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Thank you to all who have reached out to the district with questions about our plan to transition to a longer in-person school week. Below is a list of common questions asked, accompanied by answers from Superintendent Lloyd L. Peck. Several questions have been edited for brevity and clarity and repeat questions are listed only once. Please note that the following information was published on Feb. 23, 2021 and all plans are subject to change.

**Is a plan for re-opening the district to four days a week in the works?**

Yes, we are looking to first expand in-person attendance for students in grades K-5 to four days a week. If this is successful, middle and high school students will also move to four day in-person instruction. But all plans are subject to change.

**What does this plan look like?**

If all students attend school four days a week, we would not be able to maintain six feet of social distancing in the classroom. Instead, we would implement barriers between desks. Students would continue to wear masks.

**What is the timeline for this?**

We are uncertain of an exact timeline, but hope to achieve this ASAP during the current 2020-2021 school year if it's feasible.

**Why is the district considering a four-day learning model, as opposed to a five day schedule? Would students learn remotely on that fifth day?**

We hope to eventually bring students back five days a week but cannot at the present moment. We plan to use the day that students do not attend school in-person for staff meetings and remote planning. Students will attend school remotely on this fifth day that they are not in school.

**Who has the final say of when and how this happens? The Board of Education or Superintendent Peck?**

The Board of Education.

**What do our students want? Have they expressed their opinion or been surveyed?**

Students have not been surveyed. Families and teachers have been asked to complete surveys.

**Are our schools big enough to bring all students back for four days a week and maintain six feet of social distancing?**

No, we don't have large enough buildings to attend school four days a week and maintain six feet of social distancing.

**Will there be any COVID-19 testing protocols?**

No, the school will not conduct any testing. The district does not have the capabilities for this.

**Will the district need new PPE if we were to move to four-day weeks?**

The district plans to purchase shields to act as barriers in between student desks. This is the only additional PPE the district plans to implement.

**What will the policy be for student mask wearing?**

The current policy for student mask wearing will not change and will be utilized when students are in our buildings four days a week.

**If CFE students return this year, will they have the same teachers they've been working with?**

It is not guaranteed that students will remain with their current teachers if they are to return to school four days a week. Classes may change, especially in the elementary school

**What will the procedures be if there is a positive COVID case in the school?**

The district will follow the same protocol that it currently uses when there is a positive case of COVID-19 in the district. Administration will contact the Broome County Health Department and conduct contact tracing. This will not change.

**If the district transitions to a four-day schedule, will families still have the option of full-remote learning if they wish to continue this method?**

Yes.

**Will we need to add new teachers if we switch to four days a week?**

No.

**What is the current state of our finances?**

To learn more about our finances, please watch or read the minutes from our Feb. 10, 2021 Board of Education Meeting. The meeting includes a budget presentation by Cynthia Wambold, the Manager of Budget & Financial Analysis in the Broome-Tioga BOCES Central Business Office. A video, transcript and minutes from the meeting can be found on [BoardDocs](#), the [district YouTube channel](#) and the [district website](#).

**Has the CDC and State Education Department issued re-opening guidelines for four-day school weeks?**

No.

**How have students been performing academically this school year? Will students with grades that dropped as a result of the pandemic changes be able to move up a grade in the fall, or will they be held back? How do you plan to address the negative impact this has had on grades?**

This cannot be answered generally. The results of our current learning model can only be measured on a student-by-student basis. In terms of holding students back, this will also be determined on a student-by-student basis. Student needs will be addressed individually.

**Is the district tracking trends in grades from year to year, and semester to semester? If so, would this data be made available to the public so we can see how the current learning models have impacted grades?**

Student grades are made public each year and are available by accessing the New York State Report Card on the New York State Education Department's website. You can view Chenango Forks' report card by [clicking here](#).

**Is the current learning model working?**

Since there's been minimal quarantines, the district believes the current model is working.

**Are our local school districts working together to identify solutions on how best to meet the needs of children for in-person learning?**

Yes, our area school districts are in non-stop contact. Local superintendents hold meetings every couple of weeks. But it should be noted that all districts are different and have different resources. So, they cannot all follow the same plan.

**If students return to more than two days a week this year, will that also be the plan for the 2021-2022 school year?**

We have not yet determined this.

**Is the district considering bringing students back to school for full-time learning five days a week? If so, when would this be?**

While we hope to bring students back to eventually attend school five days a week, we aren't sure when this would be. But it is our goal, as long as it is feasible.

**What is the main reason the district has not yet moved to attending school full-time four days a week? Is it the footprint of the school, finances or other factors?**

There are several factors that are currently preventing us from beginning school in-person four days a week. This includes the CDC guidelines for six feet of social distancing. Our school footprint is not big enough to do this. We also do not have the staff for this, as we did not re-allocate any AIS, RTI, Pre-K or reading teachers.

**Where can I find the district’s COVID-19 data?**

Chenango Forks’ COVID-19 data can be found on New York State’s COVID-19 online report card. It includes COVID-19 data for not only Chenango Forks, but all New York State school districts. It can be accessed by [clicking here](#).

**How can I get more information about the district’s efforts to expand the number of days students are attending school in-person?**

Please continue to visit the [district’s website](#) and watch the [Board of Education meetings](#). Refer to the Feb. 10, 2021 board meeting for presentations about our budget, remote learning and our efforts to bring our students back to our buildings.

**Will there be an option to ask questions in other formats if parents/families don’t have access to social media or don’t feel comfortable asking their questions publicly?**

Anyone is welcome to email Dr. Peck ([peckj@cforks.org](mailto:peckj@cforks.org)) with any questions, comments or concerns.

**Additional questions, updated Feb. 24, 2021:**

**Please elaborate on why we can’t go back to school in-person for five days a week?**

We need a full day while kids are not in school to clean our buildings. We also need a day for staff meetings and remote planning.

**Have any positions been cut as a result of the pandemic?**

We have not cut any jobs. While there has been a reduction in hours for some staff members, no positions have been cut.

**Will we know how many days students will be attending school in-person, and what learning model they’ll follow, prior to the upcoming school budget vote?**

No. We do not know when we will know the schedule for the 2021-2022 school year.

**Has Broome County Executive Jason Garnar issued any guidance about re-opening schools for longer weeks?**

No.