



**Explore Schools**  
**2021-22 Return to School Plan**  
*Last Updated: January 4, 2022*

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## Introduction

This document outlines the protocols put in place to address the needs of our community as we transition back to full, in-person instruction. The goal and purpose of this reopening plan is to enable flexibility in meeting the needs of students, families, and staff, while continuing to provide high-quality instructional opportunities in service of our mission: Providing our students with the academic skills and critical thinking abilities they need to succeed in a college-preparatory high school.

### 2021-22 Guiding Principles

In approaching decision making for the 21-22 school year, the network first developed guiding principles to ensure the needs of our community were front and center in the planning. These principles informed what we should prioritize and how we should go about problem solving for a safe return. We settled on five principles that best reflect how we are prioritizing this work.

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Students and staff feel safe and cared for

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We attend to the whole student in our planning and we strive to meet the individual needs of students and families

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Through a focus on anti-white supremacy policies and wellness, we will set conditions for staff to have success and fulfillment

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All students will have consistent opportunities to engage deeply with grade level content and opportunities to address unfinished teaching as needed

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We will prioritize #ReimagineExplore while also maximizing the benefits and contributions of the past year's learnings

- 1. Students and staff feel safe and cared for:** Most important to any planning is the health and safety of our students and staff. Everything detailed here takes this into account first and foremost. Our kids cannot learn if they feel in danger or are at risk of getting sick. This is the same for our staff. In order to deliver the best education possible, we must first ensure our students and staff are receiving everything they need from us to be healthy and safe.
- 2. We attend to the whole student in our planning and we strive to meet the individual needs of students and families:** Meeting the needs of our families is critical to our mission. Therefore, it is critical that our plan take into account our families along with our students, and address their needs outside of their core classes. Through this principle, we are able to provide students with the social and emotional supports they need to be successful as they return to an in-person

setting. Every decision we make must be informed by the opinions of our families and the needs of our students.

- 3. Through a focus on anti-white supremacy policies and wellness, we will set conditions for staff to have success and fulfillment:** As an organization, we are working to dismantle the policies within our organization perpetuating white supremacy. In committing to this work, we are centering the development, success, and continued wellness of our staff, ensuring our workplace is inclusive of all our staff. As we map out our return to in-person instruction we are taking into account the new and evolving needs of our staff as we shift from remote to in-person work, and looking to policies that help staff with this transition.
- 4. All students will have consistent opportunities to engage deeply with grade level content and opportunities to address unfinished teaching as needed:** Our charge is to provide the best education we can, and to address the unique needs of our students. Our plan must be designed in such a way as to meet students where they are and provide them the opportunities they need to make the most progress they can to address the unfinished teaching from this past year.  
**We will prioritize #ReimagineExplore (Explore Schools' Strategic Planning Process) while also maximizing the benefits and contributions of the past year's learnings:** As a network, we strive to do more than return to in-person programming. We also want to improve the programming we provide. That is at the heart of our strategic plan, #ReimagineExplore, a commitment to providing the best educational experience that encompasses much more than the classroom. With input from across our staff, students, and families, we're strengthening our instruction in science and social studies, expanding our offerings in STEM related courses and the arts, strengthening our student culture, improving our student experience, and expanding our family and community wellness programming.

Using these guiding principles, we met with and surveyed parents, teachers, and school leaders to ensure the planning meets the needs of our community. While much planning and work has gone into the plans below, this continues to be a living document that will change as we learn more and progress through this school year. We will continue to provide opportunities for families and staff to give input and feedback on the plan. Based on what we've learned, we have devised a 2021-22 plan that puts the health and safety of our students, families, and staff at the forefront.

Throughout our return to school plan you, will see detailed health and safety measures that we have vetted with health experts from Mt. Sinai and Montefiore to ensure our protocols and procedures are rigorous, aligned to CDC and DOH guidance, and designed to keep our staff and students safe. The measures include the various schoolwide procedures that will be altered to ensure the health and safety of our students and staff. Additionally, we outline how we will respond to a potential positive case of COVID-19 in any of our schools. For a full list of our policies, please review our network-wide family policies, here: <https://exploreschools.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Network-wide-Family-Policies-2021.pdf>.

We have and continue to consult staff, parents, health experts in the field, board members, and other charter network leaders to ensure our plan meets both the guidance outlined by DOH, CDC, Board of Regents, and SUNY, and also the needs of our community. We have administered several staff & family surveys, held Q&A sessions for members of our community, and held numerous planning meetings with principals, school-based operational leaders, and school-based culture leaders. Initially, these planning meetings helped inform the modifications of school-wide systems, develop policies to keep our



community healthy and safe, and ensure remote instruction was successful for all members of our community.

The planning process involved determining the protocols and procedures outlined in our 21-22 school year plans including: health and safety protocols for operating in the building, social and emotional well-being of students, their families, and staff, training and ongoing staff development around all parts of the plan, strategies and curricular resources for addressing learning loss from the closure, and technology and resources for students and staff, including a small subset of students who will continue to be fully remote. We are continuing to consult all constituents as we update the plan throughout the year. It is important that the plan remain a living document, reflecting the most up-to-date information we have available as the situation on the ground changes. We are continuing to provide opportunities for input from parents, staff, and school leaders, in order to strengthen and improve our plan, and will continue to update our plan as we receive additional information and guidance from the state, city, NYC DOH, CDC and NYC DOE. Following the health and safety measures, we provide details on how we are responding to a positive COVID-19 case and provide an overview on instruction and assessments.

One final note, this document, and updated material will live on our family-facing website, [here](#). We will continue to share updates through each of our schools' normal means of communication as well as on our website and social media platforms. We are also planning to continue hosting Q&A sessions, administering surveys, and convening a family advisory committee to ensure the needs and wants of our families are at the center of our work. You will hear about these opportunities through your school. If you have any questions or want to learn more, please reach out to our Senior Director of Special Projects, Jeremy Thomas, at [jstthomas@explorenetwork.org](mailto:jstthomas@explorenetwork.org).

## 2021 – 22 School Calendar

The 2021-22 school year began with new student orientation on Wednesday, August 18<sup>th</sup>. All students began in-person instruction on Thursday, August 19<sup>th</sup>.

# 2021-2022 Explore Schools Calendar

August						
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### Holidays (in RED text)

<b>Sep 6</b>	Labor Day	<b>Dec 31</b>	New Year's	<b>May 30</b>	Memorial Day
<b>Nov 25-26</b>	Thanksgiving	<b>Jan 17</b>	Martin Luther King Day	<b>Jun 20</b>	Juneteenth (observed)
<b>Dec 24</b>	Christmas	<b>Feb 21</b>	Presidents' Day	<b>Jul 4</b>	Independence Day

### Key

	New Staff Orientation
	Staff In-service Days (Students asynch)
	Staff Pre-Service/Post-Service Days (Students Off)
	Half Day for New Students
	Half Day for Students
	Fully-Remote Instructional Days
	Students and Teachers Off
	Family Teacher Conferences (scheduled by school)
	Staff Critical Days
	State Exams
	Network Shutdown: All year-round staff on vacation
	2pm Dismissal

*\*First Day for All NewStaff: Aug 2nd*  
*\*First Day for All Returning Staff: Aug 9th*  
*\*NewStudent Orientation: Aug 18th*  
*\*First Day of School: Aug 19th*  
 Term 1: Aug 19 - Oct 22 (44 days)  
 Term 2: Oct 25 - Jan 14 (45 days)  
 Term 3: Jan 18 - Apr 1 (47 days)  
 Term 4: Apr 4 - Jun 16 (46 days)  
 Total days: 182 days



As the calendar indicates, students will receive 182 days of in-person instruction. Unlike the 2020-21 school year, the 2021-22 school year has a more familiar calendar with regular, in-person instruction and vacation marked in blue.

New this year is the inclusion of specific asynchronous days for students during teacher training days throughout the school year. Schools now have the choice to offer students asynchronous study on these days instead of treating these days as vacation. This change reflects what our network has learned over the course of the shutdown. With all of our students having access to technology and communication when at home, we're able to add additional educational opportunities through asynchronous instruction on days that historically would have been additional vacation. The rest of the calendar follows the same design as previous years prior to the pandemic, including the timing of vacations, state tests, and start and end dates for each term.

In the event our school must close due to inclement weather, such as snow, we will not provide asynchronous instruction as long as we continue to meet our required minimum instructional hours per year as a network. We will treat school closures due to inclement weather as vacation days, similar to how they were treated prior to the pandemic.

One final note, unlike previous years, we've offered more flexibility to our schools with regard to planning family conferences. Therefore, family conference weeks are not represented on this calendar as they are unique to each school. Each individual school may schedule a half-day to allow for extended hours for family conferences. Please reach out to your school for the specific dates of family conferences this year.

## Health & Safety Measures

This year, to help keep our staff and students healthy and safe, we are implementing the following policies. If you have additional questions, please reach out to your school directly. These policies were informed by guidance from the CDC, State and NYC, to ensure the health and wellbeing of our students and staff. Your school will have additional details about what these policies will look like at your child's campus. We encourage our families to reach out to schools to ask any questions or share any concerns you may have about COVID-19 and returning to in-person instruction.

We know that COVID-19 is still in our community. In order to keep our students and staff safe, our schools are taking the following steps. If you have any questions about specific procedures, please reach out to your school to learn more about how they are implementing these policies on the ground.

1. We expect that all students and staff wear masks at all times, except when eating. Students can remove masks for meals but should be prepared to wear masks at all other times. If you have questions about what masks to use or how to wear them, please refer to the CDC guidance or reach out to your school.
2. We will continue to participate in daily health screenings aligned with guidance from the NYC DOE.
3. We have worked with our buildings to ensure the ventilation systems have been updated and have installed CO2 monitors and air purifiers in our classrooms to ensure there is proper airflow during classes. When the weather allows for it, windows will be opened to increase airflow.
4. We will continue to supply our schools with additional PPE in the form of masks, hand sanitizer, etc., and will implement frequent handwashing and/or sanitizing practices throughout the day.
5. Alongside the practices above, we will continue to practice social distancing as extensively as possible, aligned to the CDC's guidance for reopening schools.

Below, you will see details on each of the specific policies we've adopted to mitigate the risks associated with COVID-19. These policies are constantly under review and are being updated regularly. Please reach out to your school leaders for the most up to date information regarding your school.

### Vaccination Policy

The data around vaccination continues to demonstrate that vaccines are reducing both the spread of the virus and its severity. New this year, we are requiring that all our staff get the COVID-19 vaccine. This is the policy established by the city for all city workers, including school employees. All staff are currently vaccinated, with at least two doses of Moderna/Pfizer, or one dose of Johnson and Johnson.

Right now, the city and state are not requiring eligible students to be vaccinated. However, we strongly encourage eligible members of our community (everyone ages 5 and older) to get vaccinated against COVID-19. Please reach out to your school if you need assistance with finding information about vaccinations. All of the vaccines available in the U.S. authorized by the Food and Drug Administration have been shown to be safe and extremely effective at preventing serious illness and death from COVID-19. Vaccines are essential to stopping the pandemic. When you support COVID-19 vaccination, you help to protect your school and your community against COVID-19. Additionally, we are strongly encouraging our eligible staff and students to receive a booster. The booster is known to significantly reduce the likelihood of severe illness from COVID-19.



With the availability of vaccines, the NYC DOE is requiring vaccination for students participating in Public Schools Athletic League (PSAL) sports considered high-risk. For information about the health and safety protocols for PSAL in the 2021-22 school year, please visit [schools.nyc.gov/PSAL](https://schools.nyc.gov/PSAL).

For more information about COVID-19 vaccines, visit [nyc.gov/covidvaccine](https://nyc.gov/covidvaccine) or call 311. To find out where you or your loved ones can get vaccinated, visit [nyc.gov/vaccinefinder](https://nyc.gov/vaccinefinder) or call 877- VAX-4NYC (877-829-4692). You can also sign up by visiting [nyc.gov/homebound](https://nyc.gov/homebound) or calling 877- VAX-4NYC for an in-home vaccination.

### Testing Policy

We ask that all students consent to participate in regular COVID-19 testing as part of our effort to keep our community safe and contain any potential spread of the virus. Your school will share more details on what testing will look like, as well as the forms you'll need to complete and return to participate in on-site testing. We test 20% of individuals in each school, including both vaccinated and unvaccinated students, in all grades. The random in-school surveillance program continues to provide public health experts with an accurate look at the prevalence of COVID-19 in schools. If you have not done so already, please give consent for your child to participate in the in-school testing program. To learn more about how your school is conducting testing, please reach out to your school leadership team.

Testing is a critical part of keeping schools open and communities safe. Through the month of January, as our schools transition back from break, we are requiring all staff to test weekly. In addition to our community testing program.

### Health Screening Policy

All staff, students, and visitors to our school buildings must submit a daily health screening (<https://healthscreening.schools.nyc/>) upon entry which will include answering a series of health-related questions. This requirement is for all visitors at any DOE building. Our schools have built the health screen into arrival procedures. Please reach out to your school with any specific questions. Students who are feeling sick or showing symptoms of COVID-19 should remain home and consult their primary care physician to see if they should take a COVID-19 test. The daily screener will ask questions regarding symptoms related to COVID-19 and will not allow symptomatic students into the building.

### PPE and Face Coverings

As a network, we require all members of our community to wear masks at all times. We are strongly encouraging our community to use N95 or KN95 masks, or double masking with a surgical mask underneath a cloth mask. Our schools will provide masks for all staff and students, including KN95 masks and additional disposable masks when needed. Arrival procedures require that masks are worn before entering school buildings. We know that mask wearing can be uncomfortable at times, especially for our little ones. We ask for family support in helping to encourage mask wearing and how to do so properly, covering both the nose and mouth. Students without their own mask will be provided one when they arrive at school. Should a student refuse to wear a mask, they will be referred to the culture team and we will work with families to find a solution that meets our health and safety standards.

During lunchtime, masks may be removed so students can eat comfortably. Students will be distanced to the extent possible in our cafeteria and classroom spaces. Please reach out to your school leadership team if you have any questions or concerns regarding our network's mask policy.

### Physical Distancing

Maintaining physical distance is another important step in reducing the spread of germs and diseases, including COVID-19. We are operating under the CDC's recommendation that "schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms to reduce transmission risk. When it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of at least 3 feet, such as when schools cannot fully re-open while maintaining these distances, it is especially important to layer multiple other prevention strategies, such as screening testing." Floor markers and other indicators will continue to be used to keep transitions smooth and maximize distancing as much as possible throughout the day.

During meal service, schools will use outdoors spaces and additional spaces in school buildings where possible to support physical distancing. Meals may be served in multiple locations and during multiple time periods to increase distancing.

### Ventilation

Ventilation is a critical part of protecting our community. In coordination with the NYCDOE custodial services and the NYC Division of School Facilities (DSF) our schools have been prepared to keep our students and staff safe. This includes the inspection, update, and repair of ventilation systems. Every room our students and staff use for extended periods of time has fully operational ventilation through either natural, mechanical, or a combination of means.

In addition to the inspections and improvements conducted by the city, we have installed our own air purifiers and CO2 monitors in every classroom to further protect our community and ensure its safety.

### Cleaning

All classrooms and common areas, such as auditoriums and gyms will have hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes available. High-touch areas such as doorknobs and water fountains will be cleaned multiple times throughout the day, and each classroom will be deep cleaned and disinfected daily using electrostatic technology. See the next section on additional hygiene procedures.

### Hygiene Practices

Schools will be providing increased opportunities for students and staff to wash hands or use hand sanitizer throughout the day, including scheduled time to teach and practice good hygiene. Hand sanitizer and/or soap and water access will be available in every room and throughout communal spaces and hallways (including near elevators, gyms, building entrances.) All students can easily sanitize hands anytime. At a minimum, hand washing or hand sanitizing will be part of arrival, dismissal, before and after meals, and before/after touching communal items. Students will be encouraged to hand wash with soap and water for 20 seconds. Please review the [CDC hand washing guidelines](#) so you can re-enforce the guidelines at home. Additionally, the following considerations will be taken with physical materials:

- Limiting sharing whenever possible (seats, desks, tech)
- Providing students Individual supplies whenever possible (glue sticks, scissors, math manipulatives)
- Limiting use of areas that don't allow distancing (e.g. classroom closets, carpet time)

### Meals & Snacks

We are returning to meal service in the cafeteria this year. We will rely on NYCDOE School Foods to ensure that service personnel follow all appropriate guidelines for safety as recommended by the

NYCDOH. The school will train school staff as needed to reinforce the protocols adopted by food service and custodial personnel to ensure healthy, safe meals and the least disruption to the instructional day.

### Recess

Recess will be built into all schedules so that students have an opportunity to socialize and relax. To maximize safety during this time, we will be implementing the following:

- Recess will take place outdoors whenever possible.
- Wearing masks and distancing are required during recess time.
- Equipment used during recess will be cleaned regularly.
- Students will sanitize their hands following recess and frequently throughout the day.
- Staff recess monitors will have safety materials including extra masks and hand sanitizer.

### Visitor Policy

We are asking our schools to reduce the number of visitors to the building as much as possible. What this will look like will differ by school, but generally, you can expect arrival to take place at the entrance to the building instead of the classroom. Whenever possible, we will continue to use Zoom and other forms of communication to connect with families safely.

For safety purposes, all visitors need to sign in and report to the main office (or designated area) for screening. When signing in, visitors must include contact information and spaces they will visit in the event that contact tracing is necessary. All visitors must adhere to our safety and hygiene policies, including participation in a health screening, wearing a mask, and social distancing.

Please note, the DOE is requiring that all adult visitors to our school show proof of vaccination upon entry. No unvaccinated adults will be allowed to enter DOE buildings.

### Mental Health, Behavioral, and Emotional Support Services & Programs

With everything our staff and families have gone through, it's incredibly important to us that mental health play a critical role in our health and safety plan. We recognize that the communities our schools serve have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. In terms of mental and emotional needs, we are engaging in a partnership with Crime Victims Treatment Center to train our staff on how to identify trauma and how to employ trauma informed practices in their daily instruction. This training is occurring both during the summer and into the school year. Our schedules will provide the time for all students to process issues relating to race, trauma, and health together. This training includes how to identify and support students who may be struggling with the return to in-person instruction or instruction in general while still being remote. Additionally, we are also providing counseling services to staff—services that will be provided on-site or virtually. We have compiled resources for families that include mental health referral information as well as engagement activities for families. These resources and more can be found at our website, [here](#). Finally, we have a COVID-19 Emergency Relief fund that families can access by completing this [form](#) if they have any needs that aren't currently being met.

### Responding to Positive Cases of COVID-19 in Schools

While we are implementing a number of policies and procedures to ensure the safety of our community, we are prepared in the event there is a confirmed positive case of COVID-19 at one of our schools. This section outlines the measures we will take to reduce the spread of COVID-19 while ensuring the continuity of instruction.

## Quarantine Policy

Given the availability of vaccines combined with our health and safety protocols identified in the previous section, we will not automatically close an entire classroom when there is a positive case, in alignment with the DOE policy. We already require all adults in our network to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19, thus dramatically reducing the potential spread of the virus. All students, unvaccinated or not yet fully-vaccinated, who were in close proximity to a positive case while at school will not have to quarantine and will continue attending school as long as they do not develop symptoms or have a positive test result from a COVID test. If a student is a close contact due to an exposure outside of the school, they will continue to quarantine for 10 days, or return on day 8, after testing negative on a test taken after the 5<sup>th</sup> day.

When a positive case in a classroom is reported, students and adults in that classroom will receive a take-home rapid test kit and take two tests over the course of five days. See the next section for more details.

The only situation in which one of our schools will close is if the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) determines that there is widespread transmission in our school. With all the health and safety measures we are taking, we anticipate limited school closures this year.

## Take-home Rapid Test Kits

Take-home rapid test kits will be distributed for free to **any student or staff who exhibit COVID-like symptoms OR have been in a classroom here a positive case has been identified.**

- If a child was **exposed** to COVID-19 at school, the child will receive two at home tests. Families will be instructed to administer the first test on the day they receive the take-home test AND the second test five days after exposure or at the first indication of symptoms.
  - o Children may continue to attend school as long as they receive negative test results and do not experience any symptoms of COVID-19.
  - o If a child develops COVID-like symptoms or feels ill before the fifth day, the family will be asked to keep the child home and administer the second take-home test immediately.
  - o If a child tests positive on either home test, the child must isolate for 10 days following the first positive results.
- If a child **exhibits** symptoms of COVID-19 at school, the child will receive two at home tests. Families will be instructed to administer the first test **immediately** and then the second test **24 hours later.**
  - o The family will be asked to quarantine the child until they receive negative results on both take-home tests within 24 hours of each other and have been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication OR if the child receives a negative test result from a PCR COVID test.
  - o If the child tests positive on either home test, the child must isolate for 10 days following the first positive results.
- Students who test positive on take-home tests will be asked to report results to the school and begin isolating. Students who test positive must isolate for 10 days and can return to school on Day 11. No negative test is required to return to school.

All students, staff, and visitors must pass the DOE health screener in order to enter school buildings as outlined earlier. Additional questions have been added to the screeners for those students and staff



who receive at-home rapid test kits to share their negative result. No other proof of a negative result will be required in order for those students to enter the school building.

## Academic Programming

We believe that in order for students to take full advantage of our academic program, they must be in our school buildings, learning in-person. Schools continue to work diligently to prepare for a safe return and will continue to implement a variety of proactive protocols including universal masking, social distancing, and coordinating regular COVID-19 testing.

Still, our partnership with families is key to ensuring their child's health and safety. With this, we've created a very limited and temporary remote school option for students who meet specific criteria. Students eligible for remote school are those who meet the CDC's criteria for being at higher risk of complications from contracting COVID-19. Medical documentation must be submitted confirming the condition and recommendation for remote learning. Our goal is for all participating students to return to in-person learning as soon as their doctors recommend it.

Remote school will be its own independent school, using the following guidelines:

- Remote school is designed to accommodate 20 students across all grade levels within our network.
- Attendance is required daily and taken during morning meeting.
- Students will receive 20-60 minutes of live instruction daily; otherwise, learning is self-guided, and students will engage in about 6-hours of independent practice each day.

## Curriculum & Instruction

Our schools will continue using AF Navigator for Math and a combination of Amplify's CKLA for grades K–2 and Expeditionary Learning for grades 3–8. There are no planned curricular changes for students with disability or ELLs.

We have made adjustments to our scope and sequences for grades K–8 in both ELA and Math that allow for the following:

- Additional time for small group instruction with students
- Greater flexibility for remediation of content
- More progress monitoring and time to administer new online assessments
- Embedded diagnostics to assess prerequisite knowledge to inform accelerated teaching and learning.
- Increased focus and attention on writing progress monitoring across K-8.

The social-emotional learning needs of our students continue to be a high priority for the 2021-22 school year. Each school will provide daily opportunities for students to engage in morning meeting/advisory for this purpose. Students must feel safe and supported, both socially and emotionally; therefore, we will start each school day focused on community and joy. Morning Meeting will start the day with a positive experience, encouraging students to take ownership of, and have belonging in, their homeroom communities. The curriculum for Morning Meeting will include time to build communication, cooperation, and collaborative skills, and preserve time to discuss social injustices and process trauma related to COVID-19.

The 25 minutes of Morning Meeting has been built into the schedule for all grades. Each grade band (K–2, 3–5, 6–8) will have a different scope and sequence for the year that covers new topics and themes every 2–4 weeks. These themes include, but are not limited to:

- Social + Emotional Awareness
- Empathy
- Grief and Loss
- Race and Racism
- Identity
- Community

Lastly, 6–8 graders will also have extended opportunities to discuss Race and Racism during bi-weekly classroom-based conversations. 3–5 graders will also participate in these conversations with a modified curriculum and will have it built into their Morning Meeting scope and sequence.

### Assessment

Monitoring and tracking student progress is critical to ensuring all our students learn and grow during this challenging year. This year, we are focusing on more frequent, bite-sized assessments to progress monitor. We are also continuing to use online diagnostic assessments track student progress on specific skills. For more on the assessments your child will take this year, please reach out to your school.

### Supporting All Learners

Students who receive services will have access to everything they need in response to their unique needs including response to intervention, special education programming, and English Language Instruction. Instructional and non-instructional RTI provides supports through a multi-tiered approach to ensure all students can participate in Explore Schools’ programming during remote and in person instruction. A summary of the services provided is listed below.

### Response to Intervention (RTI)

- Non-instructional RTI focuses on attendance, engagement, and school culture data points. Progress is monitored via network trackers and discussed during biweekly non-instructional RTI meetings.
- Instructional RTI focuses on providing a multi-tiered system of support in literacy and math through universal screening, progress monitoring, and pedagogical and practice shift meetings.
- In math, interims provide data points for universal screening and intervention planning. Interventions are delivered through a responsive math intervention period, and progress is monitored via network trackers and discussed during weekly RTI meetings.
- For literacy, iReady and F&P assessments provide data points for universal screening and intervention planning. Tiered interventions are delivered through a small group instruction period, and progress is monitored via network trackers and discussed during weekly RTI meetings.

### Individualized Education Plans (IEPs)

Students will receive the special education services that are mandated on their IEPs and work toward IEP goals during related services, SETSS, ICT, and 12:1:1 programming. Additionally, BIPs will be implemented by teachers, social workers, paras, and service providers. BIPs will be monitored and revisited every 4 weeks and modified accordingly to meet the needs of each student.

Explore Schools identifies students in need of a referral to special education as part of its Response to Intervention process. Students who are recommended for educational evaluations and special education services are referred to the Committee on Special Education. Explore Schools works closely with the CSE



to ensure all evaluations and IEP meetings occur within 60 days from the date of consent. Students in need of 504 accommodations will be identified through our response to intervention and multi-tiered system of supports process. Schools will partner with families to implement 504 referrals and accommodations.

#### English Language Learners (ELLs)

All ELLs receive ENL services according to the program recommendations based on their proficiency levels.