

**Version 2 - new content begins with FAQs on page 8.**

**Frankenmuth School District**  
**Our *Return to Learn* Plan - Fall 2020**  
An Overview from Adele Martin, Supt. • Aug. 4



**We've Created a "Soft Launch" Model for FSD**

**Background / Many Talents and Perspectives Worked Together**

Using the Governor's "Return-to-School Roadmap," administrators, teachers, department heads, and staff members from the Frankenmuth School District have been working to create a blueprint that encompasses all of the requirements while keeping students and staff safe and providing the high-quality learning opportunities that are renowned in the Frankenmuth School District.

**The State Heard Our Voice**

The Governor's roadmap came from the collaboration of a wide variety of experts in the educational, health care, business, and philanthropic fields. We were honored to learn that JoLynn Clark, FHS principal, was chosen from nearly 1800 applicants to serve on this exclusive team. She put in an extensive amount of time, ensuring that the voice of a small rural district was heard. In working on our plan, her insight proved to be especially helpful as we built the framework for our unique perspective.

**The State's "Flexible Phases" Shape Our Course**

Our district's "soft launch" plan for Back-to-School is connected to the State's "phases," which all public school districts in Michigan must use to determine their modes of instructional delivery. Our FSD team is preparing for all six possibilities. We understand flexibility is the key, as the coordinated movement between phases may be necessary for the future and this is paramount to the success of our students.

**We Remain Committed to Every Student's Achievement & Well-Being**

We are committed to the tradition of academic excellence in the Frankenmuth schools, but we understand that there is much more to being a student than academics alone. Within the parameters of the Governor's Executive Orders and State Guidelines, there are still ample opportunities to cultivate the joyful experiences that are most important to our students, staff, and parents.

**As Always, There Is More Detail (and more to come in the days ahead!)**

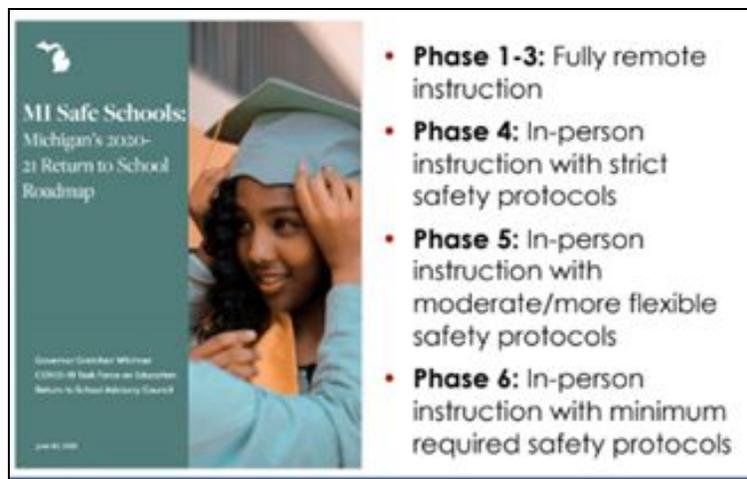
This document provides more detailed information on instructional options, schedules, and the current steps (the protocols) we are following in our Back-to-School “Soft Launch” Plan. You’ll see our protocols for five areas: Instructional Options, Technology, Student & Staff Safety, Transportation, and Events & Gatherings.

As you read our “soft launch” plan and see the steps we will follow, don’t miss the survey at the end of the last page; your input will help us keep re-shaping our plans and make them better. We have gathered common questions and will create an FAQ section on our website. Good two-way communication between all of us is more important than ever.

## Here are Michigan’s 6 Safe Start Phases

**Remember, not every decision is FSD’s to make.**

The State decides which PHASE or PHASES we can use based on the latest health information and conditions. Again, good preparation and flexibility are keys.



Click here to see the State’s complete

[Return to Learn Roadmap](#)

**Our TIMELINE is CRITICAL (Yet flexibility may be necessary)**

<b>Friday, July 31</b>	<b>First draft of a tentative plan shared with staff &amp; families; survey for families and staff distributed to gather feedback</b>
<b>Monday, August 3</b>	<b>Plan revised based on survey feedback</b>
<b>Tuesday, August 4</b>	<b>Revised plan shared with FSD stakeholders and submitted to the Board of Education for review</b>
<b>Wednesday, August 5</b>	<b>Board meeting to approve the plan (9:00 AM)</b>
<b>August 24, 25, 26</b>	<b>Teacher professional development and workdays</b>
<b>September 1 - 2</b>	<b>First days of school (see details below)</b>
<b>September 11</b>	<b>Deadline for selection of learning option for the 1st semester</b>

**You'll See We're Using PHASES 4-6 in Our "Soft Launch"**

We are anticipating FSD can begin the school year in phases 4-6. This means we will use a "soft launch" transitional model to ease students, families, and staff back into the school setting in smaller groups. This plan maintains essential COVID-19 related health and safety practices while still creating opportunities for staff to connect with students academically and socially-emotionally. Importantly, our "soft launch" plan allows our staff to prepare students for remote learning and/or other future possibilities, as the phases are adjusted by the Governor and State directives. Staff and students will go over instructional formats, technology applications, effective methods for teacher-student communication, and expectations for student learning. We believe our "soft launch" allows all of us to work together to increase familiarity with our processes and platforms so our students are prepared to be successful learners, whatever phases are in effect.

**Key details about our Soft Launch Plan**

- Half of our students returning for in-person instruction will attend school every other day to allow for deeper engagement with staff and fewer students in attendance at the start of the year (see sample below). The goal for the "soft launch" is to provide opportunities for students and staff to practice safety protocols (such as entering schools, eating lunches, etc...), assess students, support online practices, and most importantly begin to build relationships with their teachers.
- On Monday, September 21, it is expected that students in grades PreK - 8 will come back to school five days a week with in-person instruction. We hope to also bring students in grades 9 - 12 back five days a week with in-person instruction as well; however, that determination will be made once we have enrollment numbers for in-person students and can better analyze the ability to meet social distancing recommendations; this information and plan for time beyond the soft launch will be shared by September 16.

## Our Soft Launch Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
August 31	September 1	September 2	September 3	September 4
No School	"Red" Group in person	"Gray" Group in person	"Red" Group in person  "Gray" Group learning from home	No School  Labor Day Break
September 7	September 8	September 9	September 10	September 11
No School  Labor Day Break	"Gray" Group in person  "Red" Group learning from home	"Red" Group in person  "Gray" Group learning from home	"Gray" Group in person  "Red" Group learning from home	All students learn from home  Staff PD/Parent Communication Day
September 14	September 15	September 16	September 17	September 18
"Red" Group in person  "Gray" Group learning from home	"Gray" Group in person  "Red" Group learning from home	"Red" Group in person  "Gray" Group learning from home	"Gray" Group in person  "Red" Group learning from home	All students learn from home  Staff PD/Parent Communication Day

## Instructional Options

We learned from the experience and from surveys conducted in the spring and with our first draft of the plan that we all -- students, parents, and staff -- prefer the opportunity for in-person instruction. We do, however, understand the need for options and skills to adeptly move between the phases.

- In Phases 4-6, we will be holding face-to-face instruction with safety protocols in place; stricter protocols in phase 4, more flexible protocols in phase 5, and minimum protocols in phase 6, as described in the Roadmap linked above.
- We understand that not all families will feel comfortable sending their children to school to learn in a face-to-face environment. The Frankenmuth School District will provide a high-quality, fully virtual learning option: [Edmentum](#) for grades K-8; [Michigan Virtual](#) for grades 9-12.
  - Students enrolling in this program will continue to be FSD students; their instruction, however, will be delivered virtually.
  - Course content in the full-virtual option will be delivered by a highly qualified teacher employed by the virtual learning company, and progress will be monitored by an FSD mentor who will serve as a liaison for the student/family. Attendance, student engagement, and academic progress will be assessed, and student learning will be graded.
  - Parents/Students will commit to the fully virtual program for a specific term (semester). In other words, if the Governor switches phases for our region, these students remain with Edmentum/Michigan Virtual for the duration of that term.
  - This virtual-learning option can be selected regardless of the Governor’s phases (1-6).
  - We would ask that families make their choice for the virtual option no later than September 11.
- If the region that includes the FSD is placed in Phases 1-3, instruction will be taught by FSD teachers in a remote format for those who chose the face-to-face option. Teachers will provide engaging, high-quality lessons, and synchronous learning opportunities. Teachers and the corresponding remote instruction will engage students at a level of rigor different from the “Continuation of Learning Plan” provided in the spring. Schedules, deadlines, and grading will continue to be employed as opposed to the spring plan.

## Technology

Ensuring that our students can easily and readily access the necessary programs and platforms is a key to success, and we are eager to assist in ensuring that students are equipped with the necessary skills and devices to be able to achieve that success in any/every phase.

- The Frankenmuth School District will provide a survey to families that will serve to identify students who need a device for face-to-face blended learning and virtual learning opportunities. Students may choose to bring their own devices (appropriate to the grade level) to school to work in the face-to-face blended classroom environment.
- The Frankenmuth School District will provide on-campus internet access points to ensure that families can link to our digital platforms.
- Edmentum will be used as our K-8 virtual option and Michigan Virtual for our 9-12 virtual option for families not comfortable with sending students back to school.

- We are seeking to provide “single sign-on” for students electing face-to-face instruction in grades K-12 to simplify access to all platforms and programs utilized for FSD classes.

## Student & Staff Safety

Protecting the health, safety, and well-being of students, teachers, other school staff, their families, and the community is our priority as we prepare for educating students this fall.

- Under Saginaw County Health Department guidance, our families will be expected to conduct a daily health screening and temperature check of each child attending in-person instruction every morning before they arrive at the school.
- Staff members will complete their own Saginaw County Health Department protocols upon arrival.
- Face masks are required during the school day (students may bring their own mask, or one will be provided).
  - Due to our ability to keep elementary classrooms isolated to a large extent, combined with the developmental nature of young children, PreK-4 students must wear masks during all transitions and in common areas (entering, exiting, hallways), but masks are optional when contained in the classroom.
  - Students in grades 5-12 must wear masks at all times, other than while eating or drinking, according to the Governor's guidelines.
    - Violations of wearing the mask will be treated similarly to a dress-code violation, as outlined in the student handbook.
  - Staff (K-12) are required to wear masks at all times, other than while eating or drinking.
- Physical-distancing measures will be put in place to the greatest extent possible. Due to space restrictions, we cannot physically implement the recommendation for a 6-foot radius around all students at all times. When and where possible, cohorting of classes and limited movement throughout the day will be implemented to assist in minimizing potential contacts for students during in-person instruction.
- Student transitions and access throughout the building will be modified.
- Increased cleaning and disinfecting practices will be utilized, and the entire school will be cleaned daily according to the CDC and Health Department guidelines.
- Common touchpoints (keyboards, door handles, light switches, faucets, etc.) will be sanitized routinely throughout the day.
- Hand sanitizer will be available at entrances and in every classroom. Some classrooms are additionally equipped with sinks with soap dispensers for more frequent hand washing.
- The Saginaw County Health Department will guide us in conducting contact tracing and notification in the event of a positive case.
- COVID-19-related classroom or building closures are determined by the Saginaw County Health Department, not the Frankenmuth School District administration.

## Transportation

Transporting our students safely has always been a priority at the Frankenmuth School District. This fall, a variety of measures will be implemented to transport students safely as well as provide a safe environment for our bus drivers.

- Face masks are required on buses at all times (K-12).
- Hand sanitizer is provided for student use each time they get on the bus.
- Assigned seating on the bus will cluster families and classroom cohorts together to the highest extent possible.
- Buses will be cleaned and sanitized after each route.

## Guidelines for Events & Gatherings

- There will be changes as to how and where breakfast and lunch are served.
- An isolated quarantine room will be established in each building for students who feel ill.
- There will be no visitors or non-essential volunteers permitted in the buildings until Phase 6. Parents are included in this, except for emergent situations and/or pre-planned meetings with staff.
- There will be no in-person field trips or assemblies until Phase 6.
- There will be no public audiences for events until Phase 5.
- All athletic activities will follow MHSAA guidelines.

### **Thank you for your consideration.**

August always brings a flurry of activities for families and staff members alike as we prepare for “Back-to-School.”

As excited as we are to see everyone again (*yes, even you!*), we must acknowledge we must be prepared and nimble to make the 2020-2021 School Year a wonderful year of learning for all involved.

With this in mind, let’s begin our commitment to communicate often and effectively with each other by completing the two surveys below.

If you have not already, please complete the FSD Return-to-Learn Option Selection Survey for each student by **August 9, 2020**: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FHSreturntolearn2020>. Your responses will assist us to better plan our classroom spaces, enrollment needs, bus transportation, and technology access & device needs. Thank you for doing this right away. This information shapes what we do!

Kind regards,

Adele R. Martin

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#FSDtheEaglesWay

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Decisions and Requirements

*Q: How are determinations being made for this plan?*

A: Although we have been given some local control, the requirements for returning to school in person were laid out in [Executive Order 2020-142](#) and in the corresponding [Return to Learn Roadmap](#). Additional requirements and recommendations have been made at the county level through the [Saginaw County Health Department](#) and the Saginaw ISD. Additional considerations for planning have been taken from stakeholder surveys this past spring and over the summer, from meetings with the Saginaw County Return to School Taskforce, and the Frankenmuth School District Return to School Taskforce.

### Soft Launch - Red/Gray Days

*Q: Is this “Soft Launch” schedule set for the entire year?*

A: No, the goal for the “soft launch” is to provide opportunities for students and staff to practice safety protocols (such as entering schools, eating lunches, etc...), assess students, support online practices, and most importantly begin to build relationships with their teachers. On Monday, September 21, it is anticipated that students in grades PreK-8 will come back to school five days a week for in-person instruction. We hope to also bring students in grades 9-12 back five days a week with in-person instruction as well; however, due to the setup of the high school schedule and lesser ability to cohort students at that level, this determination will be made once we have enrollment numbers for in-person students and can better analyze the ability to meet social distancing recommendations.

Information and plans for time beyond the soft launch will be shared by September 16.

*Q: Will Fridays continue to be an “off day” after the soft launch?*

A: No. Although we will reassess the A/B alternating schedules to make plans beyond Sept. 18, we anticipate moving toward a schedule that would include classes on Fridays.

*Q: Will families be able to request that their children have the same Red/Gray Day schedule?*

A: Yes, we will make every effort to coordinate family schedules for the Red/Gray days.

*Q: Will families be able to request that a middle or high school student's Red/Gray Day schedule coordinate for babysitting assistance with a younger student?*

A: While we know that this is a priority for families, we will attempt to help, but cannot guarantee that we can accommodate this request.

*Q: If my student attends school on a “Red” day, what are the expectations for them on the “Gray Day?”*

A: Students will be working on the assignments that were given to them on the prior day of instruction.

## **Instructional Options - General**

*Q: What is the difference between the “continuity of learning plan” from the spring, in-person or blended in-person instruction, virtual learning, and Remote Instruction in Phases 1-3?*

A: The spring 2020 Continuity of Learning Plan was the best effort of the state to provide immediate, crisis time learning. Each district developed a plan following the parameters set forth by the state and ISDs (Intermediate school districts). This was a stop-gap measure to provide students with the most critical content necessary for success at the next level.

In-person and blended in-person instruction is allowable in phases 4-6. In-person instruction allows teachers to work directly with students on campus and in their classrooms. Blended in-person instruction (like what will occur during the soft launch) allows students to work with teachers on-site at times and via virtual/digital access at other times. Components of blended in-person learning may include completion of work assigned from the in-person days, access to virtual content, ZOOM, or GOOGLE MEET “face to face” via computer, and digital office hours/assistance time.

Virtual learning is a method of academic instruction where courses are taken through a digital learning environment. Virtual learning provides pupils some control over the time, location, and pace of their education. For more information on the all-virtual option being offered by the FSD, please review the information in this document under **Instructional Options - Virtual Learning**. Once formally selected (decision deadline is Sept. 11), virtual learning will continue for the duration of at least the semester, regardless of the “MI Safe Start Phases.”

If the state is in phases 1-3, all buildings will be closed, and all in-person students will be required to continue their learning in a “remote” setting. Remote learning will be led by the student’s same FSD teacher(s) as the in-person model and continue the instruction that was taking place in the in-person setting from phases 4-6.

We ask that families make their final decision of in-person or virtual learning for the first semester by Friday, September 11.

## **Instructional Options - Virtual Learning**

*Q: If I sign my student up for virtual learning, will they be able to participate in band, physical education, and/or athletics?*

A: Students electing the virtual learning option may participate in extracurricular activities like athletics or clubs (examples of prior offerings include Science Olympiad, ESports team; jazz band, etc.), but participation in co-curricular activities like band or PE will be reserved for the students enrolled in those in-person courses.

*Q: If I choose virtual learning, will the teacher be available to interact with my students via Zoom? Can they answer questions during school hours?*

A: The teacher of record, provided by the virtual company, will communicate with students who choose the virtual learning option regarding content questions, and an FSD mentor will be assigned to each fully virtual student to assist with other issues that may arise (ex: logins, progress, access, etc.).

*Q: How does virtual learning affect GPA?*

A: As is currently the practice for online courses taken in the FSD, grades earned in virtual learning courses will be included in the student's GPA.

*Q: Can students return to in-person instruction at the end of the first semester and will courses align?*

A: Yes; students who selected the all-virtual option for the first semester will have an opportunity to select in-person learning for the second semester. The process for making changes in instructional format selection will be shared closer to the end of the 1st semester.

*Q: What is the deadline to sign up for Virtual Learning?*

A: We ask that families make their final decision of in-person or virtual learning for the first semester by Friday, September 11.

*Q: It was difficult for my young child to navigate all of the logins during the spring. What is being done to make this easier for our family?*

A: The FSD is investigating a "single-sign-on" system (SSO) that will ask the student to log in with a user ID and password once and have access to all of the programs that will be utilized within the daily curriculum.

*Q: Will more information about Edmentum and Michigan Virtual Academy be given?*

A: Yes, more information will be provided soon.

### **Instructional Options - In-Person**

*Q: If the State of Michigan moves the Frankenmuth School District to Phases 1-3, what will the "in-person" instruction look like when it has to move online?*

A: If the state is in phases 1-3, all buildings will be closed, and all in-person students will be required to continue their learning in a "remote" setting. Remote learning will be led by the student's same FSD teacher(s) as the in-person model and continue the instruction that was taking place in the in-person setting from phases 4-6.

*Q: Will students still be able to participate in band and physical education?*

A: At this time, we are hopeful that in-person students will be able to participate in band and PE, and we are carefully reviewing options for how to allow these opportunities within the regulations as required.

### **Technology**

*Q: What devices are needed/used at each level?*

A: The devices used at each level are iPad/Chromebook (K-4), Chromebook/Laptop PC (5-8), and Laptop PC/Macbook (grades 9-12). As the survey indicates, we are seeking information about the student's

access to a device that they can bring back and forth between school and home as the devices will be used on-site (when allowable) and at home, regardless of the state's phase at any given time.

### **Saginaw Career Complex, BAISDCC, Frankenmuth Insurance Academy, Co-Op**

*Q: Can my child participate in these special programs, regardless of learning options selected?*

A: To the best of our knowledge at this time, yes. We are working closely with the various entities providing these programs so that students may choose in-person classes at FHS or the all-virtual option and still be able to participate in these learning opportunities. Detailed plans for these program options are still being developed with our partners at this time and will be shared before their announced start dates.

### **Safety**

#### **Facial Coverings/Mask (Answers from the State: [Executive Order 2020-142 \(return to school\) FAQs](#))**

*Q: What is the definition of a facial covering?*

A: A facial covering is cloth material that covers the nose and mouth. Facial coverings may be secured to the head or simply wrapped around the lower face. They can be made of a variety of materials, such as cotton or linen, and may be factory-made or made by hand.

*Q: Are face shields acceptable alternatives to masks?*

A: No. The CDC does not recommend the use of face shields as a substitute for cloth face coverings. However, a face shield that covers the eyes, nose, and mouth can be worn in addition to a cloth mask if desired. Moreover, a face shield may be worn by younger children who are not required to wear a cloth face mask.

*Q: Who determines whether or not a student/staff member can medically tolerate a facial covering?*

A: People who should not wear facial coverings include the following:

- Children younger than 2 years old
- Anyone who has trouble breathing
- Anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face-covering without assistance

*Q: Can parents "opt-out" their child from the facial covering requirement, but still send them to school in-person?*

A: No. Only selecting to enroll in a fully remote learning environment exempts the student from wearing a mask.

*Q: Will the district be providing masks to my child?*

A: We recommend that students wear their own facial coverings, but the district will have them available if a student needs one.

## **Other Safety Issues**

*Q: Will there be daily temperature checks for students and staff?*

A: Daily temperature checks will happen upon arrival at the school buildings each day. It is strongly recommended that parents check students' temperatures and assess any symptoms of illness before the student departs for school.

*Q: What will class sizes look like?*

A: This answer is contingent upon the number of students electing the "in-person" instructional plan. Of the total number of students returning in-person, half of them will be in the building each day during the "soft launch." Plans and determinations for class sizes beyond the soft launch will be made and shared by September 16 with the aforementioned intention to bring all students back five days a week.

*Q: What if a student or staff member is ill?*

A: Students who become ill with symptoms of COVID-19 should be placed in an identified quarantine area with a surgical mask in place until they can be picked up. Symptomatic students sent home from school should be kept home until they have tested negative or have completely recovered according to CDC guidelines.

Staff should conduct daily self-examinations, including a temperature check, before coming to work. If they exhibit any respiratory or gastrointestinal symptoms or have a temperature of 100.4 or greater, they should stay home. Staff members and students who are sick will not be permitted to return to school until they are healthy. We want to minimize the spread of any infection and will follow the guidelines put forth by the CDC and our partners at the Saginaw County Health Department.

*Q: What happens if a student or staff member contracts COVID-19?*

A: In the event of a positive case of COVID-19, the school district must follow the protocols laid forth in the Governor's Return to School Roadmap, and will work in close partnership with The Saginaw County Health Department to complete the required tasks and notifications.

*Q: What will band class look like?*

A: Outside venues, small groups, and social distancing will be utilized to safely facilitate band opportunities. Pieces of the instructional program that can be provided digitally will be offered via the chosen platforms to allow for equitable access to the material, while in-person time will be dedicated to small group and individual instruction using instruments.

## **Breakfast/Lunch/Recess**

*Q: Where will students eat their lunch?*

A: This determination is still being made and is contingent upon in-person enrollment, space availability, and social distancing requirements. Plans will be made to correspond with the recommended safety protocols in place.

*Q: During recess, will one classroom at a time play outside to make sure there is less exposure? Can the school divide the playground into areas of play?*

A: Recesses will be scheduled to maximize the use of cohorts and mitigate exposure risks.

*Q: Who will supervise students during recess?*

A: Teachers, Paraprofessionals, Lunch Monitors, and possibly other staff members may all be used to supervise students during recess.

*Q: Will meals be provided to students who choose the virtual option?*

A: The District will provide lunch to students who qualify for free or reduced lunch. There will be additional information coming regarding meal distribution.

### **Athletics/Extracurricular Activities**

*Q: Will athletics be offered in the fall?*

A: As of now, the MHSAA has indicated that we will have sports in the fall as scheduled. We will continue to follow the guidance from MHSAA.

*Q: If my student elects the virtual option, will he/she be allowed to participate in sports?*

A: Students electing the virtual learning option may participate in extracurricular activities like athletics and/or clubs (examples of prior offerings include Science Olympiad, ESports team; jazz band, etc.)

**LINK to the SURVEY • Please Complete by August 9**

Please take a moment to complete the FSD Return-to-Learn Option Selection Survey for each student:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FHSreturntolearn2020>

***Thanks again!***