology studies, etc.?
3. Will parents be informed of which cohort their child is in and how many are in a cohort?
4. If schools end up being able to run student clubs/organization's will remote learners be able to join?
5. In the back to school flyer it states "The use of lockers will be restricted." Please clarify what that means?
6. Will the student councils and the student senate work to encourage a balance of students who represent both remote and in-person students?
7. Will students be required to wear PPE when performing community involvement activities as a part of the requirements for an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (O.S.S.D.)?
8. Will School Dances be held during the school year? If so will guest passes still be available?
9. Will remote learners be made aware of information of student interest (such as clubs or volunteer information usually announced during morning announcements)?
10. Can remote learners participate in any type of team sport should they resume?
11. What will SWAC (School Within A College), Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP), and Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) programs look like? How will they be different?
12. What will the Anishinaabemodaa program look like as it relates to the Boards strategic partnerships?

Supports For Students With Special Needs

1. Will a full range of supports be offered to those who participate in remote learning?
2. Will transportation procedure be the same for our students with special needs?
3. Will there be any changes to special education resources?
4. Were members of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) consulted on the plan?
5. Do any cohorts create limitations on accessibility for students who require specific doors or lifts/elevators?

6. Are handicap bathrooms available in each cohort area?
7. Is signage being created and placed so that messaging is accessible for all?

HEALTH & SAFETY PROTOCOLS

1. Will parents/guardians be required to sign an attestation (declaration) stating that they will follow all procedures and protocols including but not limited to self-screening/self-assessments and mask care? If they do not sign, will in-person learning be denied?
2. Do all school sinks have hot water available for proper hand washing?
3. How many classrooms do not have sinks? Are students able to access their class room sink with ease and in a safe manner – particular early year students?
4. Are temperature checks a part of self-screening measures that parents/guardians and staff will be required to perform daily? If so, will this be done at the school or required prior to starting the day – if prior to instructional day, will the Board be providing thermometers to families and staff?
5. Do our Board's health & safety protocols and procedures mirror those of Coterminous Board? If different, how so?
6. What level medical masks are being purchased by the Board for staff – level 1, level 2 or level 3? Are different staff required to wear different levels of masks?
7. As students are able to wear their own cloth face masks, are there procedures in place to check that these masks not provided by the Board meet Ontario Public Health guidelines?
8. Will the schools be providing foam based or liquid based hand sanitizer? What are plans to mitigate health and safety surrounding hand sanitizers – particularly if using liquid sanitizer? Hand sanitizer is highly flammable, as well as can be extremely harmful if ingested?
9. What is the procedure for exemptions from wearing masks. *As an example, for students with sensory or breathing difficulties?* How does a parent/guardian proceed in gaining an exemption?
10. Can parents be provided with the names and ingredients of cleaning products which are changing from last year/purchased specifically for enhanced COVID-19 cleaning practices – for in school and the spray being used on buses?

11. When will the “comprehensive plan” for a COVID-19 outbreak at a school be made available to the parent community as mentioned?
12. Are parents/guardians required to declare if a member of student’s household is an essential worker which requires International travel?

WELL-BEING & SUPPORTS

1. When can parents/guardians/students expect technology resources to be fully distributed should they choose remote learning?
2. Will student success coordinators, reading recovery, STEM coordinators, early years planners, speech language programmers, the mental health leader, behavioral therapists, the attendance counsellor, be physically entering/visiting schools or will these services be moved out of a single facility/virtual? What will these program supports look like moving forward for both in-person and virtual learners?
3. Will the parent involvement committee (PIC) along with each school council have an equal representation of parent voices for both in-person and remote learners? Or will each module have its own school council?
4. Are there going to be changes to procedures around ‘acting out’ behaviors?

OPERATIONS

Transportation

1. When will parents receive pickup/drop off time schedules, along with bus driver name and pickup/drop off location?
2. When will seating charts be distributed?
3. If a child is required to wear a mask during the instructional day and while on the bus - are they to keep it on while waiting for the bus at the end of the day?
4. Will Secondary students be mixed on buses with Elementary students?
5. If a parent/guardian switches a student from remote to in-person learning, will bus service be available?
6. Can parents/guardians and/or staff board buses to help students with special needs?
7. Will the First Rider Program be offered?

Before & After School

1. What will drop off and pick up routines look like? When will these be communicated?
2. Will there be additional supervision/staff during the arrival and dismissal times to allow for proper social distancing? Will this staff be wearing PPE during this time?
3. Will the Library Resource Centre at FFHS be open before and after school?
4. Will there be specific times only that students will be able to enter the school at the start of each day?

Kiss & Ride

1. How is social distancing being applied during Kiss & Ride?
2. Staff often reaches into and at times enters into a vehicle while securing students safely into car seats and buckling seatbelts – what protections are in place for our staff during this process and/or will this expectation end as direct surface touching is done in multiple vehicles and social distancing is not able to be followed?

FACILITIES

1. Will we be installing physical separation barriers within our schools and/or within classrooms? Will parents/guardians be made aware of any physical barriers which may be installed within a school/classroom?
2. How many portables will be in use and can social distancing be done – how will ventilation be working in portables?
3. Are additional spaces being used for classrooms (libraries/staff rooms) If so at which school and which spaces will be functioning as classrooms?
4. Are fire alarms and other emergency drill procedures being changed and how soon will students be performing these?
5. What will outside contractor support look like in terms of PPE– will contractors and any visitors/stakeholders be allocated funding for PPE from our Boards budget? What are the requirements surrounding those?
6. Considering staff might travel between different facilities, will additional PPE procedures be added for those or will cross facility movement be limited in any way?
7. How many sites do not have HVAC systems, and specifically how many classrooms will be using portable filtration units as outlined in the Return to School flyer? Has the HVAC filter maintenance/procedure changed? Have we moved to different filters?
8. How many classrooms do not have windows that open?

9. Has the Board completed an operational test on all restroom facility faucets and fixtures?
10. How many Kindergarten classrooms do not have adjoining bathrooms?
11. Will every facility which has RRDSB students and staff present be disinfected at least twice daily by custodial staff as now required?

STAFF

1. Will members of the Occasional Teacher Roster be offered PD prior to the school year starting regarding proper health and safety requirements and procedures?
2. Will additional mental health supports be added for staff?
3. What exemptions, if any, are being made for staff as it relates to wearing masks/PPE. As an example, for those with sensory or breathing difficulties?

PUBLIC USE

1. Will Community Use within our facilities be available?
2. How will volunteers in our schools work, including PPE procedures?