



Urban Prep's mission is to provide a high-quality college preparatory educational experience resulting in our graduates' success in college. We remain committed to that mission in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. We also remain committed to the health and safety of our students, teachers, staff and administrators.

Fulfilling our mission is all the more urgent because of the data related to Black boys and young men, particularly those from low-income families like many of our students:

- The number one cause of death for young Black males is homicide.
- Suicide, already the third leading cause of death for young Black males, is on the rise.
- Almost half of young Black males are unemployed and out of school.
- The high school drop-out rate for Black males hovers near 50%.
- The college enrollment and completion rates for Black males are 52% and 35% respectively.
- Over 2,600 people have been shot and 450 killed in Chicago this year (more than any other year over the past decade) and most of the victims were young Black men; 440 of the shooting victims—including 71 who were killed--were under the age of 19.

These data demonstrate that being in school is literally life and death for our students. For the sake of our students' futures—for all of our futures—we cannot risk losing touch with our young men or being disconnected from them. It is critical that our students have access to some form of in-person instruction during this tumultuous time. To that end, Urban Prep developed a plan that would best allow us to serve the educational and social emotional needs of our young men while simultaneously following protocols established by the CDC, State of Illinois, City of Chicago, Illinois State Board of Education and the Chicago Public Schools. In developing this plan, we gathered input from our students, families, Team UP members and other stakeholders.

Through the [Hybrid Instructional Plan at Urban Prep \(HIP-UP\)](#), a learning approach will be implemented that includes remote academic instruction and in-person social-emotional support, college counseling, personal counseling, health and wellness-checks, cultural competency development and training on technology use. HIP-UP will remain in place until such time as health, safety and/or governmental guidelines allow a return to full-time in-person instruction or require full-time remote learning.

HIP-UP calls for each student to have four-days of remote instruction weekly. These lessons will be facilitated by Urban Prep teachers who - in conjunction with the Principals - have developed an engaging and challenging online curriculum. All students will be provided a laptop device and information on how to access low/no cost Internet access in their homes.

Once per week, students will report to school to receive in-person instruction conducted by Pride leaders, Personal Counselors, College Counselors, Administrators and Urban Prep Alumni. The curriculum for these in-person instructional days was developed over the past several years and modified to meet the new structure in order to best meet the needs of our students. This time will also provide an opportunity for students to get training on how to utilize the school issued technology and remote-learning curricular tools and receive tech-support.

In order to ensure the safest possible environment for our students and Team UP members while implementing HIP-UP, we will follow these guidelines:

- The number of people allowed inside Urban Prep at any time will not exceed 20% of the building's capacity.
- Face masks will be required to be properly worn at all times by all people in the building.
- Social distancing will be adhered to in classrooms, offices, hallways and other spaces in the building.
- All persons entering the building will have their temperature checked and be required to complete a health questionnaire.
- Students will be assigned to a pod with no more than 15 students that will meet in an assigned classroom. Social distancing will be practiced. Students will remain in that pod for the duration of the hybrid-learning program. The classroom will be cleaned after each pod completes their work for the day. Each Pod will be assigned a specific restroom.
- Instructors will move classroom to classroom, there will not be any student transitions.
- Breakfast and lunch will be served in common spaces with no more than thirty students at one time. Disposable plates, cups and forks will be used; and social distancing will be enforced so that no student is within 6 feet of another student.
- Outside spaces will be utilized as the weather allows, however, even while outside, all people will be required to practice social distancing and wear masks.
- Cleaning and disinfecting of all spaces used by students and Team UP members will take place daily.
- If a student or Team UP member contracts COVID-19, they will not be allowed to enter the building until they provide evidence of testing negative for the virus.
- We will conduct contact tracing and inform the parent(s)/guardian(s) of students as well as any Team UP members who may have come in contact with the person testing positive for COVID-19 at school.
- All rooms in which students and Team UP members are located will have air purifiers, hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes. All bathrooms will be equipped with soap and paper hand-towels and/or air dryers.
- Attendance and participation in remote instruction is required. Students who choose to opt-out of in-person instruction, will be required to engage in supplemental remote instruction.
- Any student and Team UP member showing symptoms of COVID-19 or are otherwise feeling ill, must remain home.
- The policies and protocols may change at any time as the circumstances necessitate.

These are unprecedented times. And as such, they call for an unprecedented response. We are confident that HIP-UP will allow Urban Prep to continue to fulfill its mission while keeping our students and their families as well as Team UP members as safe as possible.

It's time for school. It's time to HIP-UP