

ELIMINATING THE LEARNING GAP
FOR DISADVANTAGED URBAN CHILDREN

ROSYALYN YALOW CHARTER SCHOOL REOPENING PLAN 2020-2021

Introduction

The first week of instruction will be **remote only** for all students, beginning Tuesday, September 8, 2020.

To assure equity in education for all students, Rosalyn Yalow Charter School's reopening plan emphasizes returning all students to in-person instruction, beginning Thursday, September 17, 2020. The New York State Department of Health and the Governor's office prioritize in-person instruction for students in early grades, special education students, and English language learners. All these account for 100% of Rosalyn Yalow's student body. Yalow's instructional plans provides families with two options, a hybrid model consisting of 3 days of in-person instruction and 2 days of remote instruction, OR 5 days of fully remote instruction.

In lieu of remote instruction Yalow will be offering in-person remediation classes on Mondays and Wednesdays. These targeted intervention classes are designed to close learning achievement gaps in literacy and math exacerbated by the long absence from in-person schooling during the COVID-19 pandemic.

On April 23, 2020, the Rosalyn Yalow Charter School was named one of 582 high-achieving Recognition Schools, including 37 charter schools, from across New York, placing Rosalyn Yalow among the top 13% of schools in New York State.

As our authorizer noted:

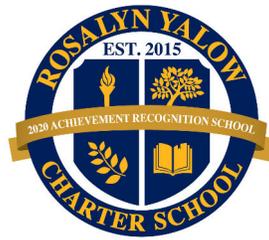
"Recognition schools are those with high academic achievement and strong progress, that also perform acceptably for all subgroups for which they are accountable..."

The hybrid in-person reopening plan we have outlined reflects our continued commitment to reduce the achievement gap for all of Rosalyn Yalow students, including special education students and English language learners. In-person learning is paramount to abating learning losses experienced by many of Rosalyn Yalow's current ELL students in both their English language development and their mastery of content area knowledge, as well as special education students.

Parent Survey

Parents are being asked to sign an online contract requesting either hybrid in-person or full-remote instruction, using portal.yalowcharter.org. The contract period is September 15–November 21, 2020. **Parent choice cannot be changed during this period.**

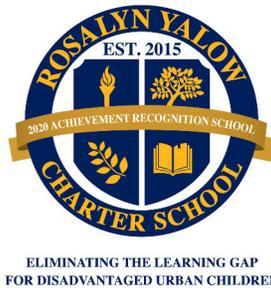
The school will reevaluate the hybrid instruction model on November 21 and determine whether or not to modify the model.



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Social Distancing

Rosalyn Yalow will ensure that social distancing (of at least 6 ft. or a physical barrier) is maintained while in school facilities and on school grounds, including in the hallways and cafeteria, unless safety or the core activity (e.g., moving equipment, using an elevator, traveling in common areas) requires a shorter distance or individuals are of the same household. The school cafeteria tables are being retrofitted with polycarbonate dividers; we may also serve meals in alternate areas or have staggered meal periods. Rosalyn Yalow will prohibit sharing of food and beverages, unless students are members of the same household.

Face Coverings

Adults and students must wear acceptable face coverings, excluding students who are unable to medically tolerate a face covering. Rosalyn Yalow will train all students, faculty, and staff on how to adequately put on, take off, clean (as applicable), and discard PPE.

Students, staff, and faculty should be prepared to don a face covering if another person unexpectedly cannot socially distance; for this reason, individuals must wear face coverings in common areas, such as entrances/exits, lobbies, hallways, and when traveling around the school. Acceptable face coverings for COVID-19 include but are not limited to cloth-based face coverings and surgical masks that cover both the mouth and nose. (Masks with built-in respirator valves are not permitted because particulates can be dispersed into common areas.)

Rosalyn Yalow will operate on a *no mask, no entry* policy. Students must wear a face covering to ride the school bus and wear it while entering, exiting, and seated. The school will provide temporary masks when necessary, but all adults and children are advised to have their own masks.

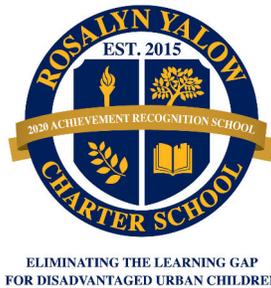
Hygiene, Cleaning, and Disinfection

The buildings will be deep cleaned before teachers and students return to school.

Rosalyn Yalow will exceed hygiene, cleaning, and disinfection requirements from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Department of Health (DOH) to identify cleaning and disinfection frequency for each facility type. Cleaning personnel will maintain logs that include the date, time, and scope of cleaning and disinfection. Rosalyn Yalow will provide and maintain hand-sanitizer stations throughout the school. Rosalyn Yalow will conduct nightly and mid-day cleaning and disinfection for frequently touched surfaces, including desks, cafeteria tables, and door handles.

Rosalyn Yalow's disinfection protocol exceeds CDC guidelines by using UV-C lamps with ozone each evening for disinfecting every classroom. UV-C lamps with ozone kill all airborne viral, bacterial, and fungal agents, the most germicidal effect in the ultraviolet spectrum.

Rosalyn Yalow will rely on NYCDOE Pupil Transportation to ensure that school bus companies and personnel follow all appropriate guidelines for cleanliness.



Communications

Rosalyn Yalow has posted completed reopening plans at the school and on the school website for faculty, staff, students, and parents/legal guardians to access. It has engaged with school stakeholders and community members when developing reopening plans, including parents, administrators, teachers, NYCDOH, NYC Department of Education Offices of School Health, School Food, and Pupil Transportation, the NYC Fire Department, Hughes Environmental Engineering, and Mosaic Mental Health. It has developed a communications plan for parents/legal guardians, staff, and visitors. Communications will be provided in the language(s) spoken at home when necessary.

Return to School

Daily temperature checks will be mandatory for every adult and child entering the building—contractors, vendors, and visitors—performed by a nurse from the NYC Department of Health (DOH). Personnel performing in-person screening will follow DOH guidelines.

If there are no buses, all students should have one adult with them for arrival who must stay until the temperature screen takes place. Any individual who presents with a temperature greater than 100.0°F. will not be allowed to enter the school, and will be immediately sent home with instructions to contact their health care provider for assessment.

In addition, all staff and parents will be required to complete an electronic health screening each morning prior to arriving at school using portal.yalowcharter.org to complete the COVID-19 Certification. The daily COVID-19 Certification asks staff and parents to answer the same four questions required to enter a NYC hospital (see attachment). Four “no” responses are required for staff or students to enter the school.

Rosalyn Yalow will follow the DOH requirements for determining when individuals, particularly students, *who screen positive* for COVID-19 symptoms can return to school. Returning to school after quarantine requires documentation of evaluation by a healthcare provider and symptom resolution, or if COVID-19 positive, release from quarantine as required by DOH and NYSED. Current DOH guidelines specify that staff and students may return to school after 10 days; students (or staff) *who were exposed* to the COVID-19 virus must complete a 14-day quarantine. If they have not developed symptoms they may return to school in coordination with NYC Track and Trace and the DOH.

Quarantine

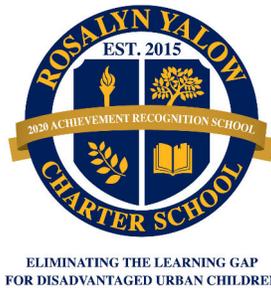
A student who screens positive upon arrival at school or becomes symptomatic while at school will be escorted to a designated isolation room and parents/guardians will be notified to pick the child up.

Facilities

Rosalyn Yalow is changing the way space is utilized within classrooms and common areas, including the cafeteria, to protect students, and is consulting with design professionals to increase ventilation and filtration within the school to meet or exceed ventilation requirements.

Operational Activities

Rosalyn Yalow is revamping all 19 homeroom classrooms to maximize space for students and teachers to move safely within the rooms. Although the footprint for each classroom is fixed, the number of students choosing in-person instruction will vary from class to class. Rosalyn Yalow uses a co-teaching model of instruction, with two teachers in



each classroom, supplemented by a number of special education teachers, teachers for English language learners, and reading interventionists. Our co-teaching model remains unchanged but can accommodate the choices parents make—a teacher initially assigned to in-person instruction may be reassigned to remote instruction if a child is quarantined.

We are retrofitting all classrooms to provide clear protective polycarbonate barriers to enable students to more safely sit at desks and removing extra furniture to create more space in each room. Teachers desks will include safety glass. The school will be cleaned nightly, in addition to using UV-C lamps in each room to eliminate any COVID-19 particulates.

We will limit the number of parents and visitors in the building. Instead of in-person visits, virtual appointments will be made available.

Ventilation

Rosalyn Yalow will increase ventilation with outdoor air to the greatest extent possible (e.g., opening windows and classroom doors, maximizing airflow in building ventilation systems) while maintaining health and safety protocols. At the 169th Street campus HVAC filters are in the process of being upgraded to MERV 13 filters—the highest *workable* filtering capacity for the 169th Street system—and the MERV 13 will be changed monthly rather than quarterly.

We are working with the landlord of the Third Avenue campus to determine appropriate filtering in the HVAC system and what upgrades may be warranted.

Remote/In-Person Instruction

Rosalyn Yalow will provide families with a choice. Families may choose hybrid in-person instruction or fully remote instruction. Hybrid in-person instruction consists of 3 days of in-person instruction and 2 days of remote instruction using Google Classroom. Hybrid schedules are shown in the table below for grades k-2 and grades 3-5.

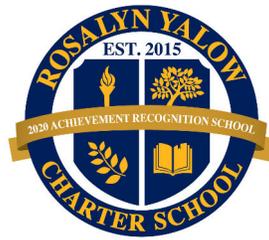
Remote instruction consists of 6 hours of daily instruction Monday–Friday using Google Classroom.

All teachers will be teaching from their respective classrooms so that all students have an opportunity to experience that classroom community.

Rosalyn Yalow is working to provide live-stream instruction from each student’s homeroom. Video cameras are being purchased to enable real-time instruction in Core Knowledge Language Arts and Singapore math allowing remote students to see and hear one another and respond to questions asked.

We will continue assessing student learning to identify and support students who are struggling. In addition to Rosalyn Yalow’s 38 homeroom teachers, we have a dedicated 17-person intervention team to provide additional academic support for those who need it.

Mondays and Wednesday will be set aside for targeted on-campus interventions for all struggling students. Because of the personalized needs of individual students, targeted small-group interventions must be in person. (See Special Education, p. 7, and English as a New Language, p. 8.)



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Hybrid Instruction Model, consisting of 3 days in-person instruction at Yalow—highlighted in yellow—and 2 days remote instruction, begins on Tuesday, September 15, 2020, as follows:

A) In-person instruction at Yalow:

- Tuesday, Thursday, Friday (see table below for hours of instruction by grade level)

B) Remote instructional days using Google Classroom:

- Monday, Wednesday (see table below for hours of instruction by grade level)

Grades K–1

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Remote	In-Person	Remote	In-Person	In-Person
7:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.	7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	7:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.	7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Grade 2

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Remote	In-Person	Remote	In-Person	In-Person
8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.	8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.	8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Grades 3–5

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Remote	In-Person	Remote	In-Person	In-Person
8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.				

Remote Instruction Model consisting of 5 days of remote learning:

- Monday–Friday (see table below for hours of instruction by grade level)

Grades K–2

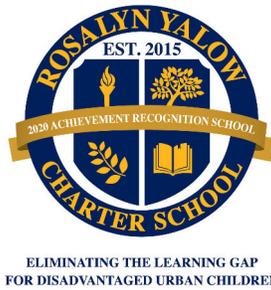
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Remote	Remote	Remote	Remote	Remote
7:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.				

Grade 2

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Remote	Remote	Remote	Remote	Remote
8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.				

Grades 3–5

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Remote	Remote	Remote	Remote	Remote
8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.				



Fire Safety Drills

Rosalyn Yalow will continue to conduct mandatory fire and lockdown drills according to the existing statutory schedule. Rosalyn Yalow is meeting with the Fire Department of New York to address best practices to promote social distancing during evacuation drills.

Food Service

Rosalyn Yalow will continue to provide breakfast and lunch to students who were previously receiving school meals, and newly enrolled students. Students are required to wear face coverings walking to and from the cafeteria. Rosalyn Yalow is working with the NYCDOE Office of Food and Nutrition Services to ensure compliance with Child Nutrition Program requirements. Cafeteria tables will be cleaned using disinfectant wipes between seating of student groups. The NYCDOE will provide a certified food handler to distribute student meals and assist with cleaning cafeteria surfaces.

Families choosing remote instruction will be notified about *grab 'n go* locations to pick up meals.

Transportation

At this time, Rosalyn Yalow does not believe NYCDOE will be providing yellow bus service for students during the first few months of school; we will ask the NYC Office of Pupil Transportation to provide students with free Metro Cards for city buses and subways until yellow bus service resumes. Those families relying on NYC public transportation will be provided with full information and guidance for using public buses, subways, and taxis according to NYCDOH rules.

The school continues working with the Office of Pupil Transportation to ensure that students who are homeless, in foster care, or have disabilities receive safe and effective transportation as required by law (McKinney-Vento). Students must wear acceptable face coverings at all times on public and school buses (e.g., entering, exiting, and seated), and maintain appropriate social distancing, unless they are members of the same household.

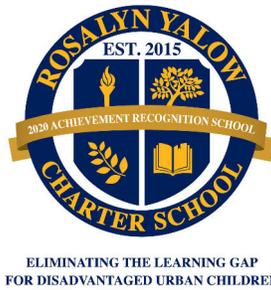
When full student bus service resumes later this fall, Rosalyn Yalow will rely on NYCDOE Pupil Transportation to ensure that school bus companies and personnel follow all appropriate guidelines for safety.

Mental Health, Behavioral, Emotional Support Services and Programs

The social-emotional health of our students is very important. Mosaic Mental Health is no longer operating its satellite clinic at Rosalyn Yalow. As such, Yalow is reaching out to additional community groups, including New York Presbyterian Hospital, to provide students and staff with resources—or referrals—to address any mental health, behavioral, and emotional needs they may seek. Rosalyn Yalow's 10 in-house teacher-social workers in kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grades will support students having difficulty transitioning back to in-person instruction. Faculty and staff will be trained on how to talk with, and support, students during and after the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency.

Recess

We believe in recess, and will continue to escort students outside, weather permitting.



Extracurriculars

Rosalyn Yalow's policies regarding extracurricular programs (and which activities will be allowed) are being developed using DOH guidelines. Considerations include social distancing, PPE usage, as well as risk of COVID-19 transmission (e.g., interscholastic sports).

Schoolwide assemblies and family gatherings will be suspended until further notice.

Vulnerable Populations

Rosalyn Yalow will make all reasonable efforts to accommodate all vulnerable populations, including students, faculty, and staff who might be at increased risk for COVID-19 and individuals who have reason to feel uncomfortable returning to an in-person instruction environment. Such accommodations may entail special PPE provided for students and/or staff populations. The school will communicate any policy or procedure changes accordingly.

Technology & Connectivity

Rosalyn Yalow will provide Internet service to those who do not have it (for 60 days). Therefore, any quarantined child can access distance learning.

Budget & Fiscal

Rosalyn Yalow will continue to meet existing state aid reporting requirements. All student data reporting to NYC and NYS, such as student attendance, annual report, and related fiscal data, will continue, except where modified by law, regulation, or executive order.

Attendance & Chronic Absenteeism

Rosalyn Yalow will collect and report daily teacher/student attendance for both in-person and remote-instruction and make daily phone contact with students not at the school.

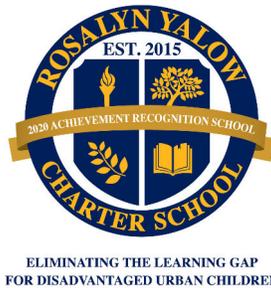
Teacher Evaluation System

Rosalyn Yalow's goal is that teachers improve their overall effectiveness in educating their students. The Rosalyn Yalow teacher evaluation system remains unchanged, and will follow the same protocols for teachers conducting in-person or remote instruction. Teachers are evaluated on their performance, student learning, data, lesson plans, and other important instructional attributes. Teachers are evaluated both formally and informally on a daily basis—including when instruction is conducted virtually. Data from evaluations guide teacher professional development.

Special Education

18% of Rosalyn Yalow's students are special education students, with IEPs specifying integrated co-teaching, SETSS, or related services. All mandated services will be offered either in person or by videoconference. In-person instruction is a priority for high-need students with disabilities.

Integrated Co-Teaching: Grades K-1 will be provided instruction at our Third Ave Campus with a model of 1 general education teacher, 1 teacher-social worker, and 1 special education teacher. The special education teacher supports



group lessons in core subjects and provides small group instruction in groups of no more than 4 (separated by polycarbonate partitions for protection).

Integrated Co-Teaching: Grades 2-5 will be provided instruction at our main site with a model of 2 general education teachers and 1 special education teacher. The special education teacher supports group lessons in core subjects and provides small group instruction in groups of no more than 4 (separated by polycarbonate partitions for protection).

SETSS Services: Students will be provided their SETSS mandate daily as recommended by their IEPs.

Related services: Speech, occupational therapy, counseling, and physical therapy will be provided by outside specialists assigned by the DOE to our school based on the written mandates on a student's IEP.

Remote Special Education Services: Integrated co-teaching services will be provided online. The teachers will support the students with modified lessons as specified.

Remote SETSS services will be provided by a special education teacher in a group session to meet the IEP recommendations.

Remote Related services: Speech, occupational therapy, counseling and physical therapy will be provided through TeleTherapy. The group size may vary or the service may be individual if scheduling proves difficult.

English as a New Language

32% of Rosalyn Yalow's current students are English language learners (ELLs). Rosalyn Yalow will continue conducting the NYC Home Language Identification Survey (HLIS) for each student entering Rosalyn Yalow within 30 days of the start of school—October 8, 2020—to identify newly enrolled ELL students. In-person learning is critical to abating learning losses.

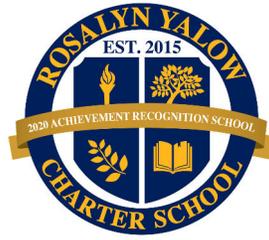
Rosalyn Yalow will provide all communications to parents/guardians of ELLs in their preferred language and mode of communication to ensure that they have equitable access to critical information about their children's education. As always, Rosalyn Yalow will ensure that all ELLs will be provided with the required instructional units of study in their English as a New Language (ENL) program based on their most recently measured NYS English language proficiency level.

Working with Health Authorities

If a confirmed COVID-19 case arises within a classroom it may be necessary for a class to transition to remote learning. Classroom closure triggers, however, are not yet defined and will be made in consultation with DOH.

Conclusion

Rosalyn Yalow will fully implement its approved charter authorized by the New York State Board of Regents on March 2, 2020.



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We believe that this reopening plan optimizes the health and safety of our students, teachers, and staff, given the challenges we all face due to COVID-19. We will closely monitor additional guidance and requests from all stakeholders and will update our reopening plan accordingly. The most current reopening plan will always be posted on the school's website.