



ONWARD AND UPWARD STRATEGY TO RE-OPEN SCHOOLS 2020-2021

**JULY 13, 2020
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

MRS. CHERYL WATSON-HARRIS, SUPERINTENDENT





PURPOSE

- To describe when and how school will re-open considering the current health guidance and feedback from the community
- To present the strategic actions for ensuring the safety and well-being of staff, students, and families

DECISION-MAKING FRAMEWORK

The District's decisions have been guided by the following:

- Georgia Department of Public Health
- DeKalb Board of Health
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE)
- Metropolitan Regional Educational Service Agency (MRESA) Collaboration with Superintendents
- Local and State Government Officials

COVID-19 RE-OPENING TASK FORCE (CRTF)

Mrs. Cheryl Watson-Harris, Superintendent

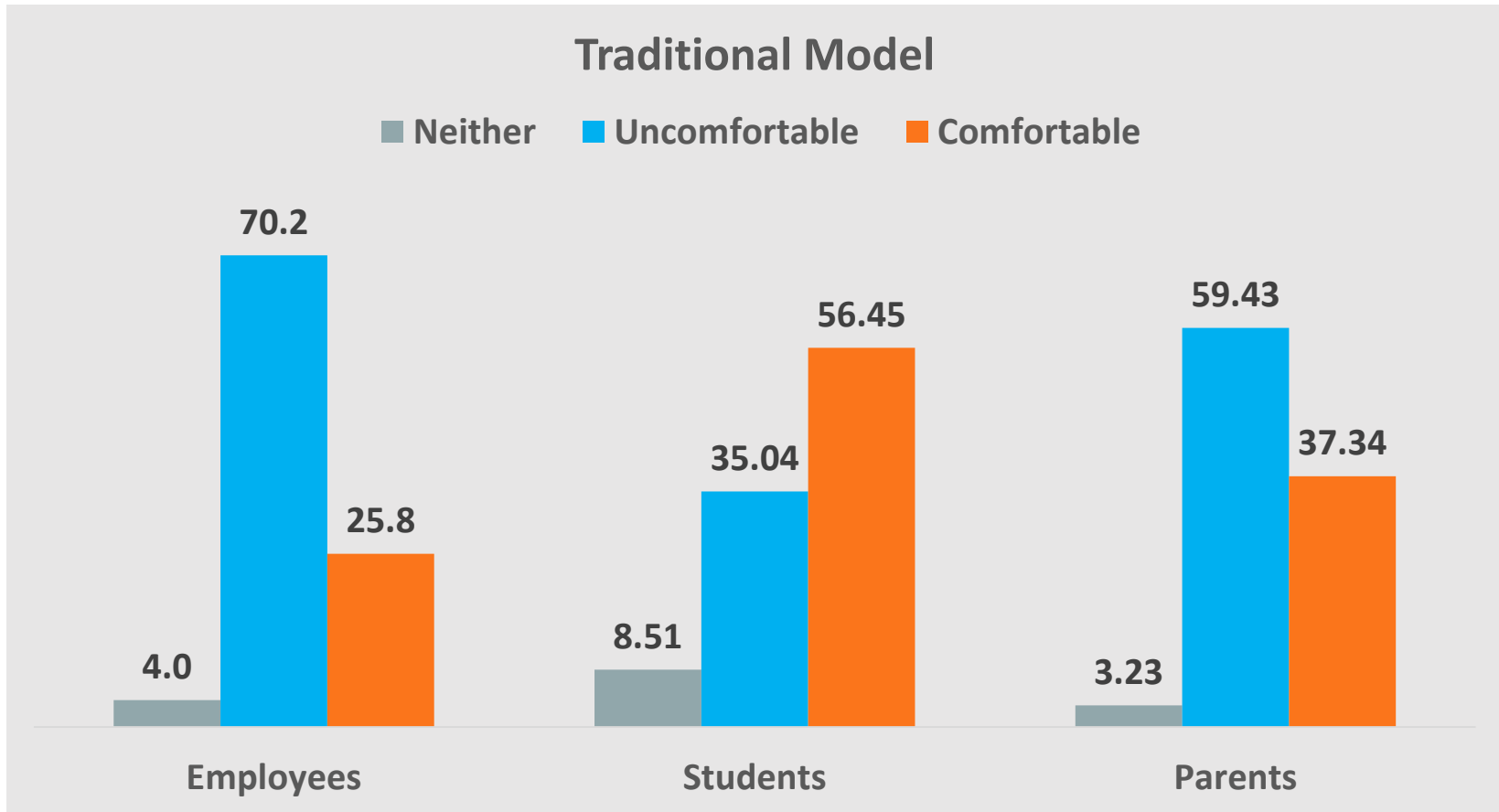
- Antwyn Brown, Superintendent's Office/Communications
- Dr. Vasanne Tinsley, Student Support & Intervention
- Noel Maloof, Facilities & Operations
- Stacy Stepney, Curriculum & Instruction
- Linda Woodard, Human Resources
- Masana Mailliard, Finance
- Monika Davis, Information Technology
- Dr. Linda Frazer, Accountability
- Dr. Deborah Moore-Sanders, Student Support & Intervention
- Joann Harris, LEAD Nurse
- Dr. Connie Walker, School Nutrition
- Dr. Quentin Fretwell, Pandemic Specialist
- Melanie Pearch, Region I
- Trenton Arnold, Region II
- Dr. Sean Tartt, Region III
- Dr. Michelle Jones, Region IV
- Dr. Triscilla Weaver, Region V
- Pamela Benford, Region VI
- Dr. Rodney Swanson, Region VII

COMMUNITY INPUT SURVEY

The following data results indicate the level of *comfortability* that stakeholders have related to returning to school and work within the traditional, remote and hybrid models.

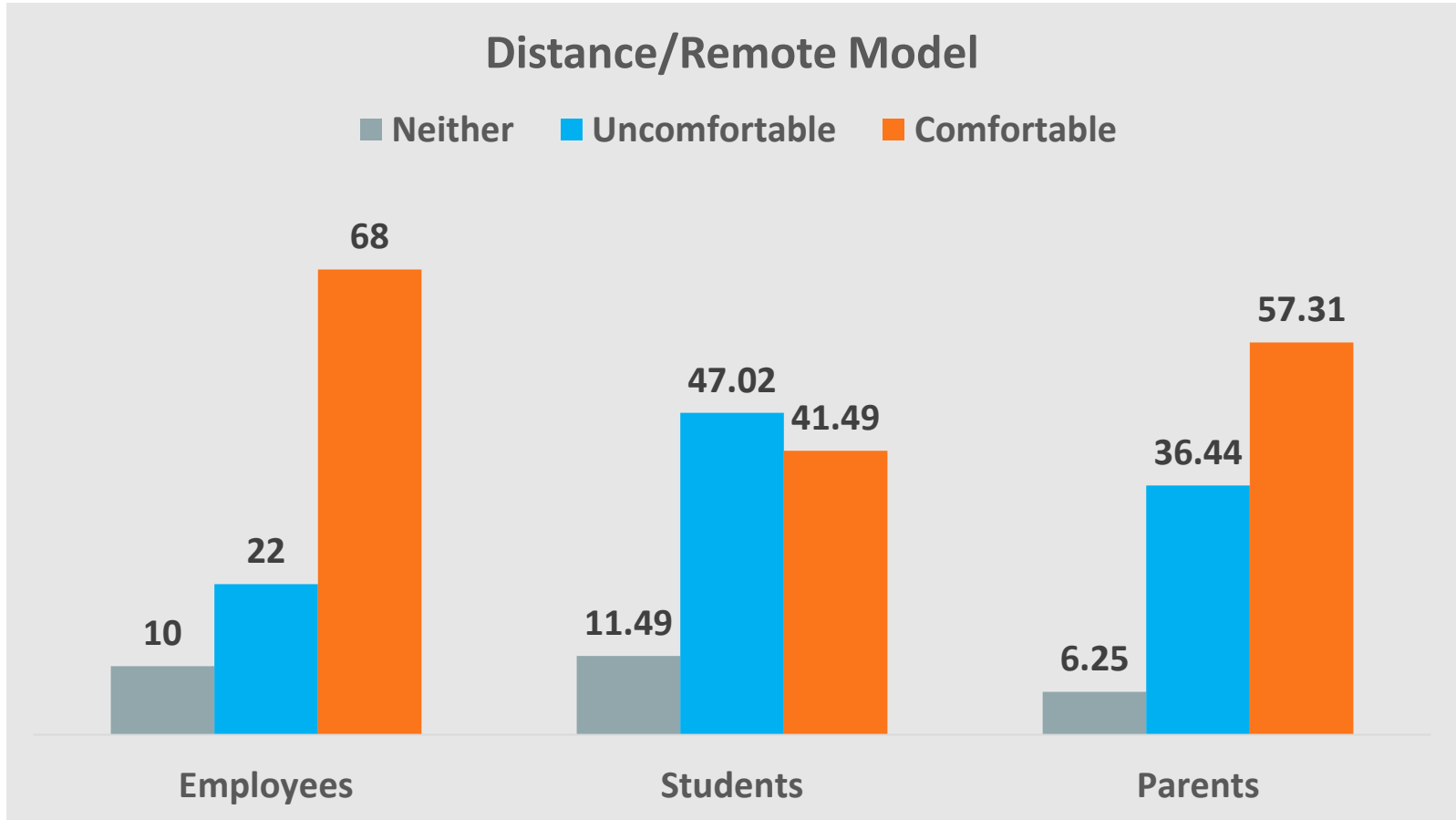
Stakeholder Respondent Groups	Representing	Survey Respondents Total
DCSD Parents/Guardians	Grades PK-12	25,591
DSCD Students	Grades 6-12	5,485
DCSD Employees (inclusive of Start-Up Charter)	School-based and District	8,499

COMMUNITY INPUT SURVEY



Note: Numerical data displayed as percentages

COMMUNITY INPUT SURVEY



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COMMUNITY INPUT SURVEY

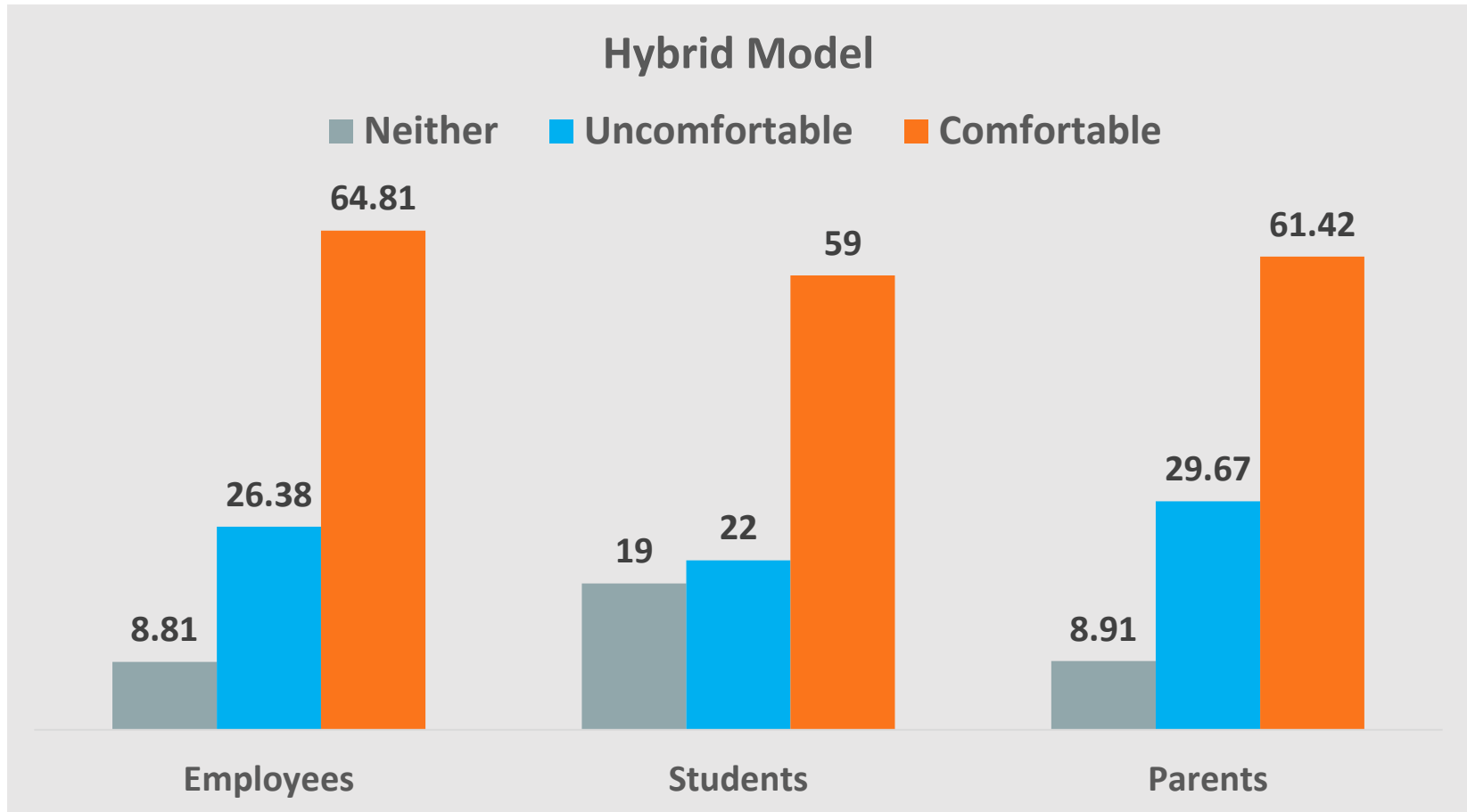
Full-Time Distance/Remote Learning Model

What is the **likelihood** of supporting a 100% distance/remote learning model?

Stakeholder Type	Likely	Unlikely	Neither
Parents (only)	52.37%	41.15%	6.48%

(Note: Parent Respondents Only)

COMMUNITY INPUT SURVEY



Note: Numerical data displayed as percentages

COMMUNITY INPUT SURVEY

Hybrid Options Likeability (A/B Day vs. A/B Week)

What is respondent's *likeability* of the two offered hybrid options?

Hybrid Schedule Option	Parents in Favor	Students in Favor	Employees in Favor
HYBRID MODEL A/B - DAY	64.1%	58.8%	65.1%
HYBRID MODEL A/B - WEEK	42.7%	40.0%	41.7%

COMMUNITY INPUT SURVEY

Employee Return to Work Considerations

- **99.1%** of employee respondents indicate an intention to return to work
- **Comfortability** levels of employee respondents relative to returning to the physical workplace environment are as follows:

Stakeholder Group	Level of Comfort	Percent
Employees Only	Comfortable	48.06%
	Uncomfortable	46.12%
	Neither	5.81%

COMMUNITY INPUT SURVEY

Employee Return to Work Considerations

- **21.1%** of employee respondents indicate that there are extenuating circumstances that may prevent a return to the physical work environment

Extenuating Circumstance	Percent
Personal pre-existing health condition	35.1%
Prevention of COVID-19 for someone within household with a pre-existing health condition	27.3%
Access to childcare	13.5%
Taking care of an elderly relative	13.4%
Transportation	0.6%
Other	10.1%

COMMUNITY INPUT SURVEY

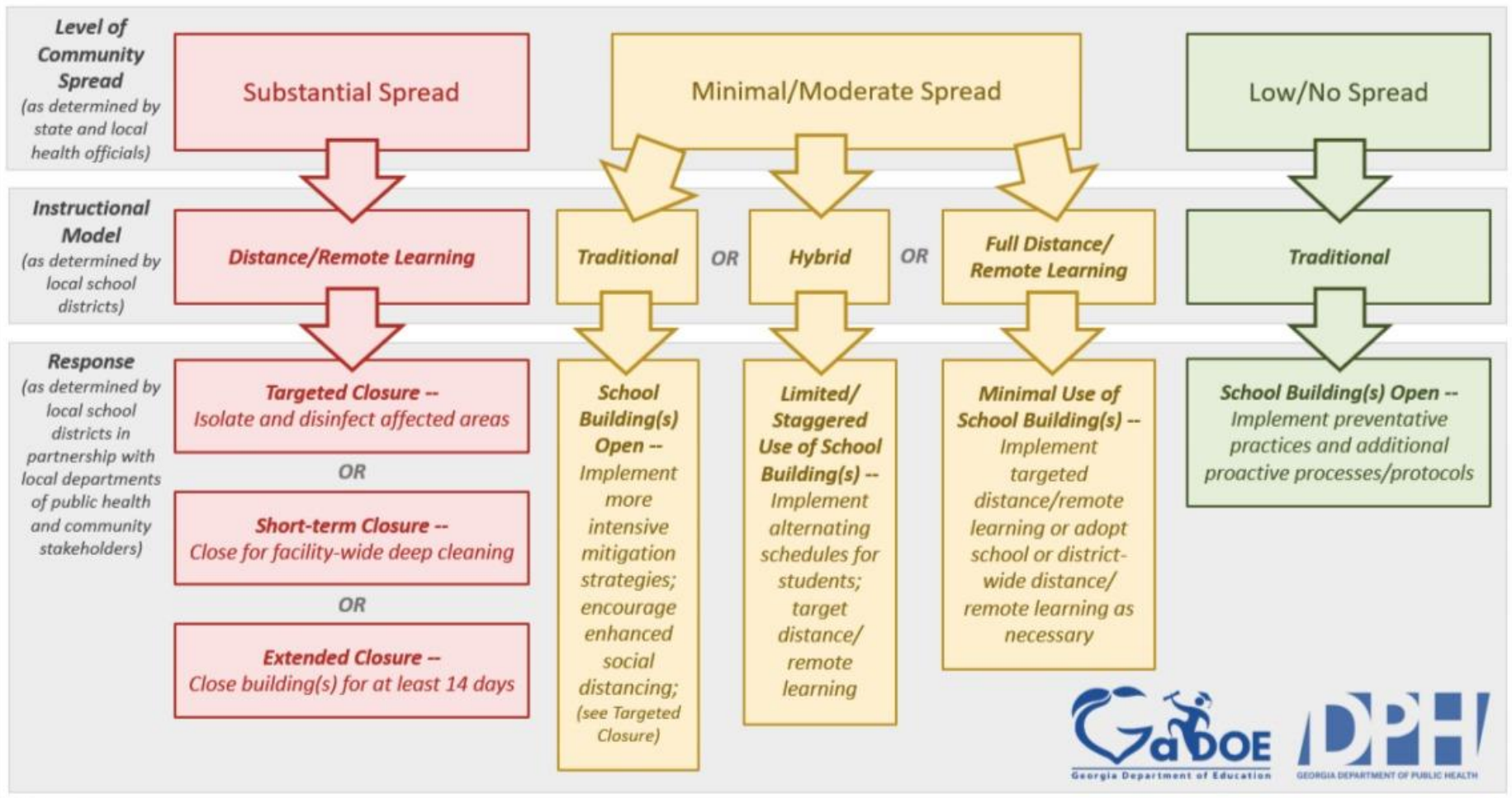
Safety Considerations

Current level of **importance** that stakeholders (parents and employees) have indicated relative to safety practices, protocols, and provisions in response to COVID-19

Consideration Factors	Parents	Employees
Personal Protective Equipment	94.6%	97.9%
Public Health Regulations	98.1%	99.3%
Clean and Disinfected Buildings	99.1%	99.8%
Temperature Checks	96.5%	97.9%
Plexiglass Partitions	92.0%	96.8%
Social Distancing Protocols	94.5%	98.1%

SCHOOL DISTRICT DECISION TREE

LEVELS OF COMMUNITY SPREAD AND LEARNING MODELS



DCSD'S DECISION-MAKING GUIDANCE

Risk Level Determines Learning Model

LEVEL OF COMMUNITY SPREAD (BASED ON COVID-19 DATA)	INSTRUCTIONAL DELIVERY IMPACT
Surge in Covid-19 cases in DeKalb County to reach 'Substantial' category	Distance/Remote learning
Consistent number of Covid-19 cases in DeKalb County to reach 'Mild/Moderate' category	Option: Hybrid A/B day with transition to traditional learning model if health conditions improve Option: Hybrid A/B day with transition to distance/remote learning model if health conditions decline
Steady decline in the number of COVID-19 cases in DeKalb County to reach 'Low/No Spread' Category	Traditional learning
School-based staff member or student tests positive for COVID-19	Targeted impact on school and/or classroom which could include transition to distance/remote learning for a period of time
School-based staff member or student exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19	Staff member or student will be immediately isolated, and the District will follow guidance from the Georgia Department of Public Health, DeKalb Public Health and CDC.

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH/ DEKALB BOARD OF HEALTH

Georgia Department of Public Health's data as of [July 11, 2020](#)


- Confirmed Cases – 8144 (+171 since July 10, 2020)
- Number of DeKalb County Residents – 793,154
- Cases per 100,000 DeKalb County Residents – 1026.79
- Deaths per 100,000 DeKalb County Residents – 22.8
- Total Deaths – 181 (+4 since July 10, 2020)

RE-OPENING PRIORITY: SAFETY AND WELL-BEING

Risk Level – Substantial Spread

(*Note: Projected by DCSD based on current COVID-19 benchmarking data)

LEVEL OF SPREAD	RECOMMENDED DCSD INSTRUCTIONAL MODEL	GUIDANCE BASED UPON
Low/No Spread	Traditional Learning	Health Guidelines Data Local and State Collaboration Resources
Minimal/Moderate Spread	Traditional Learning Hybrid Learning Distance/Remote Learning	
Substantial Spread	Distance/Remote Learning	



PLAN FOR RE-OPENING SCHOOLS

ONWARD & UPWARD STRATEGY

- Recommending to the Board of Education a 2020-2021 school calendar amendment to delay the start of the school year
- Beginning re-entry of 12-month staff on July 14, 2020 (hybrid approach) to prepare for opening of schools
- Beginning distance/remote learning on August 17, 2020
- Devising staggered schedules that allow teachers, support personnel, and students to safely access instructional resources and/or check-out devices in preparation for the beginning of the school year
- Monitoring the COVID-19 data and assessing the level of spread to determine if the current learning model should be adjusted

Assessment Dates (Board Meeting Dates)			
September 14, 2020	October 19, 2020	November 9, 2020	December 7, 2020

PLAN FOR RE-OPENING SCHOOLS

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

- Facilitating virtual professional development sessions to share strategies to effectively teach and monitor learning in a face-to-face, blended, or remote learning environment
- Developing professional development needed to support teachers and leaders (trauma, implicit bias, social emotional learning, inclusion and appropriate use of digital and online learning tools and systems)
- Developing modules for students and parents to know how to navigate in VERGE, use Microsoft TEAMS or ZOOM, and access instructional software resources
- Creating the elementary social emotional learning modules Expanding the *DCSD Cares – Take Care of You* modules for stakeholders Devising a plan for giving assessments, analyzing data, and adjusting the curriculum and academic goals in traditional, hybrid, or remote learning environments

PLAN FOR RE-OPENING SCHOOLS

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- Purchasing 1:1 Chromebooks for PreK-5th and 10% replacement devices for grades 6-12
- Conducting inventory of Chromebooks to determine loss, damage and replacement needs
- Completing districtwide inventory of IT equipment (desktops, laptops, Chromebooks, monitors, routers, switches, etc...) and entering data into IT Asset Inventory System
- Executing Chromebook distribution plans by school
- Enhancing IGNITE U (staff) and Digital Dreamers (student) training opportunities and resources to support remote learning

PLAN FOR RE-OPENING SCHOOLS

ASSESSMENTS

- Determining an alternative assessment that satisfies appropriate test security regulations for gifted eligibility
- Considering cost, meeting state regulations, space, timing, scoring, personnel, and social distancing guidance/criteria

HUMAN RESOURCES

- Implementing virtual hiring process that was developed in response to COVID-19
- Conducting virtual interviews
- Supporting new hires with completing paperwork online
- Sustaining communication between Human Resources and newly hired employees
- Collaborating with all divisions to support employees' preparedness with returning to work and transitioning between various work environments

PLAN FOR RE-OPENING SCHOOLS

HEALTH & WELLNESS

- Collaborating with health partners
- Monitoring daily COVID-19 statistics
- Continuing the COVID-19 Health Team to address inquiries
- Collaborating with Communications to prepare signage aligned to CDC guidance
- Implementing and monitoring the Athletics Re-entry Plan based on the guidelines from the Georgia High School Association and health agencies



PLAN FOR RE-OPENING SCHOOLS

Mask UP!

How to properly wear a mask



1

Clean your hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer



2

Hold the mask by the ear loops and place a loop around each ear



3

Mold or pinch the stiff edge to the shape of your nose



4

Pull the bottom of the mask over your mouth and chin



DeKalb County
School District



DeKalb County
School District

PLAN FOR RE-OPENING SCHOOLS

STUDENT & FAMILY SUPPORT

- Providing VERGE Access to school counselors to conduct guidance sessions
- Continuing to provide Youth Mental Health First Aid 101 Training for staff
- Responding to economic and mental health and general health concerns of students, families and staff by providing resources
- Providing counseling related updates electronically for parents and students
- Continuing to monitor the safe usage of electronic platform in compliance with Student Code of Conduct
- Conducting electronic check-ins and provide electronic resources for parents
- Monitoring student abuse reporting portal
- Continuing interpretation and translation support
- Providing opportunity for virtual parent workshops
- Expanding partnership opportunities (Atlanta Community Food Bank, DeKalb Community Service Board, CHRIS 180, Pathways, National Alliance of Mental Illness)

PLAN FOR RE-OPENING SCHOOLS

MEALS & NUTRITION

- Planning a variety of healthy meals which meet federal guidelines for each grade level to include breakfast, lunch and snack/supper (as applicable)
- Collaborating with Transportation to deliver meals along school bus routes for families that lack access to transportation
- Selecting sites for alternate meal service pick-up option
- Refining school curbside pick-up options
- Exploring meal options that include pre-packaged boxes or bags

PLAN FOR RE-OPENING SCHOOLS

Operations

Supplies

- Acquiring an inventory of masks, gloves, and hand sanitizer
- Purchasing additional cleaning supplies and equipment
- Adding hand sanitizer stations to schools in strategic locations

Cleaning

- Providing schools with guidance for cleaning prior and after re-entry to buildings aligned with CDC and DPH guidance
- Providing technical assistance for schools to execute cleaning protocols, plan custodial schedules, and provide tutorials and educational materials for cleaning products and machinery
- Bolstering supply chain and inventory of cleaning and disinfection products, hand soap, and paper goods

PLAN FOR RE-OPENING SCHOOLS

Operations

Facilities

- Developed the Capacity Modeling-Guidance and Classroom Layout Modeling-Guidance for schools in alignment with CDC and DPH
- Working with sub-committee to provide guidance and illustrations of how a building may be set up for student flow to promote social/physical distancing

HVAC

- Monitoring air quality and HVAC systems to ensure working properly and maintaining appropriate fresh air flow
- Making adjustments to increase fresh air in the schools (ASRAE Guidance)
- Completing HVAC work orders and preventative maintenance to ensure proper functioning

PLAN FOR RE-OPENING SCHOOLS

Operations

Maintenance

- Providing guidance for maintaining healthy water systems
- Working staggered shifts to maintain work order flow and make repairs to facilities with the anticipation of the learning model varying based on the level of spread
- Providing plexiglass dividers for receptionist counters and Media Center checkout

Facilities Use

- Directing public use of buildings be limited until schools are open
- Updating Facilities Use Agreement with safety and cleaning protocols (once opened)

PLAN FOR RE-OPENING SCHOOLS

Operations

Transportation

- Investigated how to reasonably practice social distancing on school buses
- Building our regular routing schedules
- Developing safety measures and cleaning protocols for buses before, and after routes
- Developed protocol that masks are required for drivers and expected for students
- Developing protocol for increasing fresh air on buses (opening windows)
- Providing hand sanitizer for each bus
- Collaborating with Food Nutrition Services to continue meal services by delivering food to pick-up locations and distributing meals as needed



The Superintendent reserves the right to modify all aforementioned guidance based upon current information from the Governor's office, Georgia Department of Education, Georgia Department of Public Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and DeKalb County Board of Health.