



SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

January 11, 2021

STRATEGIC PLAN

Vision

To inspire our community of learners to achieve educational excellence

Mission

To ensure student success, leading to higher education, work, and life-long learning

Core Beliefs

- Making sure every decision supports quality teaching and learning
- Ensuring we meet every student's academic, social and emotional needs
- Embracing the cultural diversity of our community as a strength
- Holding everyone accountable for educational excellence

Goals

- **Student Success with Equity and Access**
- Stakeholder Engagement and Communication
- Staff Effectiveness
- Culture and Climate
- Organizational Excellence
- Facilities

DCSD RE-OPENING PLAN



STUDENT SUCCESS WITH EQUITY AND ACCESS

Presentation Overview

- **Highlights from Week One**
 - Acknowledge Efforts of Staff
 - Share Data from January 4th Week
 - Discuss Flags Revealed in the Opening of School Checklist and Next Steps
 - Share Recommendations and Highlights by Region
- **Rationale for making steps to return to face to face**
 - Guidance from CDC
 - National Trends
- **Decision Making for Student Return to School**

STUDENT SUCCESS WITH EQUITY AND ACCESS



...for being committed to our scholars

...for providing honest feedback

...for offering solutions

...for expressing your excitement and concerns as schools re-opened

STUDENT SUCCESS WITH EQUITY AND ACCESS

Data Snapshot from Week One

Region	Number of Buildings Open	Number of Employees Who Reported In-Person *
1	All schools (25)	494 Certified, 202 Classified: 696 Total
2	All schools (25)	344 Certified, 194 Classified: 538 Total
3	All schools (16)	222 Certified, 215 Classified: 437 Total
4	All schools (17)	180 Certified, 219 Classified: 399 Total
5	All schools (16)	191 Certified, 126 Classified: 317 Total
6	All schools (15)	138 Certified, 96 Classified: 234 Total
7	All schools (14)	128 Certified, 132 Classified: 260 Total

* Captured from data collected on Wednesday, January 5, 2021

STUDENT SUCCESS WITH EQUITY AND ACCESS

Highlights from Week One

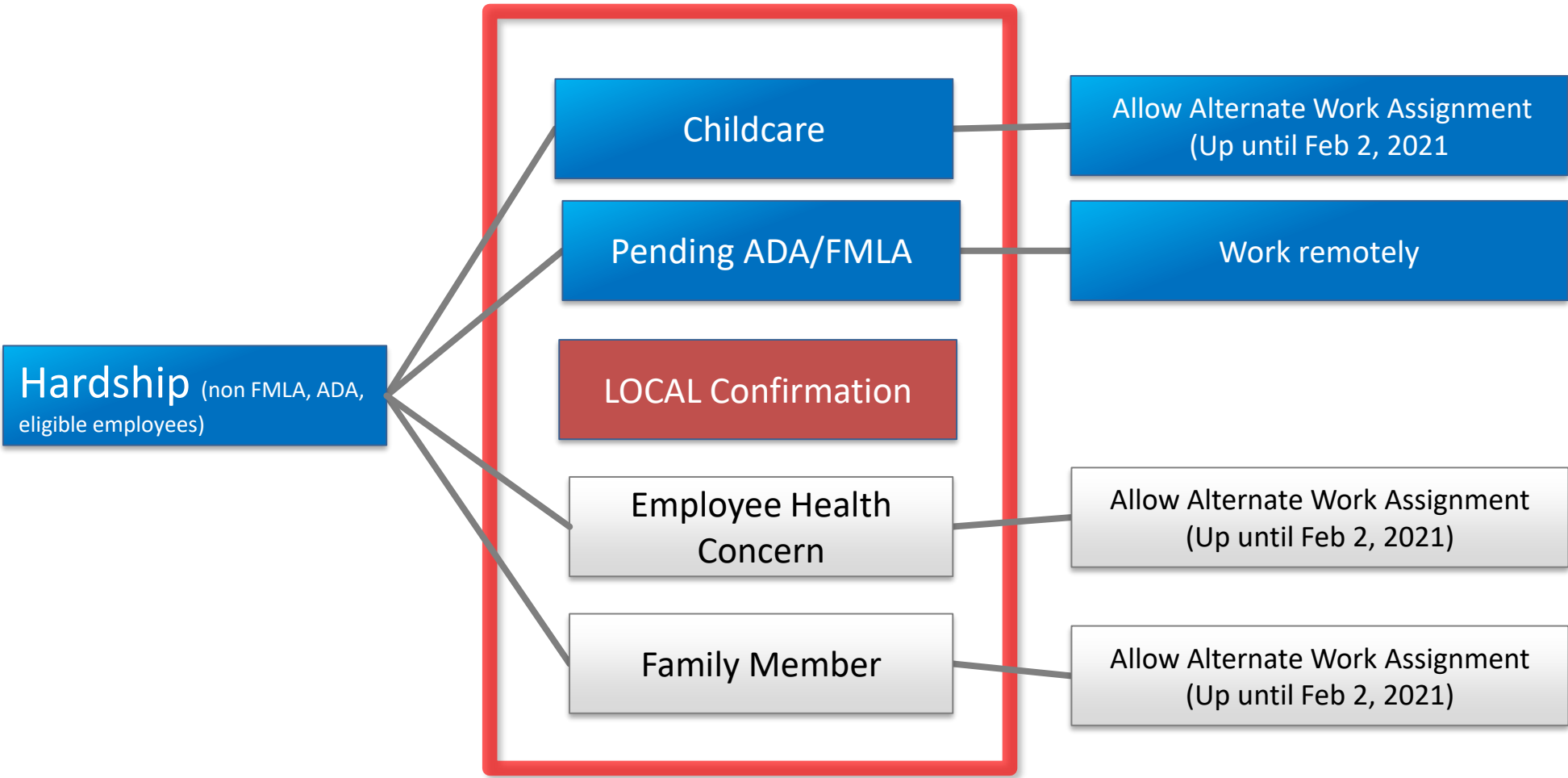
Region	Opening of School Checklist and Next Steps	Commendations and Highlights
1	Regional weekly walkthroughs are occurring in each school using readiness checklist; many schools are making videos for students/parents; all schools are pairing up to do <i>A Day in the Life</i>	Teachers who have returned are excited; schools are clean and ready
2	Region II Principals will utilize the <i>A Day in the Life</i> protocol to hold Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) to share ideas and best-practices in preparation for the return of staff and students	Region II Principals have been accommodating and supportive of eligible staff wishing to continue to work virtually; high school teachers were appreciative to have the option to offer live study sessions to students to help prepare for final exams
3	Site visits are being conducted and will continue each week; local sites were reviewing the reopening day-to-day operations with staff who were present and virtually	Staff present were setting up their work-space and were building creative classrooms; administrators and school staff were sharing ideas and strategies with one another

STUDENT SUCCESS WITH EQUITY AND ACCESS

Highlights from Week One

Region	Opening of School Checklist and Next Steps	Commendations and Highlights
4	Regional team members are checking schools daily to ensure compliance with all safety protocols and CDC guidelines	Region IV schools are partnering with Region III schools to visit model schools; Principals participated in <i>A Day in the Life</i> ; staff are eager to participate next week
5	Region V is ensuring that a welcoming, clean, and safe environment for teaching and learning is present; daily checks are being conducted to make sure all district and CDC expectations are being followed	Faculty and staff are thankful for the options presented to return to classroom for instruction; school-based leaders continue to tour and visit other schools to gain and share ideas
6	Region VI schools have been contacting each family to ensure that an updated Intent to Return Plan is on file; master schedules are also being adjusted	Faculty and Staff that returned to schools were positive (they reported missing the excitement of being with their students!); custodial teams continue to follow the District's and CDC guidelines for cleaning buildings; isolation rooms have been identified, and schools have necessary supplies
7	Principals were prepared to receive staff and will continue to prepare to receive students.	Staff returned to prepare their classrooms, and they followed all safety protocols.

Return to Work Guidance



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Rationale for Return to In-Person Instruction

The District's decision to return has evolved based upon updated guidance from the CDC, our Medical Advisory and COVID Taskforce.

The District will consider additional indicators identified by the CDC that include the percentage of RT-PCR tests that are positive during the last 14 days (positivity rate) **and** ability of the schools to implement the five key mitigation strategies and additional strategies to lower the risk of transmission of COVID-19 in schools.

The CDC's five key mitigation strategies to further reduce the level of risk of COVID-19 introduction and transmission inside the school are:

- Consistent and correct use of masks
- Social distancing to the largest extent possible
- Hand washing
- Cleaning and disinfecting
- Contact tracing in collaboration with DeKalb Board of Health

STUDENT SUCCESS WITH EQUITY AND ACCESS

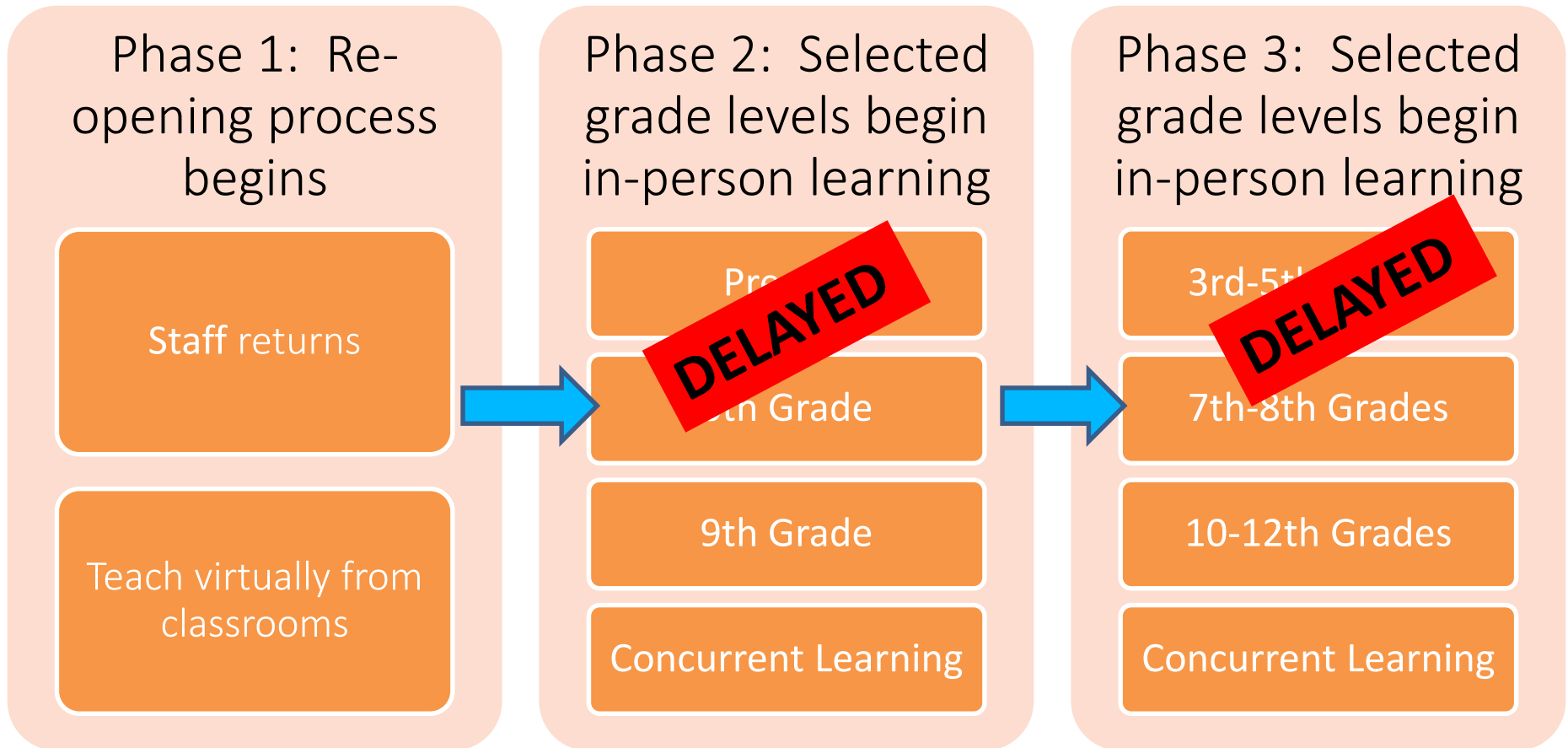
Student Return to School Decision Making

DATA: **14.9 %** percentage of RT-PCR tests that are positive during the last 14 days as of Friday, January 8, 2021

- Delay return to school for students because positivity rate exceeds the 10% target
- Continue to focus on implementation of mitigation strategies
- Execute "A Day in the Life" for staff, so local schools can make modifications
- Monitor data and notify families two weeks prior to students returning

STUDENT SUCCESS WITH EQUITY AND ACCESS

Re-Opening Staggered Schedule



FOCUS ON READINESS

Community Partnerships to Support Teaching and Learning

- **GaDOE** - \$3,836,800 to support technology for CSI, TSI and Promise Schools
- **TNTP** - \$750,000 to support Learning Hubs
- **Disney** - \$100,000
- **Community Foundation for Great Atlanta and United Way of Greater Atlanta** - \$50,000
- **Google Fiber** - \$15,000 to support technology needs

Community Partnerships to Support Families

- **Atlanta Community Food Bank** - provided food assistance at 5 sites from the Spring through November. Community distribution locations have been posted to the websites.
- **Mental Health Services Providers**- Those agencies that have partnerships have been reaching out to families and providing virtual therapeutic services.

FOCUS ON READINESS

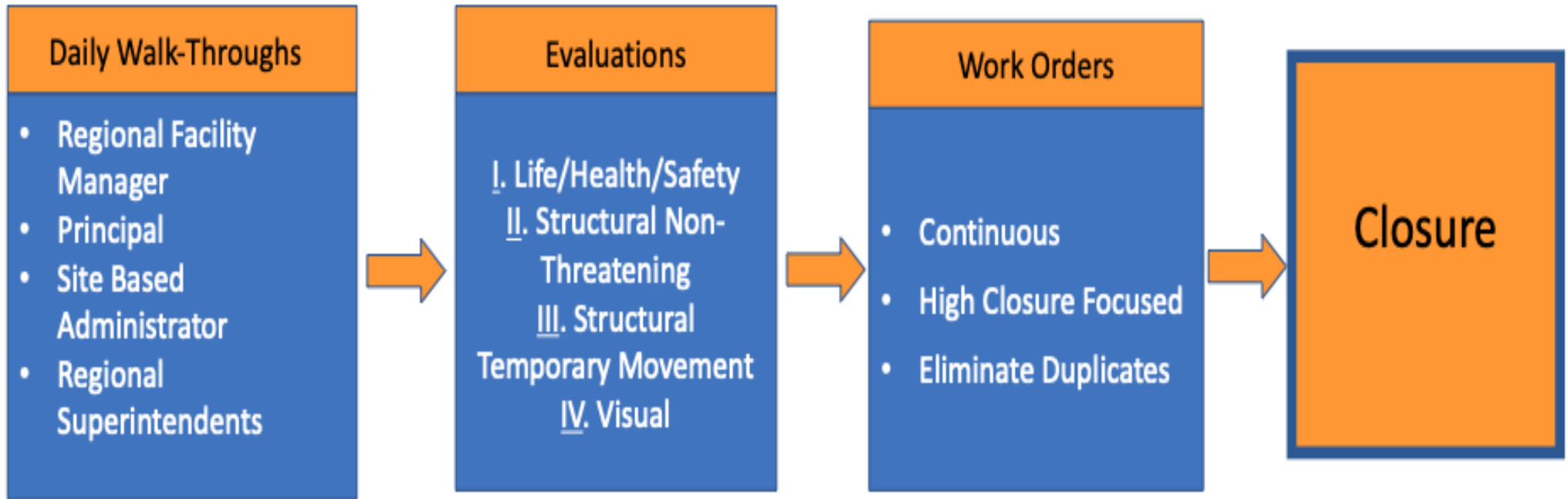
Community Partnerships to Support COVID-19 Testing

- **Medcura and Kids Doc on Wheels** - will provide free COVID Testing to staff
- Sites are being finalized for ease of access

Community Partnerships to Support Vaccinations

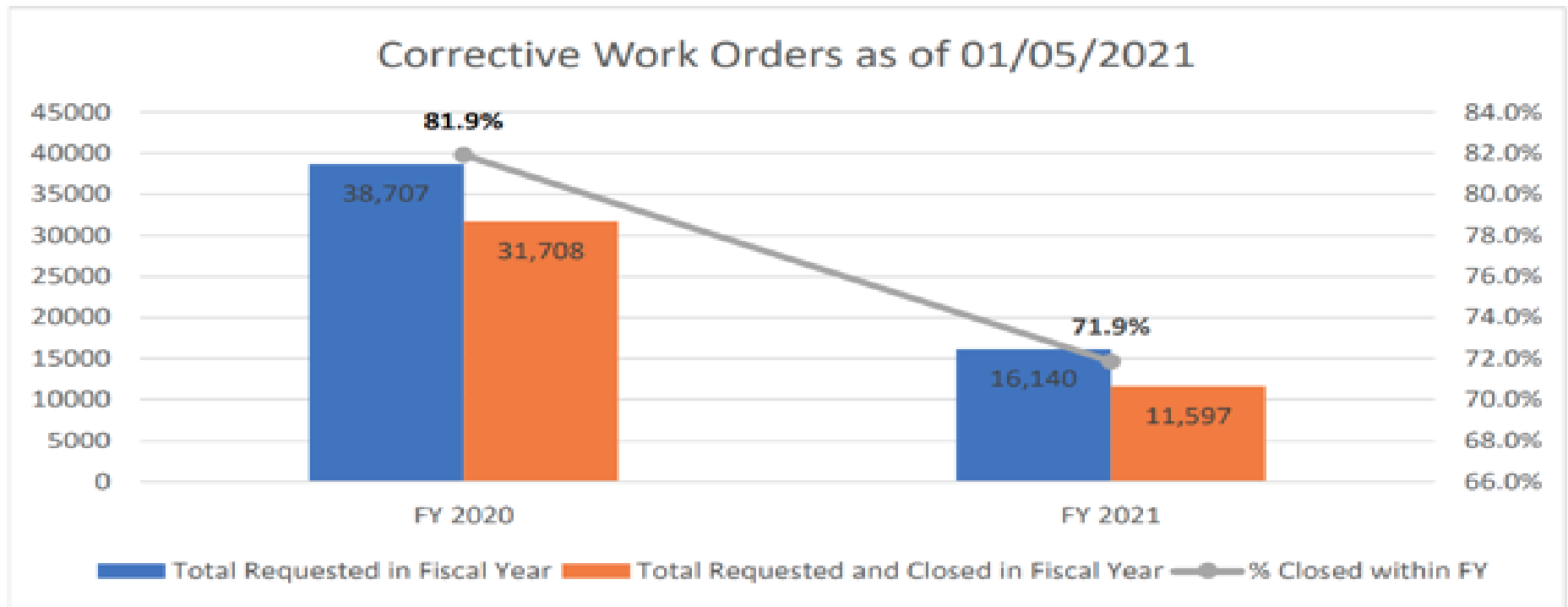
- **DeKalb Board of Health** – Working in partnership to provide access to vaccinations when they are released to the county.
 - Vaccination Plan will include:
 - Providing initial access to vaccines for nurses
 - Training nurses on vaccination protocol
 - Setting up points of distribution (PODs) within the district to offer vaccinations which can be administered by our school nurses

SCHOOL READINESS PROCESS



SCHOOL READINESS PROCESS

Fiscal Year	Work Orders Requested in Fiscal Year	Work Orders Requested and Closed in Fiscal Year	% Closed within Fiscal Year
FY 2020	38707	31708	81.9%
FY 2021	16140	11597	71.9%



Supporting Staff Mental Health Needs



The District is mindful of the stress some staff members may face as they navigate back to the workplace.

- Teachers in buildings are reaching out individually to support personnel (counselors, social workers, psychologists) with questions and are provide resources
- Support personnel are continuing to provide virtual "teacher checks-in" to support emotional wellness
- Staff has been encouraged to access mental health modules (Mental Health Matters!)through VERGE. Modules cover topics such as COVID-19 and Mental Health, Self-Care and Self Awareness, and Mindfulness and Stress Management
- Employees who are experiencing acute distress are referred to a support staff member who assists them with a risk assessment. The Departments of Employee Relations and Support Services collaborate to offer individual assistance to the employee.
- The Crisis Response Team is readily available to assist schools who are struggling with reported deaths.
- A Mental Health Resource Guide was recently created to provide staff with an easy access to mental health services

STUDENT SUCCESS WITH EQUITY AND ACCESS

Rationale to Modify the Schedule: The transition will provide schools an opportunity to prepare students for deep learning and strong instruction for formative and summative assessments.

- Beginning **January 19, 2021**, all schools will transition to their normal bell schedules as listed in Infinite Campus.
- Classes will take place on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.
- **All teachers and students will utilize Wednesday** as an instructional support day to allow students to receive intervention, remediation, and/or acceleration individually or in smaller student-teacher group settings.



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.