

Elbert School District #200

Bulldog Plans for the Opening of School

Fall 2021

The current national and statewide response to the COVID -19 Virus has had a significant impact on education. Indications are that the impact will continue into the 2021-22 school year. Even though that seems to be the case, it must be understood that the public health situation, the prevailing epidemiology, and the developing response to both, are fluid and unable to be predicted with high degrees of specificity. We understand that, even though much is uncertain, the community needs to know what to expect as the new school year approaches. With that in mind, Elbert School District has developed leveled plans to provide instruction to the students of our community that are responsive to multiple eventualities.

As of the release of these plans, Elbert School District will follow the “Green Status” days as described below for the reopening of our 2021-2022 school year on August 11, 2021. As that date draws closer, if our status has to change you will be notified immediately. Our priority is to take a common sense and measured approach to meeting the needs of our school community and getting our students back into the school. We thank you in advance for your support and patience as we work to create as many safe options for a successful school year during these unprecedented times!

The district’s enrollment system EZ School Enroll is open. Please plan to complete your child’s forms as soon as possible so the district can best prepare for opening. Please read below before completing your enrollment so that you may make the best decision possible for your child and family.

The two learning options for Elbert School District:

- In-Person Learning “Green Status” – Students receive instruction by attending school daily. Prevailing public health order protection protocols are in place for all in attendance.
- Remote with In-Person Hybrid Learning “Yellow Status” – Students receive instruction by attending school in cohorts of reduced size for a reduced number of school days and/or times. Instruction is delivered digitally on non-attending days by our school staff. Prevailing public health order protection protocols are in place for all in attendance. Food service support for non-attending days is available for pick up at the school.
- Complete Suspension of in-Person Learning “Orange Status” – All instruction and emotional support are accessed away from the school building as during the Spring of 2019-20 school year, but more robust and academically rigorous. Instruction is delivered digitally or paper packets are available for pick up at the school. Limited in-person support is available on a scheduled basis as allowable by public health order. Food service support is available for pick up at the school.
- No-School Day “Red Status” – No instruction will be offered. Similar to an old “snow day”, a no-school day may have to be taken due to inclement weather or road conditions, health related issues, or facility cleaning days. Our current school calendar has 12 of these excess days built in to be used as needed to ensure the safety of our staff and students.

- 100% Online only Learning – Please call the school to discuss this option if your student falls in a high-risk category and cannot access school in-person. Online learning is different from remote learning; online learning is an alternative to in-person instruction. Students who choose online learning will need to remain in the online platform through the end of a grading period, but will remain as an Elbert School District student.

The options described will be initiated by the Elbert School Board of Directors or their designee in consultation with school administrators and public health officials in response to local health concerns, and local epidemiology where possible. To communicate the prevailing public health conditions, and the district

response, a notification system has been developed to allow for the clearest and most timely means of keeping the community informed of what to expect. The system recognizes four operational conditions corresponding to the available options. When In-Person Learning is possible, the district will be on “Green Status”, if Remote with In-Person Hybrid Learning is necessary the district will move to “Yellow Status”, and the Complete Suspension of In-Person Learning will be considered “Orange Status.” If a no school day is called we will be in “Red Status.” The table below summarizes the possible conditions and their responses.

Elbert “Green Status” Days			
<p>Green days will be considered the closest to normal instructional services by Elbert Schools. These are almost back to normal instruction with some non-invasive processes and procedures that will be the standards protocols for running school.</p> <p>Elbert considers a green day as one that can occur when there are very low case numbers or COVID-19 free cases in the community of Elbert and there are no obvious health issues going on with students or staff. Education will take place within the school facility.</p>			
Status	Option	Initiated By	Details
Green Status	In-Person Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low Rate of Confirmed Cases • “Flat Curve” • Less Restricted Group Size • Low Risk 	<p>Students receive instruction by attending school daily. Prevailing public health order protection protocols are in place for all in attendance, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary home entrance screening (CDC Method #1) • Temperature walk-through scan at front entrance • Masks optional not required • Transportation augmented to observe group size and distancing requirements • Special classes, recess, and lunch in small groups • Handwashing encouraged often • Daily fogging/misting disinfection of rooms and equipment several times per day

Elbert “Yellow Status” Days			
<p>Yellow days are times and periods in which there is a direct threat to the District and/or the community at large. In other words, if there is an increase in COVID-19 cases in our community, if there are people who have been exposed or tested positive in the school system, and if there are mandates or advisories by the state or the Elbert County Public Health Department that we need to increase our efforts to curtail the virus.</p> <p>Limited access to the educational facility. Students will attend in small groups/cohorts and on limited days and/or times. More specific details will be released in the next few weeks.</p>			
Status	Option	Initiated By	Details
Yellow Status	Remote with In-Person Hybrid Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spike in confirmed cases • Public Health Order Restricting group size • Increased Risk 	<p>Students receive instruction by attending school in cohorts of reduced size for a reduced number of school days and/or times. Instruction is delivered digitally on non-attending days. Food service support for non-attending days is available for pick up at the school. Prevailing public health order protection protocols are in place for all in attendance such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Green Status protocols in place • Masks required for staff and strongly recommended for students when possible • Physical barriers in use where possible

Elbert "Orange Status" Days

Orange days are periods when the school facility is closed for an indefinite amount of time depending on the severity of the coronavirus and the number of cases. The state or the Department of Health may order the school district closed. The school district may choose to close the facility on their own; however, acting without guidance from the other officials due to a specific safety issue. It will be our hope to limit closure of the facility for as short of a period feasibly possible. Closures may last three to 14 days for quarantine protocols. However, please be prepared that facility closures may last longer than a 14-day period. We will do everything within our power to keep our facility open as much as safely possible. During facility closures, remote learning will take place and students will be expected to continue academic progress at home, similar to our remote learning in the Spring of 2020, but in a more robust and academically rigorous fashion with attendance requirements mandated by the state.

Status	Option	Initiated By	Details
Orange Status	Complete Suspension of in-Person Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An elevated rate of infection High Risk Public Health Order Closing Schools 	Access to the school building is restricted. All instruction and emotional support is accessed away from the school building as during the Spring of 2019-20 school year, but more robust and academically rigorous. Instruction is delivered digitally or paper packets are available for pick up at the school. Students will be graded and evaluated on their school work the same as if they were learning in person. Attendance requirements must be met per the state mandate. Limited in-person support is available on a scheduled basis as allowable by public health order. Foodservice support is available for pick up at the school.

Elbert "Red Status" Days

Red days will be considered NO SCHOOL days. All learning will be put on hold until learning can safely resume. No school days may be called due to inclement weather or roads conditions, health related issues, or facility cleaning days.

Status	Option	Initiated By	Details
Red Status	Complete Suspension of Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An elevated rate of infection High Risk Public Health Order Closing Schools Inclement weather or road conditions 	Access to the school building is restricted. All instruction is cancelled for the day. No Food service will be offered.

The district will make every effort to communicate and initiate its operational status on timelines that allow for family planning. However, please be aware that we will act in compliance with state and/or public health orders and timeliness may be of the essence. The current district operational status will be publicly noticed via all available means of communication, and prominently posted on the district website and message boards.

As we prepare for and begin the school year, it will be important for us all to remember that the public health situation is uncertain and fast-changing. We hope that this plan provides some answers regarding what to

expect as we navigate this unusual time together. Current plans are to publish the district's opening condition in mid-July so the decision can be made with the most recent data available, while allowing reasonable time for families to plan for the start of the school year. However, the reality of the fluidity of the situation makes all decisions subject to change. We must all be prepared to remain as flexible as possible. What is certain is that the district will react in ways that consider both the school's mission to educate, and its responsibility to protect the health and safety of students, staff, and community.

As things evolve and school draws near, please know that we will make every effort to communicate any specific changes to these protocols. We appreciate your support and patience with this unusual situation. We are committed to providing every student with access to the highest quality education, as well as supporting parents to return to the work place and other obligations. We sincerely look forward to welcoming students back into the classroom as safely as possible.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and stay healthy!

Best regards,
Kelli Thompson