



Ember Charter School New York State Department of Health Reopening Plan **Instructional Program Model and Reopening Scenarios/Plans**

Ember will comply with all of the required health and safety guidelines issued by the New York State Department of Health (NYDOH) and New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE) in each of our NYCDOE buildings. Below is a description of our proposed schedule and calendar, though each is subject to change in accordance with emerging conditions caused by the ongoing public health emergency connected with Covid-19.

School Daily Program Schedule: Unless otherwise noted below, or in light of future health or safety conditions that necessitate such changes, we intend to offer our full academic program and schedule during our traditional hours of operation under all three scenarios outlined below, with a start time of **7:45AM Monday-Friday; dismissal will take place at 4:15PM Monday-Thursday, and 12:30PM Friday**. For your child(ren)'s specific program schedule during these hours, please follow up directly with your child(ren)'s Lead Teacher.

School Calendar: Unless otherwise noted below, or in light of future health or safety conditions that necessitate such changes, we intend to follow the full School Calendar posted on our website. Please check back frequently for any changes.

Attendance: Unless otherwise noted below, or in light of future health or safety conditions that necessitate such changes, we intend to continue to track and record daily attendance in our student information system. Attendance will be verified by staff as students join live instruction in person or online, and/or as they participate in daily individual or small group instructional support throughout the school day via video or conference calls. Staff will also monitor the efficacy of student engagement, reporting on students of concern who demonstrate low to no engagement with instruction either during the live scheduled instructional blocks or in subsequent individual or small group consultations. Such details will be documented and made available on an ongoing basis to school mental health/SEL and leadership teams, who will schedule targeted outreach and interventions with families, including but not limited to home visits as soon as practicable and permissible under public health guidelines. All such home visits will be conducted in full compliance with public health guidance and requirements. Serious issues of low to no engagement, or chronic absenteeism may necessitate a report to social services.

Evaluating Student Work: we will continue to use the same student work evaluation and assessment tools and protocols we use when school is in full session, including but not limited to formative and quarterly summative assessments. All promotion criteria will also remain in full effect. To deploy our student work evaluation and assessment tools, we will continue to utilize the full complement of digital tools at our disposal, including but not limited to the suite of Google digital platforms and tools (Google Classroom, Docs, Forms, Sheets, etc.), we currently use to collect, review and account for student work, as well as our supplemental platforms (Dreambox, Newsela, MySciLearn, CommonLit, Khan Academy, ExploreLearning Gizmos and Reflex Math, RhymeswithReason, etc.). While we have endeavored to provide 100% of students with the appropriate computers and internet service they need to access our full online program we recognize that sometimes technology fails or breaks down. In such circumstances where students who do not have access to computers and/or adequate internet, parents will be asked to take and email pictures of their student's work to teachers for review and feedback. Assessments will continue to be deployed through our online assessment platforms, all of which are accessible through families'

smartphones. Lastly, we will be able to monitor student activity while using our online tools and platforms via our current GoGuardian monitoring and accountability platform.

Support for Vulnerable Students (Students with Disabilities (SWD), Trauma, English Language Learners (ELL), Housing Insecure, etc.): Instructional and mental health/SEL staff will continue to implement our innovative, trauma and culturally informed fully inclusive and integrated co-teaching settings via our DLP, continuing to integrate the same trauma, ELL and SWD strategies we implement onsite. These strategies will be further supplemented with individualized and tailored conference calls twice a day to every family, alongside scheduled one-on-one and small group sessions for vulnerable students and families. We have also increased our engagement of students and families with respect to the unique and devastating impact of the twin pandemics of COVID-19 and systemic racism, both integrating these services into our core instruction and making space/opportunities for students and families to engage with our mental health/SEL practitioners separately and ongoing. We’ve also been in direct and frequent communication with the DOE’s Committee on Special Education (CSE) staff about the continuity of related services, including Speech, PT, OT and Counseling sessions for our IEP students. Where necessary, appropriate and practicable these services will be provided either in person or live online via video conferencing mechanism to deliver such services.

Reopening Scenarios: Unless otherwise noted below, or in light of future health or safety conditions that necessitate such changes, we intend to implement the following reopening plan depending on the relevant circumstances described below.

Fall 2020 Reopening Scenarios

Though these are not inclusive of all the possibilities, the goal here is identify the most likely scenarios given the most current information available.

Plan	Description
Initial Opening	100% Remote Learning: under NYCDOE guidelines school buildings remain closed to continue social distancing, but Ember’s full instructional program will begin August 17, 2020 100% online for K-8 students, and August 24, 2020 for high school students.
Plan A	Traditional Learning: opening for all students with public health guidance in place - with likely pockets of closure for 14 days at a time (i.e. return to 100% Remote Learning)
Plan B	Hybrid Learning: ie. staggered schedules, rotations by cohorts of students in each classroom to maintain social distancing
Plan C	100% Remote Learning: school buildings remain closed to continue social distancing



PLAN A-Traditional Learning: to the extent public health guidelines permit schools to open for all students, Ember intends to open for full onsite learning with our full schedule as soon as practicable.

PLAN B-Hybrid Learning: to the extent public health guidelines permit schools to open with limit capacity, Ember will follow NYCDOH guidelines for exposure prevention - masks, social distancing, limited cohorts of students to support social distancing. Though Ember will implement its standard school day schedule, we will create student cohorts within each classroom aligned with building capacity guidelines, with cohorts rotating between in-person and online learning. These rotations will follow a two-week onsite/one-week offsite structure. Online instruction will be provided in a synchronistic manner with in-person instruction to the extent practicable. With the exception of session times, programmatically we will continue to implement the same programmatic safeguards and conditions outlined in our “Updated EmberCS Educational Continuity Plan March 2020”. Please see the attached link to this plan on our website.

PLAN C-100% Remote Learning: to the extent public health guidelines require school buildings to remain closed, or where after enacting Plan A or Plan B above, health and safety require our school buildings to subsequently close for any period of time, Ember intends to offer our full program 100% online, during the same School Daily Program Schedule highlighted above. With the exception of session times, programmatically we will continue to implement the same programmatic safeguards and conditions outlined in our “Updated EmberCS Educational Continuity Plan March 2020”. Please see the attached link to this plan on our website.

After School and Extracurricular Activities: at present all after school and extracurricular activities remain suspended, and will continue to be so until such restrictions are lifted by the NYDOH and NYCDOE. We will continue to follow these guidelines and requirements, yet will seek to offer such opportunities as soon as practicable and permitted. If and when such activities resume, we will continue to follow all health and safety guidelines set by the NYDOH and NYCDOE.

Serving Vulnerable Populations: we will continue to work with the NYCDOE as the LEA to ensure continuity of services to students with special needs and circumstances. In concert with the NYCDOE, we will continue to provide special education programs/services according to each student’s IEP to the extent feasible through our learning models. For students whose families have opted for remote learning only, special education programs and related services will be provided remotely. More customized hybrid options may also be implemented based on a student’s individual needs and circumstances. To ensure the health and safety of students with disabilities and those providing special education services, the NYCDOE has released detailed protocols for the safe delivery of in-person services and assessments. Any accommodations, modifications, supplementary aids and services, and assistive technology that are appropriate for the student under the present circumstances will be provided by the NYCDOE to the extent feasible. For more information on the NYCDOE guidelines and plans herein, see the link to their Special Education guidance on our website.



Parent Choice: Families can opt into 100% remote learning at any time. Families who choose 100% remote learning can request to opt back into hybrid learning in writing upon an urgent or emergency change in circumstances. Such requests will be evaluated by the Partners (school leadership) and determined in the context of its impact on students and families currently in hybrid learning.

Staffing: We intend to return to onsite operations with our full staff as soon as practicable and permitted under NYDOH and NYCDOE guidelines. Employees who are older adults and/or have underlying medical condition(s) that create an increased risk of severe illness should they contract COVID-19 may be eligible for a reasonable accommodation to work remotely. Requests for reasonable accommodations to work from home will be considered in accordance with relevant disability laws, including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and consistent with applicable health guidance, CDC guidance. Staff will be required to provide supporting medical documentation with their application.