Providence Schools

**PLANNING FOR A
SUCCESSFUL REOPENING**

Agenda for Today

Today we will share planning that we have developed with ongoing feedback from the public. While this planning is not final, it represents the direction we are likely to take as we reopen schools.

1 — **Summarize PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES* that we intend to have in place at all PPSD schools, when we reopen for students.**

2 — **Share the OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE we plan to use to run our schools with these public health constraints (e.g., transportation and enrollment).**

3 — **Detail our ACADEMIC PLAN for students when we reopen our schools in the fall.**

*More details on our public health measures are in our document titled: "Draft Public Health Guidance."

We have five core principles to guide our reopening planning.

1 **Put safety and wellness first**

We will make decisions that put the mental, emotional, and physical health and safety of our students, staff, and community first.

2 **Be equitable**

We will provide access to high quality programming for all students and, when needed, prioritize our students who have been most impacted by educational inequities and COVID-19, including our youngest learners, multilingual learners, and students who are differently-abled.

3 **Strive for excellence**

We plan to get stronger long term, not just survive. We will continuously assess and improve what we do and take advantage of opportunities created by our new context.

4 **Be flexible, transparent and responsive**

We will engage our community members with transparent communication and honor their voices by listening. We will keep our plans simple so we can adjust course as circumstances change.

5 **In-person learning matters**

In-person learning best supports our ability to build a connected community and structure engaging, culturally-responsive, rigorous learning. To the greatest extent possible and safe, we will provide predominantly in-person learning

To-date, we have conducted thorough engagement with stakeholders and experts to understand how to approach reopening.

Stakeholder Outreach	Focus Groups & Advisory Group Engagement	Dialogue with Experts

Stakeholder Outreach

- Surveyed families, students, educators, and community members about their reopening preferences.

- Fielded responses from 1,734 families (11% of district), 1,125 staff members, and 71 school leaders

- Received emails at innovate@ppsd.org

Focus Groups & Advisory Group Engagement

Held 25+ advisory group meetings with the following stakeholders:

- Educators

- Students

- District employee unions

- Parents

- School leaders

- Mid-level district managers

- Partner organizations

- Community leaders

Dialogue with Experts

- Maintained an ongoing dialogue with state public health officials

- Utilized RIDOH and RIDE reopening guidance to plan for safe, healthy school environments

At this stage in the planning process, we are preparing to submit a draft plan to the State for approval, and we want your input before doing so.

Prepare the Plan

- Survey stakeholders to gather feedback on Spring 2020 and input for the Fall

- Analyze operational constraints and needs of various options for reopening

- Host focus groups to collect feedback on an initial plan from families and the community

Submit our Plan to RIDE and Gather Feedback

- Submit a draft proposed plan to the State for review and feedback

- Gather feedback and adjust the plan accordingly

Finalize and Implement our Reopening Plan

- Finalize the reopening plan and release it to our community

- Work with schools, families, students, and staff to implement the plan for the start of the school year

We have a strong plan to keep our students and staff safe. Core components of the plan include:

Social Distancing

- In K-8, staff/students will stay in "stable groups" with minimal interaction outside of group
- In 9-12, students will primarily stay in same groups through day with overall limits on in-person attendance depending on health conditions

Masks & Coverings

- Required when many students or staff may have contact within six feet; not required when masks pose a safety risk or inhibit daily activities; recommended all other times (including when in a stable group)

Health Screening

- Students: Screening before leaving home and at the school bus (or during arrival)
- Staff: Requirement to attest to their health every day before starting work

Virus Response

- Protocols to be provided by RIDOH on isolating students or staff who have COVID-19, symptoms, or contact with people who may be virus-positive

Cleaning & Hygiene

- Enhanced cleaning before, during, and after school
- Extensive supplies of hand soap and sanitizer, with designated washing times

While planning for multiple scenarios, we have taken action in areas we know will be important regardless of public health circumstances.

PPE & Supplies

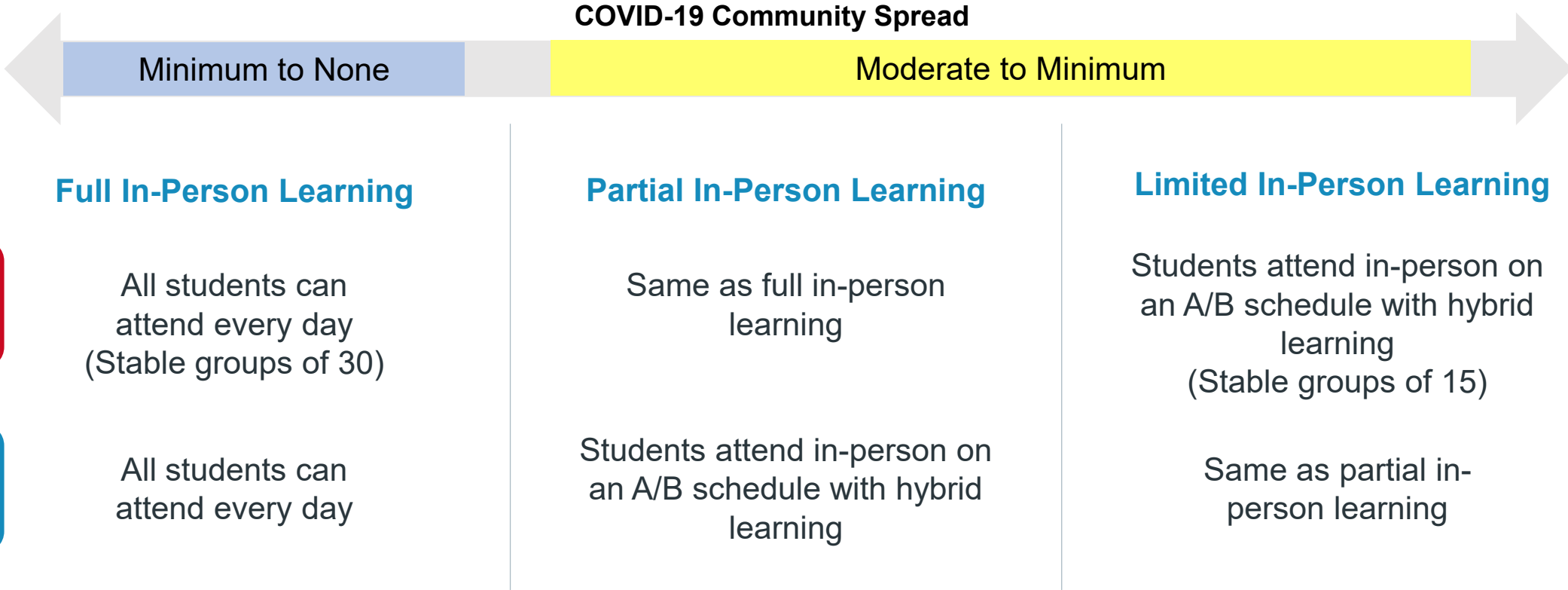We have procured items to support reopening, including:

- 6,000+ Chromebooks to replace
- ~400 additional hotspots to support student and family connectivity
- ~45,000 student and 5,000 adult reusable masks
- A sufficient supply of hand sanitizer and reusable masks for each school to begin the year

Personnel & Services

We have worked to increase district and partner capacity, including:

- Accelerating the recruitment of substitute teachers and other support staff
- Working with our custodial services provider to increase staff and service levels
- Planning with transportation provider and RIPTA for social distancing and reopening needs

We are preparing for multiple learning scenarios with public health conditions determining how we will begin the year

COVID-19 Community Spread

Minimum to None | Moderate to Minimum

Full In-Person Learning | **Partial In-Person Learning** | **Limited In-Person Learning**

Grades PK-8

All students can attend every day (Stable groups of 30) | Same as full in-person learning | Students attend in-person on an A/B schedule with hybrid learning (Stable groups of 15)

Grades 9-12

All students can attend every day | Students attend in-person on an A/B schedule with hybrid learning | Same as partial in-person learning

*In all scenarios, the district will run a Distance Learning Academy as an option for those students who cannot attend in-person.

Given bus capacity is reduced up to two thirds in most scenarios, we evaluated multiple approaches to enable full in-person attendance

	INCREASE THE BUS FLEET	REDUCE RIDERSHIP	INCREASE RUNS PER BUS
POTENTIAL APPROACHES	Given a current fleet of 100 buses, procure ~50 more buses for K-8 students	(1) Shift to neighborhood enrollment OR (2) cause a significant number of students to opt-out of transportation and/or in-person learning	Increase the number of start/end times to accommodate runs
	⌄	⌄	⌄
DECISION POINTS	✖ Our bus contractor is unable to add requisite buses, and the scale of the increase (50%+) is infeasible.	✖ Reassign existing students to neighborhood schools ✔ Assign newly enrolled Kindergarten students to nearby schools ✔ Provide families with the option of committing to not use PPSD transportation	✔ Adjust school bell times from two general start times to three (e.g., 7:30, 8:30, 9:30)

Summary of Plans for Secondary Schools

| Prioritize In-Person Learning | Alternative Re-Entry Scenarios | Enhanced Focus on Transition Grades |

Prioritize In-Person Learning

Our goal is having all students with access to in-person learning every day.

Stable Groups

Secondary students will be scheduled as stable groups when possible.

Distancing and Masks

Greater variety in courses at the middle and high school level means that students from different groups will be in the same room for some classes. In these instances, physical distancing will be maintained to the extent possible and all students and teachers will wear masks per RIDE guidance.

Bell Times

We are working with RIPTA to adjust bell times for high school with the goal of reducing walking distance for students and reducing capacity on buses.

Alternative Re-Entry Scenarios

Alternative Scenario

- All Sixth and Ninth Graders in Every Day
- Grades 7-8, 10-12 in A/B groups/days

Partial and Limited In-Person Learning Scenario

A/B schedule with hybrid learning

Enhanced Focus on Transition Grades

Improving Culture and Academics

- Freshman academy: Professional development and teacher-network structure where adults work together to design, monitor, and support interventions for at-risk students.

- Role of the advisor: Establish a structure where every student has one adult who is chiefly responsible for their success.

- Focus on building student success, and a positive learning environment with a focus on the 6th and 9th grades.

Student Culture and Wellness: We will provide robust supports to help students culturally adapt to going back to school.

Re-Entry Academies
- Develop and implement a special curriculum for the first five days of school to help students transition back to in-person learning

Attendance Mgmt.

Implement a system by which:
- We communicate with families about attendance events every day
- We encourage attendance with incentives
- School leadership teams analyze and respond to attendance data 1x/ month

Social-Emotional Learning
- Build activities into the school schedule to promote students' social-emotional learning and well-being (e.g., daily advisory)
- Train educators on SEL and trauma-informed practices

Rituals and Routines
- Create a consistent set of rituals and routines (e.g., daily principal's announcements, assemblies) to celebrate students' identities and successes, and build a sense of community

Intervention
- Provide more intensive support (e.g., social workers) for students with IEPs, students who have experienced trauma, and students whose behavior communicates unaddressed needs

Academics: We will provide a high-quality academic experience no matter a student's learning environment.

New Core Curriculum
- Adopt curriculum in ELA and Math in service of raising the rigor bar and providing educators with higher-quality instructional materials
- Provide educators with training on how to teach new curriculum

Prioritize Synchronous Instruction
- Create a school model such that students spend most of their day—whether in-person or remote—being instructed by live teachers

Assess and Intervene
- Adopt and periodically administer ELA and Math assessments to understand individual students' learning needs, and monitor on-going progress
- Build time into the daily schedule for academic interventions by which to respond to assessment results

Lower Barriers to Remote Learning
- Adopt a new Learning Management System to provide user-friendly access to materials
- Design remote instruction to ensure continuity in the event of having to switch from in-person to remote instruction (due to COVID-19 resurgence

Family and Community Engagement: We will work from now, to the start of the school year, and throughout the school year to support our families and community.

| Listen Up Front | ❯ | Engage Over the Summer | ❯ | Orient Families at the Start of the School Year | ❯ | Facilitate Ongoing Engagement |

- Conduct a survey, and share an early draft of our reopening plan with families and community members, so that our plan for the year reflects family and community perspectives

- Ensure that every student receives at least one check-in from an educator
- Host group SEL experiences to build community (e.g., Back to School Night)
- Provide 1-on-1 back-to-school support for families that need it

- Communicate the vision and plan for the school year via multiple communication methods

- Create an accessible website by which to share updates on our COVID-19 response
- Ensure that all provide regular and robust communication, which includes a weekly email, a clear system by which families can ask questions and raise concerns, and a weekly town hall by which families and community members can access school leadership team members directly
- Create a yearlong scope and sequence of family programming and events

Looking ahead, we will provide updates in the coming weeks, and we are available for any questions or concerns.

Upcoming Updates	Questions or Concerns?

We will provide updates related to start and end times at each of our schools in the next two weeks.

We will provide updates related to student transportation assignments by August 15th.

The final Re-Opening Plan will be posted by August 1st

We want to hear from our community!

If you have questions or concerns, please email us at innovate@ppsd.org or contact our Office of Family and Community Engagement at (401) 456-0686 or face@ppsd.org.