

Frequently Asked Questions – FAQs

CUSD Elementary In-Person Instructional Model

Below are frequently asked questions regarding the In-Person Instructional Model that is being offered to students/families. **Questions related to COVID-19 health and safety protocols will be addressed in a separate FAQ. We are working with most recent updates from the state and county departments of health to provide accurate protocols and safety measures.**

For additional information regarding the Virtual/In-Person transitional program, please contact your student's enrolled school.

- 1. Will students be able to maintain social distancing in the classroom? If so, how will social distancing be managed in the classroom?**
 - A. Based on our current enrollment numbers along with the anticipated enrollment in the Online-Elementary Connect option through the district's Chandler Online Academy, our class sizes should be reduced providing sufficient distancing of students. Staff will educate and remind students regularly to maintain at least 6 feet of distance between individuals when feasible. Students will be positioned in classrooms to face the same direction. Social distancing in all classrooms will remain a priority. When students and staff are not able to achieve social distancing recommendations, a facial covering will be required.

- 2. If grade level classrooms need to be combined, will the class enrollment be reduced?**
 - A. If classrooms are combined, we will take into consideration the multi-grade level factors and the ability to grade band students with common academic needs when creating class rosters. Social distancing in all classrooms will remain a priority.

- 3. Will my child be required to wear a facial covering while at school? If my child has special needs, will they be exempt from this requirement? How will this be enforced?**
 - A. In compliance with Maricopa County, City and Town Guidelines, and the C.U.S.D. Governing Board, all Kindergarten students and above are required to wear face coverings in public places where persons are unable to maintain continuous physical distancing of 6 feet or more. The Arizona Department of Health has established guidelines for medical exemptions to this policy which will be communicated to parents. While this requirement is in place, parents will be notified, and students will be socially distanced during the remainder of the school day or provided an optional face covering, unless a student is medically exempt from requiring such facial coverings. Face Shields are an appropriate facial covering should a mask or cloth covering not be available. See Health and Safety FAQs forthcoming.

- 4. What if a child forgets their facial covering?**
 - A. Although schools may have a limited supply, an alternative face covering may be provided. Parents may want to purchase a pencil pouch to store additional face coverings, so students are prepared.

- 5. What are the criteria for discontinuation of the facial covering policy?**
 - A. The criteria will be based on county and state requirements in conjunction with guidance and advisement from the Superintendent and Governing Board.

6. Is there a form or process to obtain an exemption to the Facial Covering policy?

- A. Facial covering exemptions will be permitted with medical clearance from a licensed health care provider for students and/or staff who fall under the CDC guidance of those who should not wear a face covering due to a medical or mental health condition or developmental disability.

7. What is the facial covering procedure during lunch and outdoor activity?

- A. Where social distancing criteria is met, students may have facial coverings with them but not worn. This includes outdoor physical activity. Students will be socially distanced at lunch time, at each table, and will not require facial coverings during their time eating.

8. What are the protocols for hand washing?

- A. Most elementary classrooms have sinks for handwashing, and all classrooms will be provided hand sanitizer. Students will wash their hands with soap and water at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer at the following times:
 - a. Upon arrival at school
 - b. After being outside for physical activity
 - c. Before and after lunch
 - d. Prior to leaving school for home
 - e. After sneezing, coughing, or blowing nose

9. Will hand sanitizer be available in lieu of hand washing each day?

- A. YES

10. What are the protocols for restroom use and refilling of water bottles?

- A. Students will have access to restrooms throughout the day. Clear social distancing requirements will be posted and reinforced in each classroom, and restrooms will have signage as to social distance markers, number of students allowed, and proper handwashing techniques. Students will be permitted to enter the restrooms in groups no larger than the number of stalls/urinals in the restroom. Restroom breaks will be monitored by the teacher to ensure social distance requirements are being met. Water bottles must be labeled with student's name, and refilling will be determined by each site. Drinking directly from water fountains will be prohibited.

11. What are the enhanced sanitization and disinfecting procedures?

- A. All horizontal surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected multiple times per day. High traffic areas will maintain regular sanitization and disinfecting schedules. Restrooms and Health Office will be disinfected at a minimum of two times daily. We are exploring disinfectants that provide rapid sanitization for longer periods of time. We are discouraging the sharing of supplies. Any shared equipment will be disinfected after use.

12. Will students' temperatures be monitored? If so, what is the expectation/guidelines for this process?

A. Prior to sending a student to school, parents will be required to temperature check their child as well as check for any COVID-19 related symptoms. If a student exhibits symptoms at school, they will be temperature checked in the Health Office.

13. Will students receive recess? How will students maintain social distancing during non-classroom activities?

A. YES. Recess schedules will be staggered and monitored. Social distancing will be reinforced. Sites will identify specific areas that can be assigned to classroom use.

14. Will students gather for assemblies and school events?

A. NO

15. Will student field trips still be allowed?

A. Not during the first quarter. An assessment will be made for 2nd quarter and beyond.

16. Will students be allowed to work in small groups with other students?

A. Students will be provided opportunities to work in small groups only if facial coverings are worn and/or social distancing can be maintained.

17. How will the district ensure substitute coverage for potential teacher absences?

A. We will maximize non-classroom staff, provide site specific substitute teachers, and increase our pool of substitute teachers.

18. Will there be difficulty with students moving from the Online Option (Elementary Connect) to the In-person option?

A. We ask that once a parent chooses the online option that a commitment be made for one quarter, semester, or year. However, exceptions will be made on a case-by-case basis.

19. How will students transition if classrooms are departmentalized?

A. We will minimize student transitions as much as possible. If departmentalization impacts the same group of students, teachers will transition to the students. If departmentalization impacts a mixed group of students, transitions will include disinfecting desks and shared equipment.

20. How will student learning be handled during any quarantine period? Will their assigned teachers remain the same if they are quarantined?

A. Students will be provided with instructional materials and teacher outreach. Teachers will be equipped to connect students to learning through virtual technologies. Depending upon the duration of the quarantine, students will be provided a virtual learning environment which would include connection and teaching from their regular teacher. Enrollment in the Elementary Connect-Chandler Online Academy may be considered should the duration of the quarantine be extended.

- 21. What will be the criteria for requiring classrooms or entire schools to close? How will student learning be delivered if an entire classroom or school is required to close?**
- A. School closures will be determined in conjunction with county and state health departments. Parents will be notified immediately, and a transitional-virtual learning environment will be provided for the mandated closure period. If determined to be an extended period of time, Elementary Connect-Chandler Online Academy may be provided as an option.
- 22. Will elementary specials be offered (Music, PE, Technology/Media, Band & Orchestra)?**
- A. YES. Alternative curriculums will be in place for the first quarter.
- 23. Why is Hybrid Learning not being used?**
- A. In order to be eligible for state funding, a Hybrid model, (for example where half of the students attend class 2 days per week and remain at home 2 days per week with online learning), requires our schools to be open to all students five days per week and resources available for off-track students. This model brings its own set of challenges and will require us to have additional space and staffing to supervise and support the students who are not in class. Schools would also need to provide full day childcare for off-track students. There is no strong evidence that rotational tracks of attendance mitigate COVID-19 exposures.
- 24. If school does not start, will a virtual learning opportunity be provided to our students? What will this programming look like?**
- A. YES. Students will be assigned to their in-person teacher at their enrolled site. This teacher will stay with the same cohort of students and transition to in-person/brick and mortar instruction when approved. Students will have access to all content including specials and live instruction through a virtual platform, five days a week.
- 25. Will parents be surveyed into the school year to gather feedback as to student learning?**
- A. YES. We will survey parents first quarter.
- 26. What will student lunchtime look like?**
- A. Students will be social distanced 3 per table and will face one direction. Outside dining (weather permitting) will be utilized. In cases where social distancing cannot be maintained, a combination of classroom and cafeteria usage will occur.
- 27. If a student is enrolled in Chandler Online - Elementary Connect, will they maintain their seat at their Open Enrolled/Neighborhood school?**
- A. YES
- 28. Is the curriculum identical between the Online-Elementary Connect and In-Person instructional model?**
- A. NO. However, curriculum will meet the standards for grade level, acceleration, and intervention.
- 29. Will parents be able to volunteer and/or visit classrooms?**
- A. Not at this time.

30. What is the procedure for student arrival on campus?

- A. Students will report directly to their classroom or cafeteria if they are eating breakfast. Schools will provide further information specific to their site

31. What is the procedure for student dismissal from campus?

- A. Students will be dismissed by staggering departure choice (walkers, bike riders, Kids Express, parent pickup, etc.). Schools will provide further information specific to their site. Older students will be dismissed along with younger siblings.

32. Is half-day Kindergarten available?

- A. YES. This option has always been available to our families. Parents work with the school administrator to choose either an AM or PM portion of a full-day option.

33. Will childcare be provided to the public from August 5th through the re-opening of schools?

- A. YES to CUSD enrolled students. Enrollment will be subject to limited availability.

34. Once schools re-open, will before and after school childcare be available?

- A. YES

35. When will childcare be offered for ages infant-five years old?

- A. July 27, 2020 at Hamilton, Chandler, Basha, and Perry High Schools. Sign up through Community Education

36. Will students be social distanced on busses?

- A. Where social distancing cannot be maintained, students are required to wear facial coverings or parents may opt to transport student to and from school. Students with any COVID-19 symptoms or temperature will not be transported.

37. Who decides if we are in Phase 2 of the Governor's plan?

- A. The Governor along with state health agencies will communicate out which phase we are in based on multiple factors.

38. What if families have vacations scheduled over the Intersession break that has now been revised to student days?

- A. Online students have access to course materials and schools will work with families to provide alternatives for pre-scheduled absences.

39. Will outside community groups still be able to reserve elementary schools for non-school related events? If so, how will the rooms utilized be disinfected?

- A. Use of facilities from outside groups will not be provided Monday-Friday. Weekend use will require enhanced disinfecting procedures and COVID-19 waivers from participants.

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CUSD Elementary Connect-Chandler Online Academy

Elementary Connect was created to meet the needs of our learners both academically and socially. The intent of the program is replicate the experiences of a brick and mortar environment in an online setting. **Instruction through Elementary-Connect will start August 5, 2020.**

For additional information regarding either the *Elementary Connect Online Instructional model* or *Secondary Chandler Online Academy Instructional model*, please call Chandler Online Academy at 480-812-6350.

- 1. How frequently will students have teacher-led lessons and what platforms will be used for these? Will they be live or recorded?**
 - A. Each Elementary Connect pathway will feature at least three live daily interactions with the teacher. Students will confer daily as a class to set the stage for the day, engage in social emotional curriculum, and build relationships. Teachers will provide small group skill-based live instruction based on each student's needs as driven by data collected from the self-paced content and other assessment protocols. Additionally, teachers may choose to provide additional live opportunities for science and social science to support and engage students with the curriculum. Elementary Connect will use Google Meets for live interactions and various screen-recording tools for any pre-recorded lessons.
- 2. Will students follow a typical school schedule?**
 - A. Yes. Students will follow a typical school schedule with lunch and movement breaks, as well as specials, and small group instructional opportunities. See sample schedules for further reference.
- 3. Will the students who participate in online instruction be able to develop a cohort they identify with and belong to, as they do in regular classrooms? What activities will be focused on this endeavor?**
 - A. Each student will be assigned a teacher and classmates based on their selected pathway. They will engage in community building activities, group projects, small group instructional opportunities, and social emotional curriculum together. They will also attend virtual fields and have time to collaborate in various instances.
- 4. How many hours per day will students need access to a computer? If a student doesn't have access to a computer due to parents' scheduled use, will the district be able to provide one?**
 - A. Students will need access to a computer for 3-5 hours per day. While some activities can be conducted offline, they might need a computer to submit these offline assignments. If students do not have access to a computer, the district will provide the student with the necessary technology to access Elementary Connect materials and content.
- 5. What curriculum will Elementary Connect students be using?**
 - A. All pathways will be utilizing Florida Virtual School (FLVS) curriculum as a content baseline in some capacity. For the gifted pathway, students will be using FLVS for science and social science and specialized gifted curriculum for other content areas. For all other pathways (CTA, DLI, General) students will be using FLVS for all content areas. While FLVS is the baseline, online teachers will be

adding curricular programs that align specifically with their pathway. For program examples, please see the sample pathway schedules.

6. Will they participate in group projects?

- A. Teachers have the option to create collaborative experiences and group projects outside of what is provided within FLVS (which has embedded opportunities for group projects) and will work to provide these opportunities to students. This might include STEM projects, project-based learning, or other real-world connections.

7. How would completed work be submitted?

- A. Students will progress through the FLVS content in the BUZZ platform, and this is where students work will be submitted. Additionally, teachers will also use Google Classroom, and assignments and work can be submitted through this platform as well.

8. Will there be any training provided students and parents for accessing and using the chosen platforms? Who will we ask for assistance?

- A. We will be developing virtual tutorials and holding virtual meetings for our Elementary Connect parents. These tutorials will provide necessary input to assist their child in navigating Google Classroom, Google Meets and Buzz (which is the tool that students will use to access FLVS).

9. Does the Elementary Connect curriculum align to the Arizona State Standards?

- A. The purchased content resource for Elementary Connect aligns with our Language Arts and Mathematics standards. It does not align with the Social Science and new Arizona Science state standards. To create a strong alignment, our team created modules, pulled from Integrated Units, to enhance the self-paced content resource to see that students have a robust experience that addresses Arizona standards. Additional licensing has been purchased to further enhance the virtual experience for our elementary students.

10. If my student transfers between Elementary Connect and brick and mortar will there be major gaps in learning?

- A. The self-paced content used in Elementary Connect aligns with Arizona State standards but does not address the content in the same order as the brick and mortar setting, so there may be small academic gaps. This is not abnormal as we receive students from other districts, and sometimes other CUSD schools with similar gaps. Our teachers are trained to assess and identify areas which need refinement. A sample schedule is provided on the CUSD website under elementary virtual options to identify SELF-PACED learning time and LIVE instruction times.

11. It looks like FVLS requires a printer for some of their assignments. If this is the requirement, will students be provided copies of materials or printers?

- A. While most of the work will be done within the online platform, there may be an instance where a paper worksheet is required. We will not be supplying paper copies or printers for students and families. Each family will be responsible for attaining these materials.

- 12. Can a student be enrolled in multiple Elementary Connect tracks (ie. Gifted and Dual Immersion)?**
- A. At this time, Elementary Connect does not allow for students to be enrolled in two different academic tracks. As we continue to develop our elementary virtual academy, we will keep in mind the potential options for enrollment.
- 13. How will the needs of Chandler Traditional Academy (CTA) students be met?**
- A. Students who are enrolled in the CTA track will be placed in cohorts to allow for the conversations in the LIVE portions of the virtual learning environment to involve vocabulary and tasks aligned to CTA resources. Both Saxon and Spalding will be added as a supplementary component of Elementary Connect. These resources will be used in addition to the self-paced content courses to provide consistency in CTA programming. The course sequence will follow the model of the brick and mortar setting.
- 14. How will the needs of Gifted Education students be met? Who will be teaching the gifted track for Elementary Connect?**
- A. A gifted endorsed teacher from our self-contained gifted program will be teaching each track and are encouraged to use the adopted gifted resources and, most importantly, utilize teaching strategies which engage the gifted learner to the virtual setting. Student will use both Florida Virtual School curriculum and specialized gifted resources housed within Google Classroom.
- 15. How does the Dual Language Immersion program fit into Elementary Connect?**
- A. At present, we plan to incorporate self-paced Mandarin Matrix and Descubre into the school day during special rotation block. In addition to the use of Mandarin Matrix/Descubre, we will be providing conversational Mandarin and Spanish experiences between teacher and students for approximately 20-30 minutes. Depending on teacher schedule, these conversations may happen outside the school day or during the school day, should time permit.
- 16. Will there be any training provided students and parents for accessing and using the chosen platforms? Who will we ask for assistance?**
- A. We will be developing virtual tutorials and holding virtual meetings for our Elementary Connect parents. These tutorials will provide necessary input to assist their child in navigating Google Classroom, Google Meets and Buzz. We will communicate a technical assistance process.
- 17. If the student(s) return to regular classrooms during the second or subsequent quarters, will they be integrated into classrooms with members of their online group or assigned to separate classrooms?**
- A. Attempts will be made to keep students from each school site in the online environment together, however pending enrollment, it is not guaranteed.
- 18. Will students Elementary Connect-Chandler Online have proctored assessments?**
- A. Yes. Assessment will be proctored online or in person.
- 19. Will small group instruction occur to assist in addressing learning gaps?**
- A. YES, in an online setting.

20. What electronic devices are required to participate in the Elementary Connect – Chandler Online Academy?

- A. Elementary Connect at Chandler Online Academy courses are designed to be accessible from a wide variety of computer systems and require only basic software applications/plugin that can be downloaded from the internet at no cost to students. It is most likely that your system has already been updated with the necessary components to access our courses. Please ensure your computer meets the software/hardware requirements described in this link.

<https://www.cusd80.com/Domain/4364>. Go to the Technology tab.

21. Are daily lessons live or recorded? Will there be a platform for students to ask questions?

- A. Daily lessons will be delivered via the online program using Florida Virtual School, and students will progress through the material at their own pace while also following a daily schedule. Additionally, teachers will be providing at least three live lessons daily (small group and whole group) with students to meet the needs of the specific learners. There may be recorded lessons used to support and supplement instruction provided in the self-paced portion of learning. The Google Classroom platform will be used to communicate and ask/answer questions.

22. How will live teaching be integrated with online self-paced learning?

- A. Google Classroom will be used to house online self-paced and live opportunities. There will be live support provided from the online instructor during transitions between content areas, especially for our early learners. Google Meets may be used to help keep students on track, as well as support students if they are confused or need additional instruction at any time.