



Opening of School 2021-2022

Wake County Board of Education Work Session

August 17, 2021

Cathy Moore, Superintendent
WCPSS Staff



Desired Outcomes

By the end of this presentation the Board will have a broad understanding of:

- Updates as related to the opening of school 2021 – 2022
 - family engagement activities,
 - updated health guidance procedures and protocols,
 - school-based staffing,
 - operations.



Family Engagement

Wake County Board of Education Work Session

August 17, 2021

Dr. Ve-Lecia Council, Northeastern Area Superintendent

Family Engagement - Schools

Family Engagement

- School Highlights
- District Highlights

Updated Health Guidance

- Priorities
- Context
- Changes


School-Based Staffing

- Teachers
- Special Education
- Instructional Assistants

Operations

- Transportation
- CNS



 **Wilburn Elementary**
@WilburnElem

♥ Getting ready for Meet The Teacher! We are sooooo excited! Happening from 4pm-7pm! ♥



Family Engagement - Salem Elementary School

Family Engagement

- ❑ School Highlights
- ❑ District Highlights

Updated Health Guidance

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Operations

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Rain or shine, we are thrilled to have our students back at school at Salem Elementary!



Back
to
School

Family Engagement - East Cary Middle School

Family Engagement

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School-Based Staffing

- Teachers
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Shandua Ellis
@shandua_ellis



Principal Davis welcomes and shares info with Ss and Parents about our Global Studies & World Languages magnet theme and their IMP Academy experience!
[@eastcarymiddle](#)



Family Engagement - Knightdale High School

Family Engagement

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Freshman and
Sophomore
Camps
building
momentum and
excitement for
the school year
through the “Link
Crew”



Family Engagement - District

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Beginning of Year Events

Roxann Sykes, DDES Principal
@rsykez

It might be hot out but popsicles kept us cool! Great seeing so many families and teachers this evening. Next week is the last one so hope to see more @DillardMagnetES @ddmespta families there!



Keith Richardson
@KHSCDPrincipal

So excited about Meet the Teacher tomorrow and the first day of school for @KnightdaleHS Tuesday!!!

Knightdale HS Meet The Teacher Event
2021-2022 School Year!



East Millbrook AVPA
@EMMMSCougars

We love seeing new magnet families this am! Their creativity during our campus Scavenger Hunt brought smiles to all of our faces! @wcpssmagnets



For More Information Please go to bit.ly/KHSMetTheTeacher21 Or simply scan

Representatives will be available to provide information about:

- School Lunch
- Transportation
- Athletics and Clubs
- PTSA
- Class Schedules
- Arts
- Driver's Ed
- JROTC
- CTE Academies
- PowerSchool Access
- TRIO

Family Engagement - District

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It's not an event, it's a practice!

“... shared responsibility and commitment ensures inclusive, authentic, and accessible experiences that foster academic & social-emotional success for each student.” ~ excerpt from District Definition of Family & Community Engagement

Key elements of the WCPSS foundation to make this practice effective across the district includes:

- Past & Present Professional Learning including with Dr. Karen Mapp
- Family Academy Events
- Family Feedback

Family Engagement - District

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Family engagement is a data-driven practice!

When surveyed in Spring 2021, Title I families reported:

- 83% responded that the school communication was helpful
- 91% responded that it was easy to get in touch with their school when needed
- 90% responded favorably to the idea that teachers have respect for their children (up from 76% in previous survey)
- 75% responded favorably to “How much does the school value the diversity of children’s backgrounds?” (up from 69% in the previous survey)

Dialogue and Questions

WHAT   
STARTS
 HERE
CHANGES
 EVERYTHING.



Updated Health Guidance

Wake County Board of Education Work Session

Paul Koh, Assistant Superintendent, Student Support Services

Updated Health Guidance - Context

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Need to balance between our top 2 priorities:

Keep schools
open for all daily
in-person
instruction

Keep students and
staff healthy by
minimizing
exposures and
quarantines

PRIORITY

Updated Health Guidance - Context

Family Engagement

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- COVID-19 transmission and positive case trends connected to delta variant
- NCDHHS guidance only says what health measures school systems *should* or *could* follow
- NCDHHS no longer provides explicit statewide requirements
- Board voted to implement universal PK-12 face covering requirement on 8/3/21

Updated Health Guidance - Guideposts

Family Engagement

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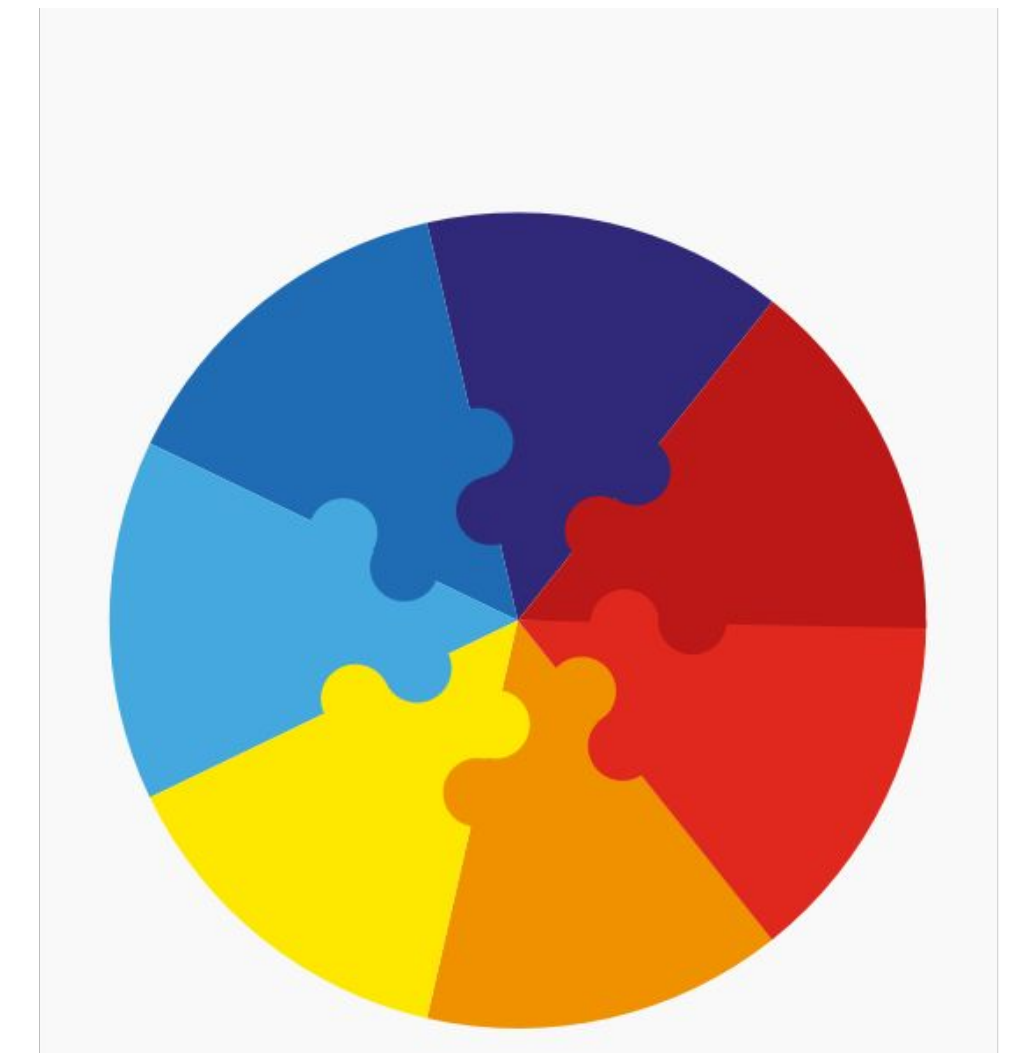
School-Based Staffing

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- Increase in vaccination rate of school-age population
- Significant decrease in positive cases over two incubation periods (28 days), monitored regularly
- Cases per 100,000 per 7 days
- Clusters in schools
- Hospitalization rates
- Number of deaths



Updated Health Guidance - Purpose

Family Engagement

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Updated Health Guidance

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Practice the 3Ws

Wear | Wear face coverings properly over nose, mouth, and under chin

Wait | Practice physical distancing as much as possible

Wash | Practice proper hand hygiene

Focus on our two priorities

1 | Keep schools open for all daily in-person instruction

2 | Keep students and staff healthy by minimizing exposures and quarantines

Minimize clusters and the spread of COVID-19

Updated Health Guidance - Where We've Updated

Family Engagement

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Health Guidance Updates

- Face covering requirements
- PPE
- When sick or experiencing symptoms
- Students sharing classroom items
- Exposure to COVID-19
- Recess
- Eating and drinking
- Visitors/volunteers
- Transportation
- Field trips
- Open houses, parent/guardian engagement events
- Food sharing for staff
- WCPSS staff gatherings
- Learning for students when quarantined

Updated Health Guidance - What's Remained the Same

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- Process for reporting positive cases
- Face covering accommodation request for students
- the accommodation follows the student wherever the student goes
- Face covering accommodation request for staff
- Care Centers
- Diagnosed with COVID-19
- Water fountains
- Athletics, band, co-curricular activities, PE
- Health screenings

Updated Health Guidance - Mitigation Practices In Place and To Continue

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- ❑ Face covering requirement for students, staff, and visitors in all schools and WCPSS buildings
- ❑ Face covering requirement for students, staff, and vendors on WCPSS transportation vehicles
- ❑ Providing face coverings for staff and students
- ❑ Providing and using hand sanitizer as part of our 3Ws practices
- ❑ Social distancing to the extent possible in classrooms and other spaces

- ❑ Required seating charts in classrooms, cafeterias (PK-8), on buses
- ❑ Grouping students for recess, lunch, and other activities
- ❑ Daily cleaning of school buildings
- ❑ Air filters were changed/upgraded during 2020-2021 school year and will continue to be used and replaced as needed

Updated Health Guidance

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Access to Instruction During Quarantine

- Key Factors and Considerations
 - Student learning needs
 - Teacher workload and capacity
 - Impact on other students (concurrent teaching, class size, schedule changes, etc)
- Current [Policy 4400](#) and [4400 R&P](#)
 - Daily communication with the student
 - Access to meaningful and aligned learning resources (in paper or online)
 - Students or families should not go for multiple days without receiving individualized communication from their teacher(s)

Updated Health Guidance

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Access to Instruction During Quarantine

- Additional Guidance and Supports
 - All teachers across grade levels and content areas will have a WCPSS landing page in Canvas or Google Classroom.
 - School staff will provide regular live office hour times for student connection, engagement, and support.
 - When feasible, district-level instructional support and live office hours will be made available across grade levels and content areas to supplement what schools are able to provide.
 - When a quarantine requires the entire classroom to quarantine, the class will become virtual when feasible, including live instruction for the duration of the quarantine.

Dialogue and Questions

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Staffing Updates

Wake County Board of Education Work Session

Dr. AJ Muttillo, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

School-Based Staffing

Vacancy Rates as of August 13

Family Engagement

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Updated Health Guidance

- Process
- Protocols

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General Ed Teachers	Special Ed Teachers	Virtual Academy	Instructional Assistants
Vacancy Rate: 1.5%	Vacancy Rate: 5.3%	Vacancy Rate: 18.5%	Vacancy Rate: 10.3%
Vacancies: 151	Vacancies: 85	Vacancies: 130	Reg. Vacancies: 103
Total Positions: 10,410	Total Positions: 1,600	Total Positions: 703	Sped Vacancies: 184
			Total Positions: 2,795

School-Based Staffing

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Ongoing Recruitment and Retention Efforts



Advertising via website, email, social, and other platforms

Recruitment incentives/focus on salary improvement

Continued support for schools in filling gaps

Dialogue and Questions

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Operational Updates

Wake County Board of Education Work Session

Mark Strickland, Chief of Facilities & Operations

Operations - Transportation

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813 bus driver positions, including regular and permanent substitute drivers

As of Aug. 11:

16.9% vacancy rate

138 vacancies

675 filled positions



627 planned routes

- More than half involve double runs, for both morning and afternoon routes
- Morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up times will be delayed at all tiers by about 10 minutes

Operations - Child Nutrition Services

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796 CNS positions

As of Aug. 11:

27.3% vacancy rate

603 positions filled

226 vacancies



- Menu offerings will be limited until staffing is stabilized
- Possible reductions in curbside meal service
- Product shortages may cause menu changes
- If impacted by coin shortage, we will credit student meal accounts

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