Reopening Schools
Town Hall
Parent & community presentation
June 29, 2020
Adapting to change
COVID-19 impacts on public education in 2020
How do we decide what school will “look like” in the fall?

- Guiding principles:
  - Health and safety of staff, students and our community
  - Continuity of learning aligned with state standards
  - Equity and access for all
  - Supporting emotional and mental health of staff and students
  - Clear and constant communication with stakeholders
Local decisions must align with guidance from the Governor and State Superintendent
Five workgroups made up of CCPS staff members — administrators, teachers and support staff — began meeting May 28, and met for two weeks with more than 500 hours of collaboration per team to discuss reopening options. The committees are:

- Health and safety
- Operations
- Instruction
  - High school
  - Middle school
  - Elementary school

- Reopening survey sent to CCPS staff on June 3
- The community survey was sent June 23
Parent survey

- 9,299 respondents participated in the parent survey.
- 4,430 respondents (48.33%) have one child in CCPS
- 3,332 respondents (36.35%) have two children in CCPS
- 1,405 respondents (15.33%) have three or more children in CCPS

- 2,858 respondents (21.09%) have children in PreK-Grade 2
- 3,185 respondents (23.50%) have children in Grades 3-5
- 3,220 respondents (23.76%) have children in Grades 6-8
- 4,288 respondents (31.64%) have children in Grades 9-12
As a parent, which one of the following describes your opinion regarding schools reopening?

- 3,405 respondents (37.53%) are not comfortable with their children returning to school & prefer to have virtual/remote instruction
- 3,511 respondents (38.70%) are comfortable with their children returning to school in a limited, phased-in manner
- 2,157 respondents (23.77%) are comfortable with their children returning to school
Select a number between 1 to 5 based on the factors that will influence your decision to return your child(ren) to school. 1 being no influence, 5 being very influential.

- Cleaning and sanitizing protocols in place – 4.51 (average rating)
- Health needs of my child(ren) or my family – 4.03 (average rating)
- Level of restrictions in place (social distancing, mask, etc.) – 3.99 (average rating)
- My (or my family’s) ability to support virtual/remote learning – 3.49 (average rating)
- My (or my family’s) work schedule – 3.15 (average rating)
- Availability of a vaccine – 3.08 (average rating)
- Daycare needs – 2.36 (average rating)

- Cleaning, health needs and level of restrictions had the highest influence on survey takers (mean rank of 4-4.5 – highly influential)
- Families ability to support remote learning, work schedule and availability of a vaccine had a moderate influence on a parent’s decision (mean rank of 3 to 3.5 – moderately influential)
- Daycare needs was the least influential factor in returning to school
Which statement best describes your feelings regarding your child(ren) riding the school bus in August?

- My child drives to & from school, and will continue to do so: 8.6%
- I plan to drive my child to school: 34.04%
- My child walks to & from school: 3.38%
- Comfortable with my child(ren) wearing a mask & riding the bus with one student to a seat: 41.38%
- Comfortable with my child(ren) riding the school bus in the traditional manner: 12.60%
Parents who took the survey ranked scheduling options as school resumes for the 2020-21 school year.

- The top choice was sending children to in-person school on certain days of the week (Example: Monday-Tuesday, Wednesday-Thursday). Children would learn at home when not in school.
- The second choice was sending children to in-person school one week and then learning at home the next.
- The third most popular choice was having children learn at home full time.
- The least ranked choice was sending children back to in-person school full time.
Parent survey

If CCPS students continue remote learning in the fall, does your child(ren) have access to a computer or device to complete school work?

- Yes (90.98%)
- No (9.02%)

Does your child(ren) have access to reliable internet/Wifi?

- Yes (95.10%)
- No (4.90%)

- 60.29% of students bring their lunch from home
- 39.72% of students buy lunch at school
Parent survey

In general, how often do you feel your child(ren)’s school communicated with you during the school closure?

- Not at all (0.79%)
- No opinion (4.62%)
- Not enough (12.65%)
- Too much (10.36%)
- Just enough (71.58%)

How do you receive information regarding the school system?

- Emails – 39.65%
- ccboe.com – 22.23%
- Texts – 21.09%
- Social media – 9.09%
- Word of mouth – 7.95%
Parents can choose either distance learning or in-person instruction.

- **Distance learning option**
  - CCPS will use interactive platforms and offer more synchronous learning
  - Students must register and participate for the entire grading period

Instructional options for 2020-21 School Year
First day of school for students is Aug. 31
Instructional options for 2020-21 School Year

- **In-person option**
  - Students who are not registered for the virtual option will be assigned to their home school
  - Students will be assigned in-person instruction 2 days each week. Other days will be virtual
  - Some students (special education, EL, FARMS, students without internet, early learners) may be offered more in person days each week
  - Safeguards will be in place at every level to reduce risk of exposure as much as practical
  - Plans are flexible and include room for change if safeguards have to be reduced or increased
  - A return to traditional school will be implemented once the county’s health is steady and CCPS has an agreement with county public health and safety officials
Proposed health & safety safeguards

• Health screenings:
  • Students
  • Employees
  • Contractors

• Masks/face coverings:
  • Students (developmentally appropriate) and staff will wear masks, especially when social distancing isn’t possible
    • Masks will be mandatory on school buses, during class transitions and when social distancing is not possible
Proposed health & safety safeguards

• Social distancing
  • Desks will be 6-feet apart
  • There will be no communal gatherings
    • Lunch will be served in classrooms
    • Recess will be held with parents permission. Parents can opt-out of recess for their children
• Class transitions will be reduced
• Lockers will be assigned to meet social distancing guidelines
• Additional entrance ways for arrival and dismissal will be open to maintain social distancing
• Visitors/volunteers/field trips will not be allowed
Cleaning & sanitizing

- Hand wipes and hand sanitizer will be available in each classroom and in common areas
- Routine cleaning of frequent touch points will be increased
- Enhanced cleaning and antiviral “fogging” will be used, as needed
- CCPS staff is exploring ways to increase ambient airflow

- Students and staff are encouraged to bring refillable containers for water instead of using water fountains
Health & safety

- If a student becomes ill during the school day
  - The student will be isolated
  - Parents must pick up the child within an hour of receiving notification that their child is ill
  - Parents and guardians should increase the number of near-by emergency contacts in their child’s file to ensure they will be able to be picked up from school

- If there’s a positive COVID case — or one is suspected — in a school
  - Each case is different and will be individually investigated
  - Advice from health department officials, the director of school safety and security, and school administrators will be followed to reduce exposure to others
Transportation

- One student per bus seat unless the students live together
- Parents must register their child to be a bus rider each quarter
- Parents are encouraged to transport their children to school if possible
- Buses will be cleaned and sanitized at least twice a day
Conditions may change

- CCPS will continue to monitor guidance from the Governor, the Health Department and MSDE and adjust plans as needed
- We understand the need for decisions and will communicate often with our community
- We want children back in school - when it is safe
Charles County Public Schools

It’s All About Teaching and Learning