

Learning Models

The safety and well-being of students, families, educators, and staff has been and must continue to be our top priority as an educational community. If League School utilizes a Full or Hybrid model, families may still access full remote learning if needed. It is important for parents, guardians and students to feel safe and comfortable within their learning environment. Families, in consultation with their medical providers, will ultimately make the decision as to whether their children will attend on-campus/in-person instruction, or whether their children will continue with remote learning. The particular model League School employs may be impacted by the trajectory of the COVID-19 virus in the community, and recommendations from public health officials.

Families are able to choose remote learning during any period of the pandemic. It is critical that if students or staff have any of the following symptoms that they stay home. Note that some symptoms of COVID-19 are the same as the flu or a bad cold; Staff or parents should not assume symptoms are the result of another condition. When in doubt, staff and students should stay home.

Staff and students should stay home if they have any of the symptoms listed:

- Fever (100° Fahrenheit or higher), chills, or shaking chills
- Cough (not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough)
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Headache when in combination with other symptoms
- Muscle aches or body aches
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
- Fatigue, when in combination with other symptoms
- Nasal congestion or runny nose when in combination with other symptoms

If staff or students have any of these symptoms, they must get a test for active COVID-19 infection prior to returning to school. If a staff person is experiencing any of these symptoms, they must contact their supervisor and coordinate their care with their supervisor and the HR Department. If a day student is experiencing any of these symptoms, they must contact the school nurse and coordinate their care with the school nurse and their program coordinator.

In-person learning model: This model is comparable to what students and staff have experienced during a typical school year, but with an abundance of safety and health precautions (wearing masks, social distancing, repurposed and closed common rooms) as League School has been implementing since the students returned on July 13, 2020. This is the model League School will be using assuming that current positive public health metrics hold. One of the most significant changes will be how teachers adjust their educational practices and how League School's curriculum will need to be modified in order to promote safe social distancing practices. League School staff will also have to adjust their practices to incorporate at-home learners. This model will have all students scheduled for full in-person learning every day and adhere to established school schedules. The League School's current plan is to try and maintain a minimum physical distancing of 6 feet at all times as is possible given the nature of our student population.. Classrooms will also be required to fill out a classroom visitation log to document all visitors they may receive during the day.

League School has opened during the summer using the in-person model, although a portion of the student body is currently participating in remote learning due to being uncomfortable, this model will include a remote learning option until all students are comfortable returning to in-person learning. Currently 2/3 of our student population is attending the program. We expect this number to grow during August and to be at about 85% in September. We have reconfigured the building so that all classrooms have at least 6 feet between student desks and common areas have generally been eliminated. Some common areas are being used for large classroom space and others have become areas for staff to have meals and mask breaks separate from the students.

Staff and students are operating in a cohort model to limit opportunities for transmission. All staff and students are having temperature checks when they come into the building. Staff complete a health screening form each morning when they enter the building. Parents will be asked to complete a similar form each morning prior to sending their child to League School. All staff are required to wear face masks when they are with students or other staff. League School has stockpiled PPE supplies with a goal of having six months of supplies by our September opening. All staff have been trained in policies, procedures, and protocols related to COVID-19 including symptom recognition and monitoring, cleaning protocols, bathroom protocols, proper wearing and use of PPE, social distancing, etc. Students are being encouraged, but not required to wear masks. Where feasible some services (e.g., clinical, speech, OT) continue to be provided through Zoom as are Art, Music, and Physical Education to limit the number of contacts and reduce opportunities for transmission. Each classroom that has students staying home is Zooming classroom lessons for those at-home students. Additionally, clinicians and other specialists are providing services via Zoom to those still at home. The goal will be to provide each student with all of the services they need to make progress on their IEP goals and objectives.

Students will spend a large majority of their day with their cohort in a self-contained classroom with minimal physical contact with others outside the classroom. The overall class schedules will be comparable to schedules used during non-pandemic situations. Students will attend school 5 days a week. The schedule of the day will be a traditional schedule with both the in-person students and the remote students participating in the class “live” with the teacher at the same time. While community opportunities to job sites that do not involve contact with the community or non-League School employees are limited, off-campus job coaches will aid classroom staff with day to day responsibilities. Grading will revert back to previous pre-pandemic practices. League School will no longer utilize the credit vs. no-credit model.

All meetings will continue to be conducted remotely in the fall, but League School will help local sending school districts prioritize and schedule all student meetings in a timely manner when school districts resume their regular duties. This will include scheduling all annual review/IEP meetings, reevaluations, and progress meetings.

Hybrid learning model:

Currently, League School has adequate space to provide in-person learning for all of our students maintaining a distance of six feet between student desks and remaining in compliance with the guidance from DESE and the Walpole Board of Health. If the guidance became more stringent or League School was unable to provide sufficient staffing ratios, due to excessive staff illness, or another reason developed that prevent League School from providing in-person learning to all of our students, League School would switch to a hybrid model of learning in compliance with the new guidance or our ability to appropriately staff the program.

League School’s hybrid model will encourage student learning while addressing concerns about the potential transmission of COVID-19 and the overall safety of the League School’s students, staff, and their families. League School’s hybrid learning model will engage students in a combination of in-person

and remote learning. All of the League School's students are considered a "high need" population. As such, when feasible, League School will try and coordinate cohorts to ensure all students get as much in-person learning as possible. This may be dependent on state mandates and health and safety concerns related to COVID-19.

The League School Program that is currently operating during the summer months and is for all intents and purposes a hybrid model. We have approximately 2/3 of our students in in-person classrooms and 1/3 of our students at home. Each classroom has the capability to Zoom class lessons for those still at home. In addition to classroom Zooming, clinicians, specialists, and behavior staff may deliver services through Zoom on an individual or small group basis. Additionally, all of the "On Demand" resources developed during the initial closure are still available for all students and families. These resources continue to be expanded as staff add YouTube videos, work sheets, activities, and internet resources.

If it becomes necessary in September to limit the number of students permitted to participate in in-person learning, League School would be prepared to expand the utilization of this hybrid model. Our facilities, including a main educational school building consisting of two floors which support two separate programs and two residential facilities which support the residential program, would enable the school to successfully offer a staggered approach to reentry, if the school was required to close due to the impact of a severe COVID-19 outbreak. League School could offer an approach to reentry that would take place over a designated duration of time (e.g., one week of in-person, one week of remote learning with A and B cohorts coming on alternate weeks).

We would potentially divide the school into 2 cohorts, each of the cohorts consisting of approximately half of the student body who are willing to attend in-person classes. The different cohorts could be separated on different floors and could also participate in a staggered schedule of one week in-person classes and one week remote classes. Because all of our students are considered high needs students, League School's would look to progressively move toward increased numbers of students attending school in-person up to 4-5 days per week when permitted by state guidelines.

League School would continue to ensure equitable access for all students. League School would ensure students, staff, and families know how to effectively access and use all content and technology platforms selected. League School would offer select times during the week to receive support revolving around technical issues and League School would provide parent training for all technology platforms used. The school would also offer staff training on a regular basis to help identify useful technology and resources and help them expand knowledge of all of the new technology needed to facilitate remote learning. We would assist participating families and staff in getting the resources they need to effectively support and monitor student learning. Each classroom has been outfitted with a Smartboard, additional iPads or Chromebooks and webcams to allow a seamless online learning environment. Teachers and parents both have the opportunity to borrow technology from the school such as iPads or Chromebooks to participate in remote learning from home.

During hybrid learning, League school would continue to engage teachers in weekly meetings and training for professional development around remote learning/hybrid learning challenges. Teachers would also play critical roles in reentry planning groups. League School would continue to work closely with teachers and staff to plan and problem-solve the unique issues related to educating our students utilizing a hybrid model during a global pandemic.

While community opportunities are limited, off campus job coaches will continue to aid day staff with day to day responsibilities as well as provide vocationally related content for in-person and remote learners to continue progress on meeting vocational goals in student IEPs.

Remote learning model:

In the event it becomes necessary to move once again to a fully remote learning environment due to another state closure of programs or a staffing situation that makes it impossible for League to maintain safe ratios for in-person learning, League School is well prepared to do so. While League School was successful in providing an education to its students during the initial school building closure, it has considerably improved its ability to provide a remote learning environment. During the closure the League staff steadily increased the number of hours of live content being Zoomed for students. League staff also created significant "On Demand" resources including YouTube videos, worksheets, activity guidelines, as well as a wealth of online resources available through other organizations/ websites, etc. If it becomes necessary to move back to fully remote learning, League staff would move to re-implement the use of all of these resources and would continue to build on them. Staff would provide up to six hours of live content available for each student to access in addition to the "On Demand" resources. All staff members would participate in this remote learning environment. Clinicians, Occupational Therapists, Behavior Staff, and Speech Therapists would move to a virtual service delivery model including individual and small group sessions as well as participation in classroom Zooming. The focus of remote learning would be on helping students to progress on their IEP goals and objectives to the best of our ability given the recognition that remote learning will not be as effective in helping students achieve their goals as in-person teaching is apt to be successful.

Students will participate in both synchronous and asynchronous learning activities during both hybrid and remote learning. During the pandemic, one of League School's primary goals is to continue the student/teacher relationship that is so critical in education. Staff will be using Zoom, Google classroom, IXL, and other online tools during hybrid and remote learning models.

Examples of remote learning tools include large-group video conference calls, email, work packets, projects, reading lists, online learning platforms and other resources to effectively engage with students and help them to progress on the goals and objectives in their IEPs.

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education provides the following guidance for providing remote learning. In Massachusetts, remote learning for all students, including students with disabilities, should be provided using both:

- 1. Supports and resources for independent learning that can include academic content and homework packets and project-based learning opportunities, with the accommodations your child needs.*
- 2. Instruction and services that can be delivered remotely in whole group and small group settings or individually. Instruction and services can be provided by using online programs, television, or the telephone.*

During remote learning, our teaching staff will provide daily weekday online teacher/student interaction. All of our school's departments will be providing educational content as well. During this phase of learning, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the local sending school districts expect participation in the activities and lessons provided. All models are considered mandatory. Students may not receive individualized instruction and services in the same way as they do when school is in in-person session. The student's school team in collaboration with parents will be creative in designing ways to provide remote learning opportunities, special education instruction, and services to our students. The League School is committed to the needs of our students and dedicated to providing our students services during this global pandemic. League School's remote learning plan will be subject to changes and modifications when warranted by changes in DESE guidance, state mandates, or staffing considerations.

League School also remains obligated and dedicated to protect students' confidentiality and privacy, however, remote learning does not allow us to control who is viewing a lesson or a meeting while a student is in a remote location. Therefore, parents and students must be aware that there is no expectation of privacy during live class or group sessions. Should they wish to opt out of these virtual meetings, they can inform the person who set up the meeting and alternative resources will be provided.

During the remote learning period, League School will make every effort to focus on each student's Individual IEP goals given the current circumstances. Quarterly progress reports will continue to be sent to document each student's progress on their specific goals.

Staff will track both daily attendance and participation if a remote learning model is utilized. Attendance information will be processed by front office staff and will continue to be sent monthly to local school districts. In conjunction with the League School's clinical team, a family outreach team has been formed to help support students who are either not participating, demonstrating limited participation or need help with technology. The team focuses on identifying the information families need to be successful. The group includes a clinician, administrator, classroom teacher, and any other specialists needed to support the student. They help to solve specific needs of students and families in order to help all our students participate in the curriculum.

League School is prepared to support our students and families during both short- and long-term closures. League School has a communication system to notify parents and school districts about day to day operations or emergency situations. League School's communication system is able to function during short- or long-term closures. League school uses email, a reverse 911 call/text service, mail and shipping services, and telephone support. During in-person, hybrid, and remote learning models, League School is able to utilize these methods of communication to consistently notify and engage students and their families during a short- or long-term disruption or crisis situation. At home learners are provided daily communication and daily schedules to enable them to successfully participate in the curriculum provided. For ELL students, any documents needed to be translated for families would be sent to the local sending school districts for immediate translation.

Families should expect regular communication via email from their student's special education team. Head teachers and specialists also have posted office hours for families to utilize if they have any questions or concerns. Office hours can be accessed via online conference, phone conference, or via email. Families should receive daily/weekly communication from the League School and their student's special education team based on their level of need.

In an effort to provide clear and consistent communication, teachers will use websites to disseminate pertinent information including contact information and information about curriculum and assignments. During a remote learning model, technology will be made available to all staff and students who require support or a device that helps them be successful with online learning. All classrooms have also been outfitted with Smartboards, webcams and headphones to ensure success with online learners during in-person or hybrid models of education.

Progress reports and grades, if applicable, will be completed during the 2020-21 academic year following the regular schedule for providing these reports. Performance criteria will be consistent across in-person, hybrid, and remote learning models. For example, if students typically receive a letter grade for a particular course, students who are participating remotely will also receive a letter grade.

For school year 2020-21, Instruction and Services will include the following components:

- A regular and consistent schedule of classes, interventions, services, and therapies as required by the student's IEP, offered synchronously and/or asynchronously;

- Structured learning time designed so that the student can access state standards; and
- Frequent interactions with teachers and other staff members to ensure participation.

The consistent schedule of classes, interventions, services, and therapies must include time students spend interacting directly with teachers and related service providers on a regular basis, as well as some independent work time, as appropriate, and opportunities for interacting with classmates. When fully remote, prior to transitioning to a hybrid plan, League School will include livestreaming to prioritize synchronous participation between students and teachers. Synchronous remote lessons or tele-therapy sessions will be provided via telephone or video conferencing. Students will also have access to asynchronous pre-recorded videos of lessons to follow at home. For students receiving the majority of their daily instruction through asynchronous learning, teachers and therapists will assign supplemental work (beyond lessons taught synchronously or asynchronously) during the school day that can be accomplished independently with guidance from and accountability to the teacher or therapist. League School will continue to provide professional development to all staff to ensure the success of the remote learning model.

Supporting High Needs Students

All of League School's students are high needs students. League School is prepared to support our students and families during both short- and long-term closures. League School has a communication system to notify parents and school districts about day to day operations or emergency situations. League School's communication system is able to function during short- or long-term closures. League school uses email, a reverse 911 call/text service, mail and shipping services, as well as video and telephone support. During in-person, hybrid, and remote learning models, League School is able to utilize these methods of communication to consistently notify and engage students during a short- or long-term disruption or crisis situation. At home learners are provided daily communication and daily schedules to enable them to successfully participate in the curriculum provided. Any documents needed to be translated for ELL students and families would be sent to the local sending school districts for immediate translation.

League School's clinical team utilizes consistent checks-ins with students and families via telephone, email and through Zoom services to ensure students are safe at home, students are participating in online learning, parents are supported in regards to behavior and other interventions, parents and students are receiving proper training for technology needs, and equitable supports and services are being provided by the school.

In conjunction with the League School's clinical team, a family outreach team has been formed to help support students who are either not participating, demonstrating limited participation or need help with technology. The team focuses on identifying the information our students and families need to be successful. The group includes a clinician, administrator, classroom teacher, and any other specialists needed to meet the student's and family's needs.. They help to solve specific needs of our families in order to help all our students participate in the curriculum.

League School's Information Technology Department is able to provide students and families with technology support throughout a prolonged school closure. League School has created a system for students and families to borrow iPads, Chromebooks, and other technology based supports they may need to successfully engage in school curriculum. Staff are also able to utilize iPads, Chromebooks and other technology supports to successfully provide services to students and families from remote locations. League School will be able to troubleshoot with families who may not have access to the internet. League School will try and identify remote learning sites for those students and families who need internet access.

Student supports and professional learning:

Prior to students returning to campus on July 13, 2020, League School provided families and students with opportunities to preview and to understand the changes League School facilitated to ensure the safety of all students and staff when returning to on-campus learning. This included information about washing hands, the importance of wearing a mask, social distancing, the repurposing of rooms to help with social distancing, and safety concerns. League School opened the new school year with a week of training for staff beginning July 6, 2020 and three days of remote learning for students beginning July 8, 2020.. This was scheduled to enable the staff to receive training in regards to COVID-19, Prior to students returning to campus. All staff received the entire complement of DESE recommended training during the week of July 6, 2020.. See attached calendar for additional detail. Additionally, League School has been and will continue to conduct monthly meetings for parents to discuss questions and concerns regarding COVID-19. League School will continue to have bi-weekly whole school professional development for day staff. On alternate weeks, League School will continue to have bi-weekly residential professional development for all residential staff. League School has created a family outreach team which focuses on the successful participation of at-home learners. A PPE committee was created to ensure the school has a 6 month stockpile of safety equipment and other necessities related to COVID-19. League School has been having and will continue to have weekly discussions via Zoom with educators in regards to questions and concerns revolving around and assessment of synchronous and hybrid learning. Since the beginning of the pandemic, League School has utilized a variety of groups and committees to help plan and assess all three models of learning. These groups and committees are able to meet online if needed. Committees include a reentry task force, a facilities committee, a technology committee, a training committee, and a PPE committee.

Parent trainings are also being scheduled monthly to allow for additional support. During a full-remote learning model, all classrooms will employ office hours for 1:1 instruction and parent training and discussion.

League School will continue to support English Language Learners (ELL), even when students are learning remotely. League School will continue to partner with families to ensure the success of our students. With the help of League School's clinical department, League will continue to provide family outreach to all of our families. During remote learning scenarios, when the ability to conduct in-person activities and interaction is limited or non-existent, it is critical that the school and families foster strong bonds to support their children. Interpreters for meetings and translated documents can be obtained with the aid of the local sending school district. These can be made available upon request.

All students, whether learning in-person or remotely, will have access to curriculum and instruction in all content areas included in the Massachusetts curriculum frameworks. The scope and sequence of the instruction teachers provide will vary depending on student needs. Students learning remotely will also have opportunities to engage in enrichment opportunities and receive intervention and support as needed. A family outreach team has been formed to help support students who are not participating, demonstrating limited participation, or need help with technology. The team focuses on identifying the information our families need to be successful. The group helps solve specific needs of our families in order to help all our students participate in the curriculum.

Please see attached calendar for the 20/21 school year.

Other: Information in this section should be determined by the context of the district.

Please see attached calendar, policies, and protocols.

Certification of health and safety requirements:

League School certifies that it is currently employing and following DESE health and safety requirements. Prior to reopening for in-person learning on July 13, 2020 all staff were trained in all of the COVID-19 policies, procedures, and protocols required by DESE. League School is currently supporting students with a full in-person model. Some of our students are participating online, but do have the option to participate in-person on-campus. League School is currently open and provides a five day a week school week and regular school hours. In order to run an in-person program, League School has had to modify classrooms, implement safety barriers, implement temperature kiosks, purchase a continued 6 month supply of PPE, purchased additional technology for the classrooms, staff, and students, and have needed to implement or purchase other needed requirements to enable the safety for all of the staff and students.

Currently, the auditorium, Occupational Therapy room, student cafeteria, and computer room have all been repurposed to help follow social distancing guidelines and expand classroom space. Some classrooms have had walls removed to enable more space for the students. Other classrooms have been granted an additional classroom space for learning to reduce class sizes and help classrooms follow health and safety guidelines. Teachers may also hold classes outdoors when feasible. All Job coaches have been enlisted to aid head teachers with additional day to day responsibilities. All desks are 6 ft apart. Classrooms are restricted from mixing with other students and classrooms in-person. All classrooms stay with the same cohort throughout the day. Additional staffing in the classrooms will be staggered throughout the day to be cognizant of the number of individuals in a room during a specific time. League School is tracking all staff who enter a classroom throughout the day to ensure the school's ability to assist with contact tracing if needed.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, League School has utilized a variety of groups and committees to help plan and assess all three models of learning. These groups and committees are able to meet online if needed. Committees include a reentry task force, a facilities committee, a technology committee, a training committee, and a PPE committee.

League School has the ability to utilize an emergency call system in order to communicate with families who may not have access to online support.