

February 24, 2021: Instructional Model Selection for Remainder of 2020-2021 School Year

Dear T/E Families,

At the February 22, 2021 School Board meeting, the Board discussed recent changes to Chester County Health Department (CCHD) guidance for schools and the impact on TESD's instructional models. Our goal continues to be returning to full in-person learning and TESD has been actively preparing to offer more days of instruction in our school buildings. If county transmission levels are below the Very High threshold for three weeks, TESD can begin returning to full in-person instruction 4 or 5 days a week beginning as soon as March 15 while complying with new CCHD guidance.

An important part of the preparation is knowing exactly which students plan to be present for in-person instruction and which students will choose the 100% virtual education model. **Today we are asking for a commitment to one of these models for each District student.**

The window to select an instructional model opens today and will close at midnight on March 3, 2021. TESD will no longer offer a hybrid instruction option as the new CCHD guidance will allow us to expand our in-person instruction for more days each week.

It is important to emphasize that families selecting full in-person instruction will be committing their children to attending school in-person regularly. The schools will expect students to be physically present in school buildings unless the student is ill, quarantining, or has an official excused absence. While in-person attendance policies were somewhat relaxed during the hybrid instruction model, we must ask that families adhere to the in-person decision. Choosing in-person instruction while remaining in virtual attendance could result in unnecessary schedule changes or teacher assignments for your child or others. Continual virtual attendance for a student who selected in-person instruction will result in the student being moved to 100% virtual attendance for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year.

In addition to selecting an instructional format, families who are switching from virtual instruction to full in-person instruction will need to indicate whether they will need T/E bus transportation. Bus transportation will be available for families in need. However, it is not possible to consistently maintain social distancing of six feet on school buses. **If feasible, the District is asking parents to drive children from the same household to and from school to reduce the number of students on buses.**

Instructions for Selecting Instructional Model and Transportation

- Log into [PowerSchool](#). If you need assistance logging into [PowerSchool](#), please email the [FamilyHelpDesk](#).

- If you have more than one child attending T/E schools, select the name of the child in the upper left corner.
- Under the Navigation menu on the left, select TESD Forms, then select Commitment Form.
- Choose your learning and transportation selections for the remainder of the school year.

Unlike previous opportunities to change learning selections, we need all T/E families to respond to this request and select an instructional model. Families who are unable to access PowerSchool or who need help with the learning selection process may contact the main office of their child's school for assistance.

Additional Information

We know many families have questions and may need additional information before selecting an instructional model for the rest of this school year. At the same time, some answers to questions we have been receiving cannot possibly be known until we are aware of which particular students will attend in school. For answers to some questions, you may consider the following:

- [Summary of changes to CCHD guidance](#)
- [New Chester County transmission metrics](#)
- [Current Health and Safety Plan](#)
- [Description of each instructional model](#)
- [Video of the presentation of TESD's plan during the February 22, 2021 School Board Meeting](#)
- [Key findings from the recent TESD Instructional Model Survey](#)

TESD families are also encouraged to attend the virtual School Board meeting on March 1, 2021 at 7:30 PM where the Board will vote on the plan to further expand in-person instruction.

Opportunities for Feedback

TESD has created a new inbox to receive feedback on reopening. The inbox email address is [Tesdaopeningplans@tesd.net](mailto:Tesdreopeningplans@tesd.net). The inbox will be checked daily during the school week and feedback will be shared with the School Board and the TESD Pandemic Team. Thank you for your continued partnership and support as we continue to plan and prepare for the next phase of in-person instruction.

Sincerely,
Dr. Richard Gusick
Superintendent of Schools