



DOLTON SCHOOL DISTRICT 149  
PARENT TOWN HALL MEETING  
OPTIONAL HYBRID LEARNING MODEL  
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS  
JANUARY 7, 2022

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:**

1. When will the information be shared? The information about the Optional Hybrid Learning Model is posted on the district website at [www.sd149.org](http://www.sd149.org).
2. What is optional hybrid? The optional hybrid model affords parents and opportunity to choose from in-person learning to online learning.
3. What is being done for students with IEPs? Students with related and instructional services will continue to receive those services whether they are at home or at school. Students will be able to demonstrate understanding through multiple modalities. For students who receive related services and you have chosen at home instruction, your child will continue to receive those services with your consent. Related services include occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech and language services, and social work services. Service providers will keep detailed documentation.

Our English Language Learners who are at home will receive ESL or Bilingual services virtually from an ESL teacher. For students who are at home, parents will be provided a schedule to let you know when your child should be online in order to receive instructional, related and ESL services. Again, it is important for students to attend class whether online or in-person. The teachers will be maintaining an instructional log that includes dates, topics and services provided to students. Students should use their Chromebooks as directed by their teacher to work on online learning programs provided by the district.

An Individualized Hybrid Learning Plan will be developed for students who are learning from home. The plan includes the accommodations, services and instruction to address the student's unique needs. Case Study Evaluations will continue for students who are being evaluated for determination of special education services or who are being re-evaluated for services will come into the school for testing. Parents will be contacted to set up a testing date. Remember, parental permission for Tele Therapy is required. Parents of students who receive related services will be given a Parental Acknowledgement/Agreement regarding providing teletherapy services. We ask that you fill out the form and return it to the school. Please email Dr. Vedia Page at [pagev@sd149.org](mailto:pagev@sd149.org) or (708) 868-8300.

4. I don't have enough money for an computer and I don't want my child to fail so how would I get one? Your child must be registered at one of our schools in order to be given a chromebook. If your child attends school in the district, he/she should have a chromebook. If not, please contact your child's principal immediately.
5. Can I put my kid on full remote? You can register with the link sent last night on the town hall meeting to have your child participate on full online learning.
6. Will this eliminate having to send an entire class home and only quarantine those sick students? This new program of hybrid learning will not eliminate having to quarantine children and classrooms but it will minimize the number of classroom closures due to probable contact and close contact with students and adults in school who may test positive for Covid. Nothing is ever perfect or 100 percent but this is a great start. We will have to monitor the data and see.
7. Will you provide hot spots for those parents that don't have internet service at home? Yes, Dr. Young is the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Director and if you need a hot spot please, contact her at [youngb@sd149.org](mailto:youngb@sd149.org).
8. What's going to prevent the continuous 2 week quarantine? Transitioning to the hybrid model consistently will allow for smaller class sizes and reduce the possibility of a COVID outbreak in the schools.
9. How will at home children be attended to? Parents who choose online learning would have to make certain that children log on for class on time and complete all assignments.
10. How would you know if they have questions or concerns during your lesson since you're not directly in from of the computer? Using the Swivl Robot Program will allow the teacher to see the students at home as if they were in the classroom. If a student had a question he/she can raise their hand and the teacher would see the hand raised.
11. Can they switch between in person or virtual if needed? We are trying to provide consistency and stability for our children. If you run into an extenuating circumstance please contact your child's principal and teacher.
12. Do the in-person students need to provide proof of vaccination? At this time, the state does not allow us to require students to provide proof of vaccination. It is our hope that if a parent chooses to vaccinate their child that they share the information with the teacher if they so desire.
13. Can they do both in person and remote? At this time, due to the high surge we are just offering parents a choice to determine what is best for them. Parents may only choose one choice in-person or online for now.

14. Will the decision parents make via survey be for the duration of the pandemic or until the current surge decrease? The decision will be for the duration of the surge. We miss our students and want them in school but until the surge decreases, we believe this is the safest way.
15. What if you have multiple children in different grades? Do we fill it out twice? If you have multiple children in different grades and schools within the district, you must complete the registration form for each student.
16. Can parents choose to do virtual for a limited amount of time? If virtual meaning online learning is chosen how long will it last? The online learning is expected to last until the surge decreases. We hope this is for a limited amount of time but it is too early to determine.
17. Is there an option for hybrid, meaning the child is in class 2-3 days out of the week and remote the other days? We are trying to provide consistency and stability for our children. If you run into an extenuating circumstance, please contact your child's principal and teacher. At this time, due to the high surge we are just offering parents a choice to determine what is best for them. Parents may only choose one choice in-person or online for now.
18. When does this supposed to start? The optional hybrid-learning model will begin on Monday January 10, 2022.
19. If I choose in class learning and decide to switch to remote, will this be allowed? We are trying to provide consistency and stability for our children. If you run into an extenuating circumstance, please contact your child's principal and teacher.
20. Do y'all turn on the heat in Dirksen because I have to buy my daughter a lot of jackets because she be overly cold? Yes, we have been working with our HVAC company at CCA and we have also purchased new equipment. Our HVAC mechanical team is deployed out if we have HVAC concerns. We are trying to stabilize the problem. If a school in the middle school is cold, the principal can move the student to the other side of the building where it is warm when we run into HVAC issues.
21. Are you putting a cap on classroom sizes? What would be the benefit-choosing the hybrid if there aren't capped class sizes to limit exposure? The hybrid-learning model will not create class size caps but providing this option will reduce the number of students in every classroom.
22. If we choose virtual can we flip back to I'm-person? We are trying to provide consistency and stability for our children. If you run into an extenuating circumstance, please contact your child's principal and teacher.
23. If a student learns from home, how would they participate in specials (art and gym)? If a student learns from home and the special area teacher is not covering a general education teacher's

class due to illness or absence they will spend time online with their special area teacher or be given asynchronous activities if we fall into teacher shortage that day.

24. Do we know the time frame for the surge? I wish we knew the answer to this global crisis but as of right now, research states the virus must reach its peak before it begins to decrease.
25. Is this hybrid model available in all of the schools in the district what schools??? Does this include echo school? The hybrid mode is available at all of the schools in the district but not our cooperative school at ECHO.
26. My grandson is new to district 149 with the Chromebook learning will instructions be sent home for it? If your child is new to the district the principal and the classroom teacher need to hear from you about your concerns on how to use the chromebook. I am encouraging you to contact your child's principal and teacher immediately.
27. Is this hybrid model available at Carolyn sibley? Yes, the hybrid model program is available at Caroline Sibley for Monday January 10, 2022 until further notice.
28. Is it mandatory for kids to get vaccinated? No, the district is not in a position to mandate any vaccination requirements because we are not medical professionals. We are required to follow the CDC guidance.
29. What schools? Does this include ECHO school when originally their home school district 149? This only includes the schools in Dolton School District 149. Berger Vandenberg, Carol Moseley Braun School, Caroline Sibley School, Diekman Elementary School, Creative Communication Academy, School of Fine Arts and the Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics Academy. Echo is our Special Education Cooperative. This does not include students who attend our special education cooperative.
30. My son has been sick all of the school year and has been put on home bound. He would not be able to be in school, would he? If your child is ill and is currently receiving homebound services if you choose to select online learning he could learn at home online using his chromebook and he could be a part of the classroom with his actual teacher and classmates. If this is something you want to consider, please email or call Dr. Vedia Page, Special Education Director and she can work with you to determine what is best for your son. Her email address is [pagev@sd149.org](mailto:pagev@sd149.org) or you can contact the district office to reach Dr. Page at (708) 868-8300.
31. How long will this program last? The hybrid-learning model will last until the surge decreases. We do not know the exact time we must continue to watch the science and daily reported cases.
32. How will this effect 8th grade graduates? Like Graduation and Pictures? The eighth grade students expected to graduate will still take graduation pictures and a graduation will be planned even if we have to have multiple graduations like last school year. All 14 ceremonies

per school were beautiful and held in the middle school gym. We are committed to making sure our eighth students have a graduation and graduation pictures for the 2022 school year.

33. If the school goes remote what option will be available for other students who parents work? If the Governor places all schools in the state of Illinois back under an Executive Order every child will have to learn at home. Right now, no decision about going to a shut down or remote has been communicated.
34. So are there 2 options or 3? I'm asking because everyone's language isn't the same. Hybrid, remote, or in person? Hybrid blended Model is learning at home online or learning at school in person so, there are only two options.
35. How long will the hybrid e-learning last? Or is it for the rest of the school year? The hybrid-learning model will last until the surge decreases. We do not know the exact time we must continue to watch the science and daily reported cases.
36. Will the school district be hiring a school liaison for COVID and has the School district been in contact with the CDC to be appointed someone? The District has a head school nurse who works closely with the CDC and Department of Public Health. I will approach the Board of Education to see if they believe a school liaison outside of the head nurse is needed. I have a nurse from the CDC who is working with the district to determine our needs for covid testing and vaccines. As Dr. Cunneen stated at the town hall meeting he will have more information about designated testing sites within the district and we will schedule another meeting once we know more information.
37. Will the district request PEBT for home kids? The district does not have the autonomy to request the PEBT program. Parents were afforded the PEBT program in the state of Illinois under the Governor's Executive Order last school year. Only the Governor can make this decision.
38. How will you handle students that possibly may still test positive after the 14 days? because it could happen. The CDC states that students and adults who test positive for Covid could still test positive after 14 days so, it is recommended that your child sees his/her physician to obtain clearance to return back to school if he or she continues to test positive.
39. Will you consider a true hybrid model in which students go to school 2 to 3 days and are remote the other days? At this time, in an effort to minimize the spread of Covid we must have consistency and stability. What we have tried to do, as a district is offer parents the safest and best possible way to meet their needs by having two options: In-person or online learning at home.
40. My son was out twice for 14 days and I didn't let him come back without a negative test. Why not require it? I wish the district could require students to test but we can only recommend and suggest. We are not medical professionals. It is important to allow the National CDC to filter information and guidance down to the schools.

41. What about a blended option? The hybrid-blended option is online at home or in-person at school. At this time, in an effort to minimize the spread of Covid we must have consistency and stability. What we have tried to do, as a district is offer parents the safest and best possible way to meet their needs by having two options.
42. Can we get an answer to the question about whether or not you can change your mind if you start out remote? We are trying to provide consistency and stability for our children. If you run into an extenuating circumstance, please contact your child's principal and teacher.
43. Can you please address my question regarding additional hours online? Elementary Students will begin at 9:00 am and end at 3:30 pm with lunch, special area classes such as music, art or pe when available. The teacher will be responsible for setting up her daily schedule and providing mini breaks as needed.
44. So is swivel up and running or no? The Swivl is up and teachers will participate in retraining as needed throughout the school year as needed. Every teacher has the Swivl and robot in their classroom.
45. What is an Adaptive pause? Adaptive pause is another way of using the word quarantine. We are still quarantining our students and teacher if someone tested positive for 14 days.
46. Is there an option on the form to terminate bus service if the online option is selected? No, If your child receives door to door bus service in special education or pre-k, please contact Dr. Vedia Page, Special Education Director, [pagev@sd149.org](mailto:pagev@sd149.org) or April Davis, Director of Early Childhood for Pre-K programs at [isabellea@sd149.org](mailto:isabellea@sd149.org) and general transportation concerns to Dellnora Winters, Director of Grants and Transportation at [wintersd@sd149.org](mailto:wintersd@sd149.org).
47. Will this last to the end of the school year? The hybrid-learning model will last until the surge decreases. We do not know the exact time we must continue to watch the science and daily reported cases.
48. Will the school start giving food again like they did in the summer? I will follow up with the Board of Education to determine if this is something we can do at our January 19, 2022 board meeting. As soon as I know more about breakfast and lunch I will share the information via a phone blast if this request is possible.
49. Sometimes there is distracting background at home and would rather not turn on the camera. Can it be optional? The camera must be on so the teacher can see the student at all times. It suggested to find a space in the home for your child if possible.
50. Will you provide lunch for students that's going to be home? I will follow up with the Board of Education to determine if this is something we can do at our January 19, 2022 board meeting. As

soon as I know more about breakfast and lunch I will share the information via a phone blast if this request is possible.

51. Will remote learning start simultaneously at 9 as well? Hybrid learning program will begin at 9:00 am until 3:30 pm for elementary students in grades K-6. The middle school students in 7-8 grades will begin from 8:20 am until 2:50 pm Monday through Friday unless it is a holiday.
52. So now school tomorrow if a student was taken out? I live with my aunt and her kids go to school with my sister and will just the one not go???? The hybrid-learning model will begin on Monday January 10, 2022.
53. How come the students can't wear an different color jacket in school because the school jackets isn't good enough I don't want them to have the flu? At this time, we will not focus on the color of the students jacket if they are cold we want them to be warm.
54. Do we make this decision tonight? If you are able to make the decision tonight it would really help the teachers and principals with planning for Monday January 10, 2022. If your child is in-person learning, we just ask that you do not send he/she to school if someone in the household is exhibiting symptoms or has COVID.
55. Will this eliminate having to send an entire class home and only quarantine those sick students? No, we will still have to quarantine or adaptive pause a classroom for 14 days to ensure the safety of all students and staff who may have been in close contact.