



Rowe Elementary School
Principal, Alyssa Wilson

Rowe Middle School
Principal, Chasity Beckless

August 7th, 2020

Rowe families,

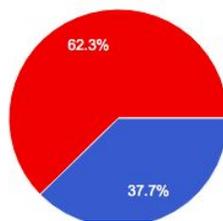
As we begin to share the Fall 2020 school plans, we are overwhelmed with gratitude to have families that partner with us to ensure we make decisions that are best for ALL stakeholders. Please see the below information in regard to the Fall 2020 re-opening plans. Thank you to the 632 respondents who provided feedback that guided our decision!

Here is what was critical to our decision

- About **62%** of families who completed the survey, responded that they would prefer 100% remote. We also asked if we were to open schools on Sept. 8th with a hybrid schedule, if they would send their scholar to school

Which school re-opening plan do you prefer? - ¿Qué plan de reapertura de escuela prefieres?

632 responses

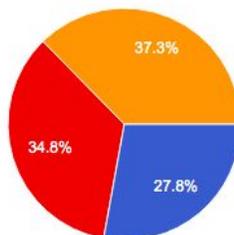


- CPS Hybrid Model (2 days in school, 3 days virtual) - Modelo híbrido CPS (2 días en la escuela, 3 días virtuales)
- A Full Remote Model (5 days virtual) - Un modelo remoto completo (5 días virtual)

- Only **37%** of respondents said Yes.

If Rowe were to re-open on September 8th using the hybrid model, would you send your scholar(s) to school? - Si Rowe abriera el 8 de septiembre usando el modelo híbrido, ¿enviarías a tu escolar?

632 responses



- Yes/Si
- No
- Not sure/No estoy seguro

There was an abundance of information that was helpful for us to make the decision to be **100% remote through winter break**. Now that CPS has aligned with this decision, we



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know that it was the right call. Making the decision to be remote through winter break provides the lowest risk for our staff, scholars, and families.

While we understand that this decision will not meet the expectations and needs of ALL of our families, we are determined to address areas of growth for our remote learning experience in the Spring. Our leadership teams are working in collaboration with our teachers to ensure that remote learning for this upcoming year is thoughtful, planned, rigorous, and engaging to all scholars. We also recognize that we need to provide supports for our families during this time to ensure they feel equipped to support their scholars.

Here are areas of growth and our plans to address them;

1. Parents and guardians want more extracurricular, athletic, and enrichment activities available for their scholars.

- ❑ **Our Plan:** In these uncertain times, we will put a pause on all extracurriculars and revisit this when health and safety guidelines advise.

2. Many families are having a difficult time adjusting to remote learning because of childcare issues, language barriers, and unreliable Internet connections.

- ❑ **Our Plan, childcare issues:** We are partnering with Martha Castillo from the after school program to think of ways that we can help families who have childcare challenges. If you have specific questions about options for childcare, please email Ms.Castillo at mcastillo@nush.org
- ❑ **Our Plan, language barriers:** We are fortunate to have several staff members on the Rowe team who are bilingual in English and Spanish. We will continue to use these talents to assist with family communications. In partnership with our IT department, we have a chrome extension added to all scholar's laptops to ensure that any screen that they are working on can be translated in their home language. We also have EL staff who are dedicated to meeting the needs of our EL scholars and families. We will work closely with them to make the remote learning experience as successful as possible.
- ❑ **Our Plan, unreliable Internet connections:** In partnership with IT and our board members, we are purchasing hotspots for identified families in need of access to the internet. We will also continue to share information about [Chicago Connected](#), which is Mayor Lighfoot's initiative to ensure every CPS family has access to the internet.

3. Meeting the needs of our scholars with IEPs AND our scholars who receive EL support.

- ❑ **Our Plan:** The Deans of SPED at both buildings are aware of this concern and have been in contact with families about opportunities to meet their scholar's needs. The OPS team has also contacted MANY families of scholars with IEPs and who receive EL services to determine how we can provide options for our most vulnerable



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scholars. More information about this will be shared in the upcoming weeks. Any in-person experiences will be prioritized for this group of scholars.

4. Meeting the socialization and structure needs of our younger scholars.

- ❑ Our Plan: We are connecting with several early childhood organizations throughout the city in order to discuss best practices for our youngest scholars. We plan to have an abundance of small-group learning times throughout the school day in order to provide scholars the supports and opportunities they need to engage with their teachers and other scholars. Teachers will be implementing Second Step, which covers the grade level Social and Emotional Learning skills. We have a social worker who will be working closely with teachers in order to support our youngest scholars. We are also considering how to support families in socialization outside of school hours.

We thank you for providing us with the GRACE and feedback that was needed in order to create a complex plan that will keep our families, staff, and scholars safe. Please review the attached Rowe Elementary School Remote Learning Family Playbook. This will provide a brief overview of our initial remote learning details for families to review. In the upcoming weeks, you can expect more detailed information from your scholar's school.

We are #RoweStrong and we will partner with one another to ensure our scholars, families, and staff are supported and successful.

Please join us for opportunities to connect and get your questions answered during the following dates/times

- Coffee with the principals on August 14th from 12 pm - 1 pm
- Family Q & A on August 20th from 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm
- Family Q & A on August 28th from 9:00 am - 10:00 am

Sincerely,

Alyssa Wilson, RES Principal

Chasity Beckless, RMS Principal