



Return to In-Person Instruction

WCPSS Board of Education Work Session
September 23, 2020



Welcome to WCPSS BOE Special Called Work Session

As a reminder:

- Information Item in Board Meeting: September 15, 2020
- Special Called Board Work Session: September 23, 2020
- Special Called Board Meeting for a vote: September 29, 2020



Desired Outcomes

- A better understanding of the conditions that have led us to consider a return to in-person instruction.
- Answers to questions about the staff recommendation for in-person instruction.
- Insight into the Board's thoughts, ideas, and perspectives as they relate to a phase-in plan supportive of an in-person return.

Dependencies Supporting the Safety of our Staff and Students



Three Primary Categories

- ❑ Operations
- ❑ Staff Readiness
- ❑ Metrics

Grounded in our top priority of the safety of our staff and students.

Returning to In-Person Instruction

Three Primary Categories of Dependencies

- ✓ Operations
- ✓ Staff Readiness
- ✓ Metrics



Return to School

- ✓ **Metrics:** positivity rate and supporting metrics
- ✓ **Rotation:** 3 weeks, 2 weeks, every day
- ✓ **Grade Configuration:** TBD
- ✓ **Specific Date:** As soon as the beginning of 2nd quarter



Initial Board Adopted Plan

July 2, 2020 Special Called Meeting

PLAN B

PreK - 12 grades
Regional Programs

Three-week Rotation
1 Week In-Person
2 Weeks Remote

It is important to note that the WCPSS Virtual Academy will continue to operate through the 2020-2021 school year regardless of scenario selected.



Evolving Conditions

Evolving Conditions Since Adoption of Plan B

Factors

- ❑ Partnership with the ABC Science Collaborative
- ❑ Teacher Webinars sponsored by the ABC Science Collaborative
 - ❑ Webinar Focus: COVID-19 & the Flu (9/23)
 - ❑ Webinar Focus: COVID-19 & The Classroom: Planning to accommodate children, teachers, and staff with special needs (9/16)
 - ❑ Webinar Focus: COVID-19 & The Classroom: Air and Surfaces (8/31)
 - ❑ Webinar Focus: COVID-19 & The Classroom: COVID-19 and Masks (8/24)
- ❑ Increased Preparedness with Supplies, Cleaning Products, Health Guidance, and Protocols



Evolving Conditions

Evolving Conditions Since Adoption of Plan B

Factors

- ❑ Governor's Announcement September 17: Option for the Return of Elementary School Students under Plan A
 - ❑ Schools will be allowed to return PreK - 5 students on Plan A when districts are ready (*no earlier than October 5*)
 - ❑ Schools bringing back PreK - 5 students on Plan A will be **recommended** to use social distancing in the classroom and on the buses **but not required**
 - ❑ Plan A continues to include safety measures such as face coverings, **minimal** social distancing and symptom screening for all students, teachers, and staff



Evolving Conditions

Evolving Conditions Since Adoption of Plan B

Preliminary Results of Teacher Survey

- A return for PreK-2 students and regional special education students, all others remain in remote is most preferred option
- PreK-5 was the second most preferred option
- Roughly 30% of teachers anticipate needing to support all three modalities (in-person, remote, Virtual Academy)
- Teachers reporting spending significantly more time planning for instruction outside of the school day
- Ensuring that staff are comfortable and proficient in using and modeling the needed health and safety procedures is critical to ensuring a successful Plan B
- Teachers remain concerned about a return to in-person instruction

Supporting Components for the Return to In-Person Plan

Supporting Components: Operations

PPE and Supplies

- **PPE** delivered and en route to schools (*face coverings, gloves, splash protection face shields, touchless thermometers, gowns*)
- **Resources to support healthy hygiene practices** (*bottled hand sanitizer, hand sanitizer wall mounts, hand soap, paper towels, etc.*)
- **Custodial cleaning products** in place at school sites and in district inventory
- Additional **cleaning products accessible to teachers and staff** are ordered and anticipated for delivery prior to students' return
- **Cleaning processes** established for facilities, hallways, restrooms, cafeteria, classrooms, high touch areas, buses during transitions of routes
- **Signage** reinforcing the 3 W's delivered

Transportation

- **Transportation routes** established for Plan B Three-Week Rotation

Supporting Components for the Return to In-Person Plan

Supporting Components: Operations

Health Guidance and Support Processes

- **Facilities Guidance** and sample maps provided to configure classroom space in support of social distancing
- **Health Guidance** established to set expectations and procedures, including training videos for staff
- **COVID-19 Coordinators** at each site identified by the school's principal
- Parameters, procedures, and processes established for standing up a **CARE Center** in each school
- Processes for the **Handling of Suspected, Presumptive, or Confirmed Positive Cases of COVID-19**
- **Screening protocols** established and to be practiced at school sites
- **Creating a culture of ownership** where compliance occurs to support students and colleagues

Supporting Components for the Return to In-Person Plan

Supporting Components: Staff Readiness

Staff Readiness

- Staggered entry of staff with over 50% of our buildings have 75% of staff that have returned
- 99.9% of positions are filled
- Shared practices and simulations of protocols
- **Online resource of Guidance for students and staff** housed on WakeConnect
 - Guidance documents speak to **health, workplace, employee leave, and instructional guidance**
 - Guidance documents outline **expectations, resources, procedures, and processes** to support the reopening of schools and staff and students' return
 - Employees can access these resources at WakeConnect

Metrics

When determining whether it is safe to return to school, the district will incorporate the following health guidance.

NC DHHS

- ❑ [Positivity rate](#)

Wake County Data

- ❑ [Supporting metrics](#)



Wear.

Wear a cloth face covering if you will be with other people



Wait.

Wait 6 feet apart. Avoid close contact. (Social distancing)



Wash.

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer.

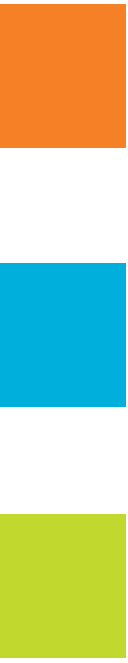
ABC Science Collaborative

As WCPSS reviews DHHS metrics for the community, strict adherence to the 3W's is the top priority.

- ❑ Wear a mask
- ❑ Wait at least six feet apart
- ❑ Wash hands frequently
- ❑ Ensuring compliance and monitoring of school-based implementation of plan.

ABC Science Collaborative

- ❑ Prioritize a hybrid model reentry to allow the opportunity to practice protocols, work and assess the plan, reorient students and staff
- ❑ Early hybrid models of reentry have shown some success



Moving Forward



Board Adopted Plan with a PreK-5 & K-12 Regional Programs Daily Return Embedded

October 26
Three-week Rotation for PreK - 5 and
K - 12 Regional Programs
Grades 6 - 12 Remote

November 9
Grades 6 - 12 Three-week Rotation

November 16
PreK - 5 and K - 12 Regional Programs
Return to Daily in Person

It is important to note that the WCPSS Virtual Academy will continue to operate through the 2020-2021 school year regardless of scenario selected.

Board Adopted Plan with a PreK-5 & K-12 Regional Programs Daily Return Embedded

Week	Oct. 5	Oct. 12	Oct. 19	Oct. 26	Nov. 2	Nov. 9	Nov. 16	Nov. 23	Nov. 30	Dec. 7	Dec. 14	Dec. 21, 28	Jan. 4	Jan. 11
PreK				1	2	3	Return	RL	Return	Return	Return		Return	Return
K				1	2	3	Return	RL	Return	Return	Return		Return	Return
1				1	2	3	Return	RL	Return	Return	Return		Return	Return
2				1	2	3	Return	RL	Return	Return	Return		Return	Return
3				1	2	3	Return	RL	Return	Return	Return		Return	Return
4				1	2	3	Return	RL	Return	Return	Return		Return	Return
5				1	2	3	Return	RL	Return	Return	Return		Return	Return
PreK-12 Regional Programs				1	2	3	Return	RL	Return	Return	Return		Return	Return
6						3	1	RL	2	3	1		2	Remote
7						3	1	RL	2	3	1		2	Remote
8						3	1	RL	2	3	1		2	Remote
9						3	1	RL	2	3	1		2	EXAM
10						3	1	RL	2	3	1		2	EXAM
11						3	1	RL	2	3	1		2	EXAM
12						3	1	RL	2	3	1		2	EXAM



Board Adopted Plan with a PreK - 5 & K-12 Regional Programs Daily Return Embedded

October 26

Three-week Rotation for
PreK - 5 and
K - 12 Regional Programs
Grades 6 - 12 Remote

November 9

Grades 6 - 12 Three-week
Rotation

November 16

PreK - 5 and K - 12 Regional
Programs
Return to Daily in Person

Features

- Aligns with the option provided in the Governor's Executive Order for PreK - 5; honors the Board's adopted plan with PreK - 5 return embedded
- Provides an initial runway for PreK - 5 and Regional Programs before full return
- Provides opportunity for grades 6 - 12 to return on a three-week rotation
- Provides a return in smaller groups, allowing for greater social distancing, safety protocols and routines to be implemented and practiced
- Schools have prepared schedules based on three-week rotation
- Some teachers will have to provide both in-person and remote instruction at the same time, and in some cases, WCPSS Virtual Academy courses as well
- On some PreK-5 bus routes, the 6 ft of recommended social distancing is unlikely to be met
- Scheduling and staffing will present challenges for some courses and some grade levels

Two-Week Rotation

October 26

Two-week Rotation for PreK- 12
and K - 12 Regional Programs

November 9

PreK - 3 and Regional
Elementary Programs
Return Daily in Person

November 30

Grades 4 and 5
Return Daily in Person

Features

- Aligns with option provided in the Governor's Executive Order for PreK - 5
- Moves from a three to a two-week rotation, allowing in theory for more frequent in-person instruction, but social distancing cannot be met 6-12
- Provides a staggered approach for the re-entry of grades PreK - 5 and Regional Programs as does the 3-week rotation
- Schools will need to adjust teacher/student schedules from the prepared three-week rotation to a two-week rotation
- Some teachers will have to provide both in-person and remote instruction at the same time
- Bus routes will need to be created to support a two-week rotation
- Recommended social distancing for PreK - 5 attending daily is unlikely to be met on some bus routes
- Presents irreconcilable barriers for scheduling, staffing, facility occupancy, and (to achieve the required) social distancing at grades 6 - 12



WCPSS Virtual Academy

WCPSS Virtual Academy

Factors

- WCPSS Virtual Academy Registration Numbers
 - Current Registration: 85,550 students
- Students who applied for and were registered for the WCPSS Virtual Academy committed to either the fall semester or the year
- Current WCPSS Virtual Academy students must complete the first semester in Virtual Academy
- Current Plan B students must complete the first semester in Plan B
- There will be an opportunity prior to the start of second semester for **all** students to make changes to their registration - Plan B or Virtual Academy- for second semester

SUMMARY: Return to In-Person Scenarios

Possible Grade Level Configurations

PreK - 12 grades
Regional Programs

Three-week Rotation
1 Week In-Person
2 Weeks Remote

Board Adopted
PLAN B

**PreK-5 and K - 12 Regional Daily
Return Embedded**

October 26
Three-week Rotation for
PreK - 5 & K - 12 Regional
Programs
Grades 6 - 12 Remote

November 9
Grades 6 - 12 Three-week
Rotation

November 16
PreK - 5 and K - 12 Regional
Programs
Return to Daily in Person

Staff
Recommendation

Two-Week Rotation

October 26
Two-week Rotation for PreK - 12
and Regional Programs

November 9
PreK - 3 Regional
Embedded
Return Daily in Person

November 30
Grades 4 - 5
Return Daily in Person

Explored,
Not Feasible



SUMMARY: Purpose and Next Steps

Purpose of today's meeting:

- To review the dependencies that inform scheduling options
- To examine the features of a proposed return to in-person instructional plan

Next Steps:

- Reconvene in a special called Board Meeting on Tuesday, September 29, 2020 to adopt a plan

WHAT   
STARTS
 HERE
CHANGES
 EVERYTHING.

