



UNCERTAIN TIMES, UNANSWERED QUESTIONS

The Education Trust—New York analyzed the school district reopening plans submitted to the New York State Education Department by the 50 school districts serving the greatest number of students from low-income backgrounds across the state. Every plan received a rating of “strong evidence,” “some evidence,” or “no evidence” on 25 equity criteria drawn from the requirements and recommendations in state guidelines. The results from all 50 districts are summarized below, with additional information available at EdTrustNY.org/ReopeningStronger.

PROVIDING EQUITABLE INSTRUCTION AND ENGAGING ALL STUDENTS

1

EQUITY PRIORITY:

The district reopening plan demonstrates use of a **locally determined formative or diagnostic assessment** to determine individual student needs and target extra help to ensure academic needs are addressed.



2

EQUITY PRIORITY:

The district reopening plan provides **live daily instruction aligned with grade-level learning standards to all students** in all grade levels during blended or distance learning.



3

EQUITY PRIORITY:

The district reopening plan describes how school districts will use a variety of creative methods to **reach out to students and their families who did not engage in distance learning**. School policies and procedures must focus on the academic consequences of lost instructional time and address absences before students fall behind in their learning.



4

EQUITY PRIORITY:

The district reopening plan describes how districts will **assign each student an “ally”** — such as counselors, coaches, social workers, psychologists, and other school staff in addition to teaching staff — who is responsible to check in on the student every day, whether instruction is in-person, remote, or through a hybrid model.



5

EQUITY PRIORITY:

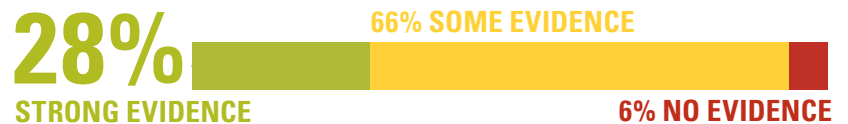
The district reopening plan includes information on how the district will provide **multiple ways for students to participate in learning, which includes routine meaningful feedback on student assignments and support from an appropriately certified teacher** whether instruction is delivered in-person, remotely, or through a hybrid model.



6

EQUITY PRIORITY:

The district reopening plan describes a mechanism to **collect and report daily teacher-student engagement** or attendance while in a remote or hybrid schedule.

**MEETING SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL NEEDS**

7

EQUITY PRIORITY:

The district reopening plan proactively and regularly **identifies the social-emotional needs of returning students**, including by engaging parents and families.



8

EQUITY PRIORITY:

The district reopening plan includes a strategy for **providing social-emotional assistance or referrals** to students and families.

10%

82% SOME EVIDENCE

STRONG EVIDENCE

8% NO EVIDENCE

SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITH UNIQUE LEARNING NEEDS

9

EQUITY PRIORITY:

The district reopening plan specifies how it will address the learning loss experienced by many **English language learners (ELLs)**, in both their English language development and mastery of content area knowledge.

26%

34% SOME EVIDENCE

STRONG EVIDENCE

40% NO EVIDENCE

10

EQUITY PRIORITY:

The district reopening plan describes how the district will ensure access to the necessary accommodations; modifications; supplementary aids, evaluations, and related services; and technology (including assistive technology) to meet the **unique disability-related needs of students**.

76%

16% SOME EVIDENCE

STRONG EVIDENCE

8% NO EVIDENCE

11

EQUITY PRIORITY:

The district reopening plan prioritizes equity and access for all students, including **students experiencing homelessness**, regardless of the instructional model implemented.

0%

26% SOME EVIDENCE

STRONG EVIDENCE

74% NO EVIDENCE

PROVIDING ACCESS TO STRONG EDUCATORS

12

EQUITY PRIORITY:

The district reopening plan includes **regular substantive interaction between teachers and students.**

26%

STRONG EVIDENCE

72% SOME EVIDENCE

2% NO EVIDENCE

13

EQUITY PRIORITY:

The district reopening plan includes **professional learning that addresses staff's understanding of mental health, well-being, trauma-responsive and restorative practices, and social-emotional learning to support students.**

24%

STRONG EVIDENCE

68% SOME EVIDENCE

8% NO EVIDENCE

14

EQUITY PRIORITY:

The district reopening plan identifies and addresses any additional professional development needs for administrators, teachers, and teaching assistants for the upcoming school year, and particularly those needs related to **designing effective remote/online learning experiences and best practices for instruction in remote/online settings.**

18%

STRONG EVIDENCE

68% SOME EVIDENCE

14% NO EVIDENCE

ADDRESSING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE FOR FAMILIES AND EDUCATORS

15

EQUITY PRIORITY:

The district reopening plan includes information on how the district will have knowledge of the level of **access to devices and high-speed internet all students have** in their places of residence.

74%

STRONG EVIDENCE

26% SOME EVIDENCE

0% NO EVIDENCE

16

EQUITY PRIORITY:

The district reopening plan includes information on how the district, to the extent practicable, will address the need to **provide a device for exclusive use to students** who currently do not have access regardless of whether in-person, remote, or hybrid model is utilized.

78%

STRONG EVIDENCE

22% SOME EVIDENCE

0% NO EVIDENCE

17

EQUITY PRIORITY:

The district reopening plan includes information on how the district, to the extent practicable, will address the need to provide **consistent, reliable access to high-speed internet at a sufficient level to fully participate in remote/online learning (e.g., a hotspot) to students** who currently do not have sufficient access regardless of whether in-person, remote, or hybrid model is utilized.

74%

STRONG EVIDENCE

26% SOME EVIDENCE

0% NO EVIDENCE

18

EQUITY PRIORITY:

The district reopening plan includes information on how the district, to the extent practicable, will address the need to **provide a device for exclusive use to teachers** who currently do not have access regardless of whether in-person, remote, or hybrid model is utilized.

58%

STRONG EVIDENCE

22% SOME EVIDENCE

20% NO EVIDENCE

19

EQUITY PRIORITY:

The district reopening plan includes information on how the district, to the extent practicable, will address the need to provide **consistent, reliable access to high-speed internet at a sufficient level to fully participate in remote/online teaching (e.g., a hotspot) to teachers** who currently do not have sufficient access regardless of whether in-person, remote, or hybrid model is utilized.

42%

STRONG EVIDENCE

36% SOME EVIDENCE

22% NO EVIDENCE

ADOPTING ANTI-RACIST POLICIES AND PRACTICES

20

EQUITY PRIORITY:

The district reopening plan describes **instructional experiences that are inclusive, culturally responsive**, consider the needs of all students, and adhere to all established state regulations and guidelines.

6%

26% SOME EVIDENCE

STRONG EVIDENCE

68% NO EVIDENCE

21

EQUITY PRIORITY:

The district reopening plan describes how all grade 7-12 students will have **equitable access to high quality rigorous instructional opportunities** [consistent with NYSED guidance on access to advanced courses].

2%

2% SOME EVIDENCE

STRONG EVIDENCE

96% NO EVIDENCE

22

EQUITY PRIORITY:

The district reopening plan describes the **implementation of restorative practices** within the learning community.

10%

46% SOME EVIDENCE

STRONG EVIDENCE

44% NO EVIDENCE

IMPROVING FAMILY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

23

EQUITY PRIORITY:

The district reopening plan describes how districts will **engage with school stakeholders and community members** (e.g., students, parents/legal guardians of students, and others) in developing their reopening plan and identify those that participated in the reopening planning.

22%

74% SOME EVIDENCE

STRONG EVIDENCE

4% NO EVIDENCE

24

EQUITY PRIORITY:

The district reopening plan describes a **clear communication plan available in multiple languages** and disseminated through multiple modalities (e.g., email, online platform, and/or by phone) for how students and their families/caregivers can contact the school and teachers with questions about their instruction and/or technology.

20%

STRONG EVIDENCE

80% **SOME EVIDENCE**

0% NO EVIDENCE

25

EQUITY PRIORITY:

The district reopening plan describes **communication with families regarding school meal availability and access** through multiple means in the languages spoken by families.

32%

STRONG EVIDENCE

54% **SOME EVIDENCE**

14% NO EVIDENCE