

MCSO RE-1J Early Childhood Centers

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! We are excited to have preschool children back at all three preschool sites, Early Childhood Center (ECC), Johnson Early Childhood Center (JECC) and Olathe Early Childhood Center (OECC). It is our commitment to fulfill our mission: In partnership with our families and our communities, the children of the Montrose County School District RE-1J Early Childhood Centers will acquire a positive foundation for lifelong learning. In the midst of a pandemic, lifelong learning will include keeping children, families and staff members safe and healthy.

Return-to-Learn Plan

The Colorado Department of Education (CDE) and Colorado Department of Health and Environment (CDPHE) have developed [guidance](#) for opening schools based on three phases. The [MCSO Return-to-Learn Plan](#) is rooted in this guidance.



STAY AT HOME



SAFER AT HOME



PROTECT OUR NEIGHBORS

High COVID-19 Incidence in the community.	Moderate COVID-19 Incidence in the community.	Low COVID-19 Incidence in the community.
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MCSO RE-1J Early Childhood Center’s Return to Learn Plan follows the guidance and phases from Montrose County School District (MCSO), Colorado Department of Education (CDE), Colorado Department Of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Head Start and Colorado Office of Early Childhood.

MCSD RE-1J Early Childhood In-Person Learning Plan

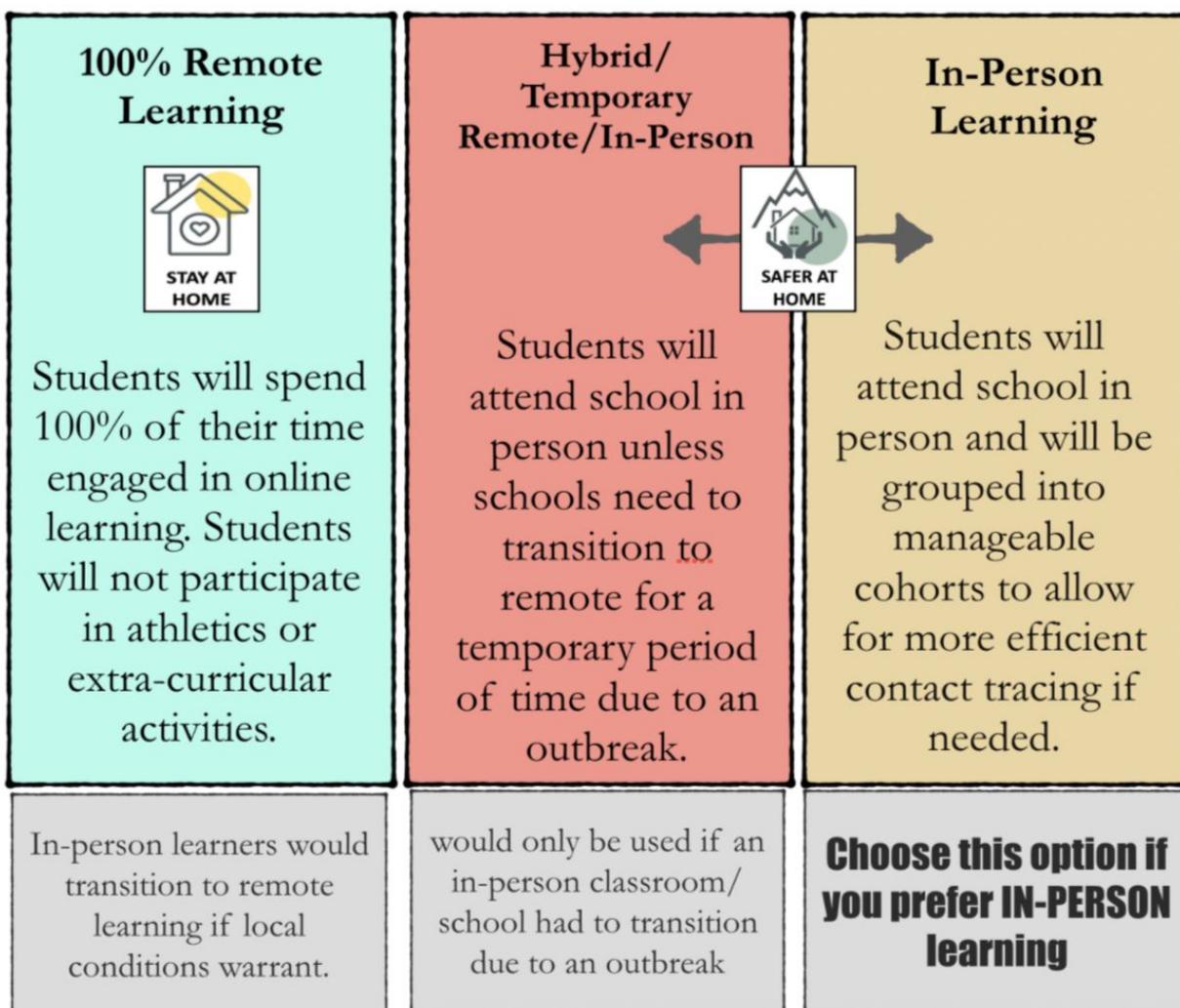
In-person learning plays a vital role in a child’s academic and social-emotional development.

We recognize that in-person learning may not be each family’s preference until there is a viable treatment solution or a vaccine to COVID-19. The purpose of the Return to Learn Plan

is to provide MCSD students, families and staff with information about learning options (in-person and online). This document outlines the highlights of returning to school in August whether a person chooses in-person learning or online learning.

Students learn in-person, at school when we are in the Safer at Home phase or Protect Your Neighbor phase. The graphic below shows what an in-person learner may experience during the school year.

Students learn online (Remote Learning) at home when we are in the Stay at Home phase. Families choosing this option will be able to transition to online learning each quarter if they choose, if space is available



Cohorts

Every preschool classroom at all sites is designed to be a cohort. Children remain in their classroom for instruction, small groups, large groups, meals, snacks, and free play. The children remain with their cohort while playing on the playground. Combining classrooms for special presentations or due to unpredictable staff patterns will be suspended for the 2020-2021 school year. Children will remain in their classrooms.

Drop-off and Pick-up Plan

Each site, ECC, OECC and ECC will have a different pick-up and drop-off plan because of the different parking lots and loops at each site. Teachers will discuss the drop-off and pick-up plan with each parent at the scheduled Back to School Orientation/Home Visit meeting that will occur in the child's classroom. MCSD RE-1J ECC teachers will call parents to schedule the meetings beginning Monday, August 17, 2020.

Back to School Orientation/Home Visits will be scheduled for one hour. Cleaning will occur between each meeting. The Back to School Orientation/Home visits will occur between Wednesday, August 19 and Monday, August 24, 2020.

Tardy/Early Release

If a child is tardy (i.e, the teacher is not outside to greet the child), the individual delivering the child must call the school and identify themselves and the child. Arrangements will be made to meet the child outside of the school so that the health screening can be completed. If it is an acceptable health screen, the parent will sign the child in and the MCSD RE-1J ECC staff member (or school designee) will escort the child to the classroom.

If a child needs to be picked up early from school, the individual picking up the child must call the office. The child will be brought from the classroom and delivered to the parent-approved adult outside of the preschool/school office. The child will need to be signed out by the parent/parent-approved adult.

Meals

All meals and snacks will be served to the children in the classroom.

Dismissal/Sign-out

All MCSD RE-1J Early Childhood Centers students will need to be picked up and signed out by an individual approved by the parent prior. Parents will identify the approved individual prior to the pick-up of the child. All individuals will need to bring valid picture identification.

Safety Mitigation

Handwashing - Preschoolers will wash their hands upon entry into the classroom. They will wash their hands before and after meals and snacks. They will wash before and after playing outside. They will wash after toileting, blowing their nose, sharing toys, and any other situation that would expose them to germs or materials that need to be washed off.

Drinking Fountains - Students are encouraged to bring water bottles to school. Children will be provided a water bottle to use in the classroom if the child does not bring one from home. Drinking fountains will be turned off for student/staff use.

Masks - Masks for preschool-age children are encouraged but not required. Masks will be available for children if a mask is not brought from home. Masks should cover the nose and mouth.

Special considerations regarding masks / Exceptions

- **Meal Times**: Students will not wear masks during meal and snack times and schools will encourage social distancing during these times. Students will be asked to have their masks with them during meal and snack times.
- **Outside Time**: MCSD recognizes that during periods of moderate-to-vigorous physical activity students will need to remove their masks. Those activities will take place outdoors whenever possible. Students will not be required to wear masks during outside time.
- **Rest Time**: Students in full-day classrooms will not wear masks during rest time. Cots will be arranged head to toe and social distanced.
- **Staff**: Staff are required to wear a cloth face covering at all times* while on duty and will have a mask on their person at all times, even in their classrooms, offices, etc.

*When working in a space without other staff members, it is not expected that staff wear a mask. However, when another individual joins the workspace (i.e. visits a staff member's desk, classroom, or office) both staff members are expected to don their mask if social distancing is not possible.

Health Screening - The Universal Screening Plan includes a temperature check at home, and a daily on-site screening procedure that will take about 15 seconds per student.

We are asking that families do a health screening at home prior to coming to school. This screening should include a temperature check and ask the following questions:

- Do you have a new or worsening cough?
- Do you have new or worsening shortness of breath?
- Have you had fever reducing medication within the last 24 hours

If your child answers yes to any of those questions or has a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher, please keep them at home. Please contact the office if you are keeping your child home for sickness.

Students and staff will be screened prior to entering school each day. This will include a touchless thermometer and a series of symptom questions. Anyone with a fever, defined as a temperature of 100.4 or greater, will be screened again within 3-5 minutes to allow for confirmation of a correct temperature (you may be directed to go to the end of the drop-off line). If the temperature remains high, the child will not be taken to class. They will be sent home with the individual that brings them to school.

The second layer of these procedures is to self-quarantine as a staff member or student. Symptomatic staff members or students will be quarantined for 10 days following the onset of symptoms and 72 hours following the resolution of fever.

The final layer includes contact tracing as a measure to ensure that Public Health (PH) can work in conjunction with MCSD in determining who else may be at risk of contracting COVID-19.

If a student or staff member fails the screening and is determined to be a probable or COVID positive case, MCSD RE-1J ECC will follow the linked MCSD plan: [MCSD Return to Learn Plan](#).

If students and staff in a quarantined cohort are well enough, they can participate in remote learning during their 10-14 day quarantine period.

Social Distancing - Students will practice social distancing in classrooms and outside as much as possible. There will be times when appropriate social distancing cannot be attained.

Preschool education will help children learn the concept of social distancing, safety, hand-washing, and germs.

MCSD RE-1J ECC teachers will set up their classrooms to leverage the social distancing standards and support early childhood instruction which includes socialization with other students and play. Our intention is that learning environments are still creative, fun, and safe spaces for our students.

Academics

MCSD RE-1J ECC staff members will continue to use Creative Curriculum. Creative Curriculum has developed a platform for remote learning that aligns with the Teaching Strategies GOLD assessment and Creative curriculum. All instructional staff have received training and support for the new tool. The use of the Creative Curriculum remote learning platform will also allow for a smooth transition into remote online learning if necessary.

MCSD RE-1J ECC staff members will assess families at the beginning of the year to determine if each family has access to the internet and if there is a device to use for remote learning. If a family is unable to access the internet and/or they do not have a device, MCSD RE-1J family advocates will work with the family to remedy the situation.

ESS (Special Education)

Special Education teachers and other service providers will work in teams to support our students with Individual Education plans (IEP). A schedule will be developed by service providers to limit the number of adults entering the classrooms and ensure that the children are being provided interventions.

Remote/Online Learning Plan

If a quarantine is ordered or if the school/district is closed due to an outbreak, MCSD RE-1J ECC will shift to our online remote learning plan. That plan can be accessed and reviewed here:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/19rP2llqjMASObogcd1zc6d1N700QJlDf?usp=sharing>

Parents, Community Members, and Volunteers Visiting the Building

As the MCSD RE-1J ECC mission statement states, working in partnership with our parents and community is paramount. In order to keep the preschool children safe

and healthy, volunteering on any ECC campus is suspended for the 2020-2021 school year. Education staff will work with parents and community members to develop a volunteer plan for outside the classroom environment.

Parents and other community members can schedule a time to meet with a staff member or administrator. All scheduled visitors will be required to go through the health screening and to wear a mask. These meetings will take place in the office or a room separate from students, or will take place after school is over. There is also the option to schedule an online meeting.

Communication

Parents and family can expect consistent and concise communication. Major announcements will be posted on the MCSD RE-1J Early Childhood Centers website. Links to the website announcements will be posted on the ECC Facebook page (Montrose and Olathe Early Childhood Centers), Creative Curriculum website, emailed, and texted to families.

Classroom communication will take place through the communication tool that the parent identifies as being the most effective communication tool. Information will also be sent home through the child's backpack and/or communication folder. In-person and virtual meetings are also an option for preschool parents and staff members.

Transportation

All MCSD RE-1J ECC students are transported to and from school by parents, family members, friends, and/or child care providers.

Questions/Concerns

If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the office. We would be glad to talk with you and work to address your questions and/or concerns:

970-249-5858 .