



South Orange & Maplewood School District Phase 4 & 5 Reopening Update

Dr. Ronald G. Taylor | April 19, 2021 (revised 4/22)

Purpose

- + **To update the Board of Education and our community regarding our preparation for Phase 4 & 5 reopening plan including:**
 - Details of our families' hybrid selection
 - Reopening Phase-In
 - Ventilation upgrades
 - Partition usage to assist with social distancing
 - YMCA Childcare

Inclusive of:

- A breakdown of the demographics of those families who selected hybrid vs.virtual selection





Hybrid Selection

Since our initial reopening survey to families regarding returning to in-person learning, we have offered additional opportunities for 'opting-in'. The following represents the statistics as of our March 25th deadline.

Overall Cohort Selection by both Numbers and Percentage



<u>School</u>	<u>Hybrid</u>	<u>Virtual</u>	<u>Total</u>
CHS	1148	782	1931
CLIN	421	160	581
JEFF	367	97	464
MARS	340	88	428
MECC*	164	50	222
MMS	551	237	788
SB	290	167	457
SM	457	140	597
SOMS	488	290	778
TUSC	459	113	573
Total	4685	2124	6819



<u>School</u>	<u>Hybrid</u>	<u>Virtual</u>	<u>Total</u>
CHS	59%	40%	100%
CLIN	72%	28%	100%
JEFF	79%	21%	100%
MARS	79%	21%	100%
MECC*	74%	23%	100%
MMS	70%	30%	100%
SB	63%	37%	100%
SM	77%	23%	100%
SOMS	63%	37%	100%
TUSC	80%	20%	100%
<u>Total</u>	<u>69%</u>	<u>31%</u>	<u>100%</u>

Districtwide Racial Breakdown of Cohort Selection



<u>Race</u>	<u>Student Population</u>	<u>Hybrid</u>	<u>Virtual</u>
Asian	4%	51%	49%
Black	25%	49%	51%
Hispanic/ Latinx	4%	56%	44%
Multiple Races	13%	71%	29%
White	55%	80%	20%
Native American / Pacific Islander	0.3%	44%	56%
<u>District Total</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>69%</u>	<u>31%</u>

High Level Summary

Regarding our parental selection for in-person instructional opportunities (hybrid)-

- + 68% of families have selected Hybrid (4,685).
- + The younger grades selected hybrid at a higher percentage.
 - Preschool Programs - 74%
 - Elementary Schools - 75%
 - Middle Schools - 66%
 - CHS - 59%

[Further in this presentation I will share information on instructional preference by race and address achievement gaps]



Phase 4 & 5

Preparation

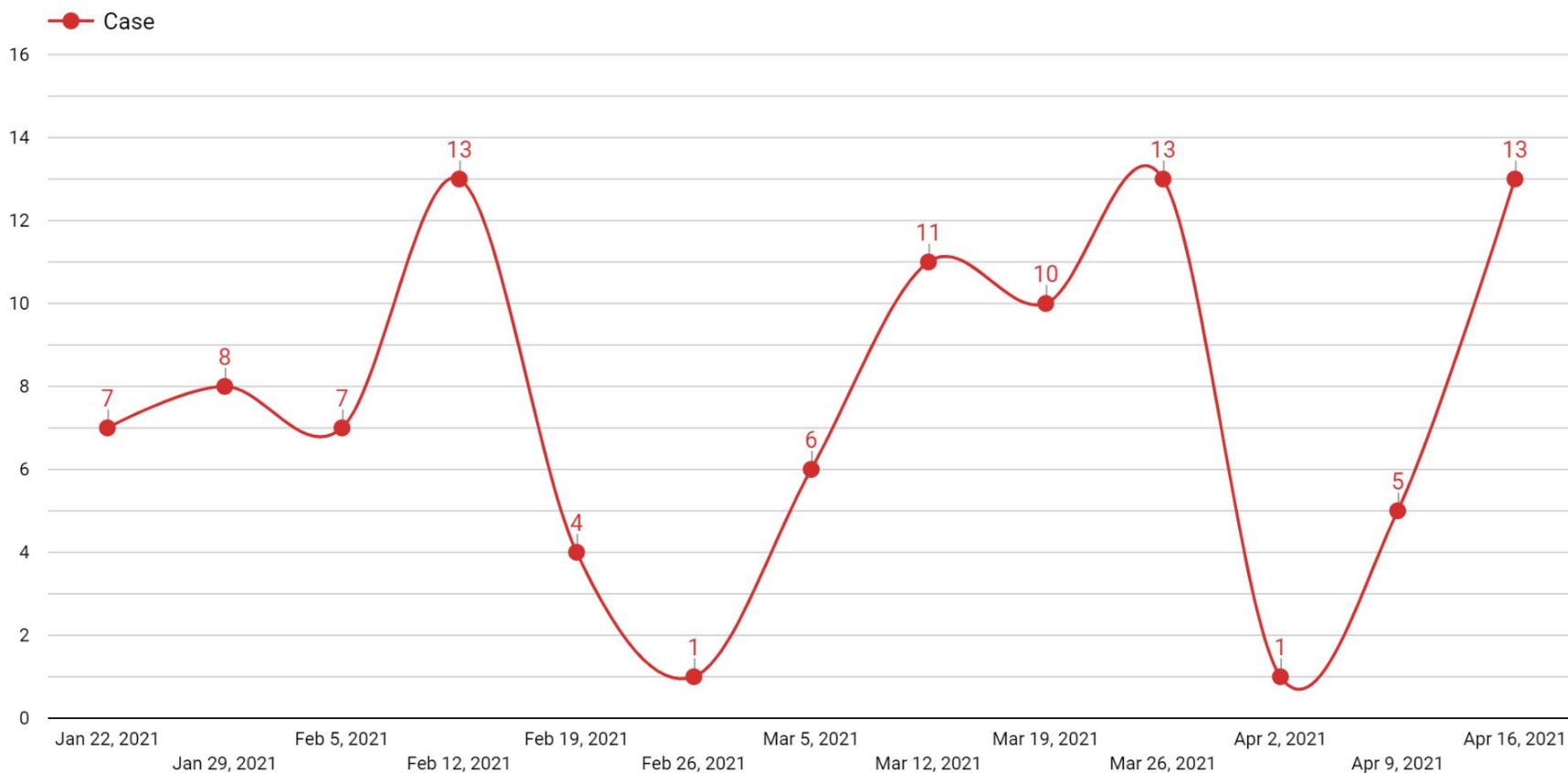


Necessity for Post Spring Break Quarantine and continued Vigilance



South Orange Maplewood School District Covid - 19 Dashboard

Weekly New Cases - Line / Time Series





Returning to the classroom

SOMSD: APRIL 19 SCHOOL REOPENING UPDATES

Dr. Ronald G. Taylor, Superintendent of Schools | April 9, 2021

2021 SOMSD Schools Stages of Re-entry *(as of April 9, 2021)*

CURRENT
STATUS

April 19 – April 23

PHASE 3 (continuation)

- PreK - 2 students hybrid students (including new hybrid students) return to schools in current two-day a week cohort schedules
- Middle school, 6th grade hybrid students (including new students) return to in-person learning cohort schedules
- CHS, 9th grade students (including new hybrid students) return to in-person learning cohort schedules

• Note: Friday, April 23 will be a District-wide Asynchronous Day

Note: Teachers can enter schools to prepare for reopening by contacting their building Principals

- Apr. 5 – Apr. 16: Post Spring break District-wide virtual instruction for recommended precautionary quarantine period
- Apr. 19: All grades return to schools for continued hybrid instruction

April 26 – April 30

PHASE 4

Elementary:

- All PreK – 2 hybrid student cohorts (A, B and C) will be combined/consolidated
- Students will attend school 5 days a week, as per your current school schedules (PreK early dismissal, K-2, four-hour schedules)
- Special Services: ELL, POR and Self-Contained programs in grades K-5 will be in school 5 days a week beginning on April 26
- Virtual Fridays will discontinue
- Students who have opted for virtual instruction will continue to sign-in via Google Meet/CANVAS

Due to social distancing guidelines middle and high school students will continue to operate in cohort schedules with virtual Fridays

Special Services students will continue with 4-day in-person schedules for both middle and CHS

Middle Schools:

- 6th grade hybrid students will continue and 8th grade hybrid students will join and follow cohort schedules and virtual Fridays. Four-hour schedules will be in place.

CHS:

- 9th grade hybrid students will continue and 12th grade students will join and follow cohort schedules and virtual Fridays. Four-hour schedules will still be in place.

May 3 – June 24

PHASE 5

Elementary:

- Grades 3 - 5 in-person hybrid students will return to classrooms in one combined/consolidated cohort for their classrooms (joining PreK - 2 students)
- Students will attend school in-person 5 days a week, in 4 hour sessions (there will be no virtual Fridays)
- Students who have opted for virtual instruction will continue to sign-in via Google Meet/CANVAS

Middle Schools & CHS:

Due to social distancing guidelines, cohort schedules and virtual Fridays will continue as normal for middle schools and CHS

- All remaining secondary grade levels who have opted for in-person hybrid instruction will join their current middle school and high school counterparts (for middle school, 7th graders; for CHS, 10th and 11th graders)

PHASE 6 – FULLY REOPEN

All schools are operating in-person at normal Schedules (based on Governor's mandate)
Timing: Sept 2021

All re-entry decisions are made taking into consideration guidance from the Maplewood and South Orange health departments and federal and state guidelines.

*PHASE 1 & 2:

Virtual/remote learning for all students

Limited Special Education programs in-person

*Phase 1: Mar. 16, 2020 – Jan. 8, 2021

*Phase 2: Jan. 11-15, 2021, teachers/staff return to school buildings and central office

**Phase 3: Jan 19 - Present

FULL-REMOTE LEARNING (For families that opt out of in-person learning)

Phase 4: April 26 – April 30 (transition phase)

School Level	Details	Dates
Elementary	<p>Students will now attend school 5 days a week, as per their current school schedules.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PreK - 2 hybrid cohorts (A, B and C) will now be combined/consolidated attending school 5 days a week (PreK within their current early dismissal schedules; and K-2 in their current 4-hour day schedules) • Special Services: ELL, multi-subject POR and Self-Contained programs in grades K-5 will be in school 5 days a week beginning on April 26 • Virtual Fridays will discontinue • Students who have opted for virtual/remote instruction will continue to sign-in via Google Meet/CANVAS for virtual instruction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Starting on Monday, April 26 • <i>Due to decreased three-feet social distancing guidelines for elementary school students cohorts will be combined/consolidated</i> • <i>Snack/lunches will not be served ("grab and go" lunch is available to all students upon dismissal)</i>
Middle School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6th grade hybrid students will continue and 8th grade hybrid students will join and follow cohort schedules and virtual Fridays. Four-hour schedules will be in place. • Special Services: ELL, multi-subject POR, i-Step and Self-Contained students will continue school 4 days a week 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Due to six-feet social distancing guidelines middle and high school students will continue to operate in cohort schedules with virtual Fridays in operation.</i>
CHS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9th grade hybrid students will continue and 12th grade students will join and follow cohort schedules and virtual Fridays. Four- hour schedules will still be in place. • Special Services: ELL, multi-subject POR and Self-Contained students will continue school 4 days a week 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Due to social distancing guidelines high school students will continue to operate in cohort schedules with virtual Fridays in operation.</i>

Phase 5: May 3 – June 24 (end of school year)

The design below represents our goal for the final 8 weeks of the school year. We must note that this design is contingent upon both the continued advice of our local departments' of health as they monitor community spread of Covid 19 and our continued partnership with SOMEA.

School Level	Details	Dates
Elementary	<p>Students will attend school 5 days a week, as per their current school schedules. There will be no virtual Fridays.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grades 3 -5 in-person hybrid students will return to schools in one consolidated group (joining the PreK - 2 students)• Students who have opted for virtual/remote instruction will continue to sign-in via Google Meet/CANVAS for virtual instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Starting on Monday, May 3• End of the school year for grades PreK - 6; 7/9 is June 23• End of school year for grades 8; 10/11/12 is June 24• Snack/lunches will not be served ("grab and go" lunch is available to all students upon dismissal)
Middle School	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All 7th grade students who have opted for in-person hybrid instruction will join their current middle school for in-person instruction• Special Services students will continue with 4-day in-person schedules	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Due to social distancing guidelines middle and high school students will continue to operate in cohort schedules• Virtual Friday's for middle schools will be revisited for Phase 5 and further information will follow
CHS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All 10th and 11th grade who have opted for in-person hybrid instruction will join their high school counterparts for in-person instruction• Special Services students will continue with 4-day in-person schedules	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Due to social distancing guidelines middle and high school students will continue to operate in cohort schedules• Virtual Friday's for CHS will be revisited for Phase 5 and further information will follow

Ventilation Upgrades

We have come to an agreement with SOMEA regarding mechanical ventilation. We have purchased more than 200 air purification units that are being disseminated and will result in many more classrooms and instructional spaces being available for our Phased Reopening.



Individual Partitions for Social Distancing

(More information in our appendix*)

As we shared in our previous communique, Governor Murphy's recent allowance for 3 feet of social distancing for elementary schools will allow us to both combine our cohorts and shift to a 5 day per week methodology.

In accordance with the recent CDC and NJDOH guidance*, we have purchased individual partitions for each of our elementary students whose families have indicated they are returning for hybrid learning. This does not mean that each student will utilize a desk partition daily, but it is a fail safe to assist our teachers in efficiently organizing our classrooms in the safest and most age appropriate way.



New Student Partition...

<https://youtu.be/hpV9umBhdqc>



[View Larger Image](#)

[Rollover image to pan and zoom](#)



[See All Images](#)

YMCA Childcare Update



YMCA CHILDCARE UPDATES

- + Our partners at the YMCA have returned for hybrid programming. The Y will continue their normal aftercare services at their applicable sites when the district shifts to Phase 5. Any parents with specific questions i.e. hours of operation, programming etc., should contact the YMCA directly.



Cohort Selection by Race & Achievement Gap



Cohort Selection by School inclusive of Race



<u>CHS</u>	<u>Student Population</u>	<u>Hybrid</u>	<u>Virtual</u>
Asian	4%	34%	66%
Black	32%	43%	57%
Hispanic/ Latinx	5%	42%	58%
Multiple Races	9%	65%	35%
White	51%	73%	27%
<u>Total</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>59%</u>	<u>41%</u>

<u>MMS</u>	<u>Student Population</u>	<u>Hybrid</u>	<u>Virtual</u>
Asian	3%	63%	38%
Black	30%	44%	56%
Hispanic/ Latinx	4%	76%	24%
Multiple Races	8%	78%	22%
White	54%	83%	17%
<u>Total</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>70%</u>	<u>30%</u>

<u>SOMS</u>	<u>Student Population</u>	<u>Hybrid</u>	<u>Virtual</u>
Asian	4%	39%	61%
Black	24%	46%	55%
Hispanic/ Latinx	3%	30%	70%
Multiple Races	13%	66%	34%
White	56%	73%	27%
<u>Total</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>63%</u>	<u>37%</u>

<u>CLIN</u>	<u>Student Population</u>	<u>Hybrid</u>	<u>Virtual</u>
Asian	5%	61%	39%
Black	20%	55%	45%
Hispanic/ Latinx	5%	62%	38%
Multiple Races	11%	65%	35%
White	58%	83%	17%
<u>Total</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>72%</u>	<u>28%</u>

<u>JEFF</u>	<u>Student Population</u>	<u>Hybrid</u>	<u>Virtual</u>
Asian	4%	68%	32%
Black	18%	53%	47%
Hispanic/ Latinx	2%	67%	33%
Multiple Races	15%	81%	19%
White	61%	87%	13%
<u>Total</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>79%</u>	<u>21%</u>

<u>MARS</u>	<u>Student Population</u>	<u>Hybrid</u>	<u>Virtual</u>
Asian	2%	75%	25%
Black	17%	54%	46%
Hispanic/ Latinx	1%	100%	0%
Multiple Races	18%	74%	26%
White	62%	88%	12%
<u>Total</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>79%</u>	<u>21%</u>

<u>SB</u>	<u>Student Population</u>	<u>Hybrid</u>	<u>Virtual</u>
Asian	2%	38%	63%
Black	52%	53%	47%
Hispanic/ Latinx	3%	71%	29%
Multiple Races	16%	63%	37%
White	27%	86%	14%
<u>Total</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>63%</u>	<u>37%</u>

<u>SM</u>	<u>Student Population</u>	<u>Hybrid</u>	<u>Virtual</u>
Asian	5%	72%	28%
Black	11%	66%	34%
Hispanic/ Latinx	2%	71%	29%
Multiple Races	18%	72%	28%
White	64%	80%	20%
<u>Total</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>77%</u>	<u>23%</u>

<u>TUSC</u>	<u>Student Population</u>	<u>Hybrid</u>	<u>Virtual</u>
Asian	3%	47%	53%
Black	11%	56%	44%
Hispanic/ Latinx	3%	64%	36%
Multiple Races	15%	78%	22%
White	68%	87%	13%
<u>Total</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>80%</u>	<u>20%</u>

High Level Summary Continued...

The review of our District's hybrid/virtual selection (breakdown), as well as this year's student achievement data (thus far), reveals what many national reports have shared... there are significant racial and socioeconomic disparities in how **'we'** are experiencing the effect of the pandemic.

[NEWS »](#)[News](#)[Best Countries](#)[Best States](#)[Healthiest Communities](#)[Cities](#)[Elections](#)[The Racial Divide](#)[Photos](#)[2021 Best Countries »](#) [See the Worst Countries for Racial Equality](#)[Home](#) / [News](#) / [Education News](#)

Data Reveals Significant Racial Disparities in School Reopening

More than half of all Black, Hispanic and Asian fourth-graders were in a remote learning environment as of January.

By [Lauren Camera](#) | March 24, 2021, at 12:01 a.m.

Reticent Families in NYC, LA Could Prove True Test For School Reopenings, Even As Gallup Poll Reveals Overwhelming Parent Support Nationwide

By ASHER LEHRER-SMALL | March 25, 2021



(Christopher Evans / Getty Images)

Seventy-nine percent of parents support in-person learning for schools in



TALKING POINTS

- 79% of parents support in-person learning for schools in their communities, according to @GallupNews poll from mid-March, but families' upcoming decisions in @NYCSchools @LASchools may prove the true test of reopenings
- Working parents — who have borne the brunt of school closures as they juggle childcare and employment — are among the most supportive of school reopenings, Gallup poll finds



SIGN UP FOR

High Level Summary Continued...

While there was of course no ‘silver bullet’ or ‘magic pill’ to alleviate the *achievement gap* that existed pre-Covid 19; there most certainly is no ‘quick-fix’ for the exacerbated need for both academic intervention/acceleration and Social and Emotional recovery for our most underserved/underrepresented students.

Our planning and execution will be multifaceted and is embedded in our daily work. Some examples of this work include:

- + Upcoming parental summer program survey
- + Recently released grading accommodations
- + Considerations of systemic tutorial and academic support for the 2021-2022 school year



Summer Programs Survey

Parent/Guardian summer program survey for students will be distributed to the community this week.

SUMMER PROGRAMS

Parent/Guardian Survey



SOMSD Parent/Guardian Summer Programs Survey

We are currently planning multiple summer programs for our K-12 students. This survey will help the District gather information on parent/guardian interest in having their child(ren) attend our summer programs. The information gathered will also guide our decisions in staffing, materials and number of classes needs. Please fill out (1) survey per child who will or might attend a summer program. Days and times are subject to change slightly. We will



The School District of

**SOUTH ORANGE
& MAPLEWOOD**

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Appendix

- + <https://www.usnews.com/news/education-news/articles/2021-03-24/data-reveal-significant-racial-disparities-in-school-reopening>
- + <https://www.the74million.org/article/families-in-nyc-la-could-prove-true-test-for-school-reopenings-even-as-gallup-poll-reveals-overwhelming-parent-support-nationwide/>
- + https://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/RecommendationsForLocalHealthDepts_K12Schools.pdf
 - Page 4: at the bottom... "Consider physical barriers/partitions as an acceptable additional mitigation strategy where feasible".
- + <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/operation-strategy.html>
- + https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/FINAL-0321420_B_K-12_Mitigation_Toolkit508.pdf
 - At-A-Glance: Mitigation Strategies "Public health officials, K-12 administrators, school district officials, and occupational safety and health professionals can use this resource to help reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 at schools. To use this tool, walk through the school building, in-person or virtually, to assess if the strategies are planned or implemented in each setting and modify plans appropriately and where feasible to ensure a safe opening. It is important to remember this is not an exhaustive list; it is a set of select COVID-19 mitigation strategies. It is also important to note that staff and students should stay home when sick and that engineering controls such as using physical barriers and increasing ventilation should be considered, where feasible. The implementation of COVID-19 mitigation strategies should be guided by what is feasible for the school and its staff. Detailed information about the mitigation strategies are presented throughout the checklists and appendices in this toolkit."