School Reopening
Health & Safety Plan

Community Forum

Thursday, July 23, 2020

Carol D. Birks, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Ronald A. Simonson, M.Ed.
Pandemic and School Safety and Security Coordinator
• Welcome/Greetings
• Purpose of the Forum
• Overview of School Reopening Plan Pandemic
  School Reopening Task Force (PSRT)
• Decision Making Guidance
• Highlights of Survey Results
• Emerging Themes
• Communications Plan
• Questions
• Listen and learn to determine the needs of families
• Present Pennsylvania Department of Education’s School Reopening Guidance
• Share educational options presented by Pennsylvania Department of Education
• Provide overview of Decision-Making Guidance
• Share survey results from stakeholders
• Communications Plan/Next Steps
On June 3, 2020, the Pennsylvania Department of Education requested that all districts create a Health and Safety Plan. Each district in the state of Pennsylvania, including Chester Upland School District, is expected to develop a plan in collaboration with community stakeholders to reopen schools in the Fall.
Purpose:

• To serve as the Steering Team to seek to minimize risks to public health and address impacts on student learning and well-being of all stakeholders within our Learning Community.
• To recognize the importance of the local public schools to the community and seek to optimize operational readiness; to ensure that the issues of health, safety, and educational equity always come first while guiding the district; and to provide role-aligned insight and expertise to inform Reopening priorities and next steps.
Composition:

- Dr. Carol D. Birks, Superintendent, and Mr. Ronald A. Simonson, Pandemic and School Safety and Security Coordinator will lead the work to plan for the students and staff members’ return to school in the fall.
- The School Reopening Task Force is comprised of Chester Upland School District (CUSD) administrators, staff, and health professionals.
Pandemic School Reopening Task Force (PSRT)

- Family/Community Partnerships and Engagement
- Organizational Efficiencies and Safety
- Learning and Teaching
- Talent Management and Development
- Technology
## Work Groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Work Group</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family/Community Partnerships and Engagement</td>
<td>To mobilize diverse community resources; and to foster strong two-way communication with partners, such as families, educators, and staff.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organizational Efficiencies and Safety</td>
<td>To safeguard the health and safety of students and staff by developing and implementing health and safety policies and protocols.</td>
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<td>Learning and Teaching</td>
<td>To ensure educational equity and readiness for all students; and to ensure the literacy and mathematical needs of all students, including English Language Learners and Special Education students, are met.</td>
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<td>Talent Management and Development</td>
<td>To develop and implement professional learning opportunities for all stakeholders.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technology</td>
<td>To ensure equitable technological access and support for all students.</td>
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Educational Options

- Total Reopen for all Students and Staff
- Scaffolded Reopening: Some Students Engaged in In-Person Learning while Others are Distance Learning
- Blended Reopening: Balances In-Person Learning and Remote Learning for all Students
- Total Remote Learning for all Students
Equity and Excellence for All

Chester Upland School District’s Commitment to Public Health and Well-being

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)/World Health Organization

Pennsylvania Department of Health/Chester County Health Department

Pennsylvania Department of Education/Superintendent’s Pandemic School Reopening Task Force (PSRT)

Surveys: Families and Faculty & Staff

Community Forums and Town Hall Meetings for Families / Faculty and Staff
• The PSRT developed and administered a survey to families in English and Spanish.
• Links to the survey were posted on the District website and social media platforms.
• The survey was open from July 7, 2020 through July 13, 2020.
• We received 320 responses.
Family Survey Results

Types of Learning Opportunities
320 responses

- **Total reopen for all students and staff (but some students/families opt for distance learning out of safety/health...)**
- **Scaffolded reopening: Some students are engaged in in-person learning, while others are distance learning (i.e., some...**
- **Blended reopening that balances in-person learning and remote learning for all students (i.e., alternating days or w...**
- **Total remote learning for all students.**
Academic Levels Comparison – Type of Learning Opportunities

Grades K-5

- Blended: 46%
- Scaffolded: 17%
- Remote: 30%
- Reopen: 7%
Academic Levels Comparison – Type of Learning Opportunities

Grades 6-8

- **Blended**: 19%
- **Scaffolded**: 23%
- **Remote**: 51%
- **Reopen**: 7%
Academic Levels Comparison – Type of Learning Opportunities

Grades 9-12

- Blended: 34%
- Scaffolded: 12%
- Remote: 46%
- Reopen: 8%
Based on current circumstances, if your school building reopens in the fall, do you plan to send your child to school for in person classes?

320 responses

- Yes: 55%
- No: 45%
Academic Levels Comparison: Based on current circumstances, if your school building reopens in the fall, do you plan to send your child to school for in person classes?
320 responses

Grades K-5

- **Yes**: 57%
- **No**: 43%
Academic Levels Comparison: Based on current circumstances, if your school building reopens in the fall, do you plan to send your child to school for in person classes?

320 responses

Grades 6-8

- Yes: 56%
- No: 44%
Academic Levels Comparison: Based on current circumstances, if your school building reopens in the fall, do you plan to send your child to school for in person classes? 320 responses

Grades 9-12

- **Yes**: 54%
- **No**: 46%
What do you believe is the most important safety measure for schools to reopen safely?

320 responses

- All staff and students in the building wear masks: 88.4%
- Desks are placed 6 feet apart if feasible (at least 3 feet apart when 6 feet is not...): 2.8%
- Schools are fully cleaned each day: 0.9%
- Hand washing/sanitizing stations: 3.8%
- Temperature checks when entering building: 1.2%
- Staggered/rotating schedules: 1.2%
- All of the above: 1.6%
Are you comfortable with your child wearing a mask at school all day?
320 responses

- Yes: 55.3%
- No: 44.7%
Are you OK with your child participating in a daily health monitoring (i.e., temperature checks and symptom screening before entering a school building)?

320 responses

- Yes: 83.8%
- No: 16.2%
If schools reopen in a traditional, scaffolded, or blended manner, how would you send your child to school?

320 responses

- I will transport my child to school: 47.2%
- My child will walk to school: 10.6%
- My child will ride the school bus: 9.1%
- My child will use public transportation: 10.6%
- I will not be sending my child to school: 33.1%
Families explained their feedback and input regarding school reopening:

• No air conditioning in three school buildings
• Difficulty keeping masks on children all day
• Many children have underlying health conditions, such as asthma
• Concerns about family members who are elderly and/or have underlying health conditions
• The number of positive coronavirus cases is rising
• Classrooms should have fewer students to allow for more social distancing
• The PSRT developed and administered a Faculty/Staff Return to Work Survey.
• Links to the survey were posted on the District website and sent directly via District email.
• The survey was open from July 8, 2020 through July 13, 2020.
• We received 243 responses.
Types of Learning Opportunities:
243 responses

- **34.2%**: Total reopen for all students and staff (but some students/families opt for distance learning out of safety/health…)
- **10.3%**: Scaffolded reopening: Some students are engaged in in-person learning, while others are distance learning (i.e., some…)
- **10.3%**: Blended reopening that balances in-person learning and remote learning for all students (i.e., alternating days or w…)
- **7%**: Total remote learning for all students.
Faculty/Staff Return to Work Survey Results

Based on CURRENT circumstances, if your school building reopens in the fall, do you plan to return to work?
243 responses

- Yes: 91.4%
- No: 8.6%
What do you believe is the most important safety measure for schools to reopen safely?

243 responses

- **89.7%**: All of the above
- **2.1%**: Desks are placed 6 feet apart if feasible (at least 3 feet apart when 6 feet is not feasible)
- **2.9%**: Schools are fully cleaned each day
- **1.6%**: Hand washing/sanitizing stations
- **0.8%**: Temperature checks when entering building
- **0.4%**: Staggered/rotating schedules
If in-person learning resumes in the fall, how concerned are you about accessing personal protective equipment for classrooms and work areas/offices?

243 responses
Are you comfortable wearing a face covering and/or face shield at work all day and participating in a daily health monitoring (i.e., temperature checks and symptom screening before entering a school building)?

243 responses

- Yes: 70.8%
- No: 29.2%
Faculty/staff explained their feedback and input regarding school reopening:

• Need access to more digital resources
• Many staff members are older and have underlying health conditions that put them at a higher risk for experiencing severe complications if they become infected with the coronavirus
• Face-to-face instruction needed for remote learning
• Increased accountability for students for their classwork
• Regularly scheduled meetings of classes
• Challenging for students and staff to wear masks all day
• Concerns about the ability to adequately clean and disinfect classrooms and frequently touched surfaces throughout the day to keep students and staff safe
• Provide information and updates on District’s website, Facebook, and Twitter on a bi-weekly basis
• Posted Health and Safety Plan on District website, Wednesday, July 15, 2020
• Presented Draft School Reopening Plan Presentation, Receiver’s Meeting, Thursday, July 16, 2020
• Conduct Community Forums via Zoom for families and community members, Wednesday, July 22, 2020, and Thursday, July 23, 2020, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
• Conduct Virtual Town Hall Meetings via Zoom for faculty/staff, Friday, July 24, 2020, 9:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.
• Present recommendation to Receiver/Board for School Reopening during a Special Meeting with the public, Tuesday, July 28, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.
• Conduct Community Forums/ Town Hall Meetings - Week of August 10, 2020
Pandemic School Reopening Task Force Members:

Dr. Carol D. Birks
Ronald Simonson
Dr. Joanne Barnett
Ikeya Campbell
Anthony Johnson
Thomas Johnson
Mark McIntyre
Nikki Monroe-Hines
Marvin Newton
Dr. Jala Olds-Pearson
Carlena Parker
Dr. Eric Pugh
John Shelton
Robert Whitaker