Return to School Planning Update:
Stages of Returning

July 30, 2020 School Board Meeting

Albemarle County Public Schools

Return to School Planning Timeline To-Date

June 18 Special Board Meeting	• Presented Return to School Planning Guide Draft • Shared results of Calendar Survey
June 19 Board Retreat	• Unpacked Return to School Planning Guide
June 26 Special Board Meeting	• Final decision on start date: September 8
July 9 Regular Board Meeting	• Presented Schedule Scenarios for Hybrid Learning
July 30 Special Board Meeting	• Finalize opening plan for 2020/21 school year

Phase Guidance for Virginia Schools

Governor's Guidance (Updated July 1)

Virginia's Phase 1	Virginia's Phase 2	Virginia's Phase 3
Virtual Learning for Majority Limited in-person SPED services	Virtual Learning for Most Limited in-person learning for: ● Grades: PreK-3 ● Special Education Services ● English Learners	Hybrid Learning for Most

Phase Guidance for Virginia Schools (cont.)

Governor's Guidance (Updated July 1)

- On July 6, 2020, the State Health Commissioner and Virginia's Superintendent of Public Instruction jointly issued Phase Guidance for Virginia Schools that "leaves the final decisions about reopening squarely in the hands of local school boards."
- The guidance goes on to say, "Local public health conditions, community concerns, and practical facility constraints have to be taken into account in these school reopening decisions, and we believe our local leaders are best positioned to do that thoughtfully."

Purpose of Today

- The Superintendent will make a **recommendation** and the Board will **select a starting stage** for ACPS for the first 9 weeks grading period (September 8 - November 6).

Agenda

1. Stakeholder Feedback
2. Stages of Returning
3. Superintendent’s Recommendation
4. School Board Discussion and Action
5. Next Steps

Stakeholder Feedback Since Last Meeting

- Staff Survey
- Parent Intent Forms
- Superintendent's Employee and Family Forums
- School Board Town Halls
- Teacher and Leadership Groups
- Emails

Staff Survey

July 10 -July 22: 1,262 responses, including 871 teachers/licensed staff

I am comfortable returning to work for face-to-face instruction:

Answer	Strongly Disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Agree (4)	Strongly Agree (5)
Responses	420	406	306	130
Percentage	33%	32%	24%	10%

Total responses 1,262
Weighted Score: 2.12
ACPS Total Classified Staff: ~1350
ACPS Total Teachers/ Licensed Staff: ~1370

Staff Survey

July 10 -July 22: 1,262 responses, including 871 teacher/licensed staff

Please rate your level of concern with each of these aspects of physically returning to work:

Aspect	Not Concerned (1)	Little Concerned (2)	Neutral (3)	Somewhat Concerned (4)	Very Concerned (5)	Weighted Score
Physical distancing	3%	4%	10%	11%	72%	4.47
Addressing illness at school	3%	4%	13%	14%	66%	4.36
Getting sick	4%	5%	20%	18%	54%	4.15
Exposing my family	7%	7%	12%	13%	58%	4.09
Leave options if I cannot work	6%	8%	16%	14%	53%	4.03
PPE protocol	9%	7%	16%	16%	51%	3.94
Cleaning protocols	9%	9%	21%	17%	43%	3.77

Additional Staff Data

Current Data as of 7/30

- Telework/ Virtual Teaching requests: 51
- Leave of Absence Requests: 10 teachers/ 5 classified
- Unsigned contracts: 6 related to COVID
- These figures will likely change depending on final decision of the Board.

Parent Intent Forms

~6,840 responses as of 7/30

- Hybrid vs. Virtual Learning Preference
- Transportation Needs
- Internet Access: No Internet Access; Limited Access; and Broadband Access

Parent Return to School Intent Forms

As of 7/30

Please indicate your current level of concern about sending your student to school for in-person learning this September.

Answer	Not At All Concerned (1)	Slightly concerned (2)	Somewhat Concerned (3)	Moderately Concerned (4)	Extremely Concerned (5)
Responses	697	930	1,221	1,348	1,799
Percentage	12%	16%	20%	21%	30%

Total responses to this question: 5,995
Weight score: 3.44

Parent Intent Forms

6,858 responses as of 7/30

Which learning option do you prefer for your students if our school buildings open for in person instruction on September 8th?

Answer	Hybrid Learning	Virtual Learning
Responses	4,572	2,286
Percentage	67%	33%

Stages of Returning

- Stages present a sequenced approach to return from fully virtual instruction to fully in person instruction.
- Public health will guide the decisions that the school board will make regarding when and how ACPS students will learn.
- ACPS will need to be fluid in able to respond to the needs of the community depending on public health.

Healthy Environments

- In all stages, all employees will have physical access to learning spaces, equipment, and resources.

- Health mitigation strategies will be in place for all students and employees in buildings. More information about these strategies can be found at the Return to School Webpage.

Stages of Returning - For Students

STAGE 1	STAGE 2	STAGE 3	STAGE 4	STAGE 5
Virtual Learning for **All**	Virtual Learning for **Most** + In-Person Access for a **Limited** Number of Students	Virtual Learning for **Most** + In-Person Access for a **Moderate** Number of Students + Hybrid Learning for **PK-3**	Virtual Learning by **Choice** + In-Person Access for **Moderate** Number of Students + Hybrid Learning for **All**	Virtual Learning by **Choice** + In-Person Learning for **All**

Definitions

Virtual Learning	Virtual learning is a learning experience that is enhanced through utilizing computers and/or the internet. The instruction most commonly takes place in an online environment and can be synchronous or asynchronous.
In-Person Access	Students will be invited into the building so they can do their virtual learning. These students will be arranged in small pod groups of 10 or fewer. Pods will be provided a learning coach who will assist with the virtual experience as prescribed by the student's teacher(s). Transportation will be provided.
Hybrid Learning	Hybrid learning is a learning experience that is a combination of in-person instruction and virtual learning. Transportation will be provided.

Stage 1

Virtual Learning for All

- ACPS will deliver instruction virtually to all students.

Stage 2

Virtual Learning for Most + In-Person Access for a Limited Number of Students

- ACPS will deliver instruction virtually to the majority of students.
- ACPS will offer optional in-person access to buildings to a limited number of students, including:
  - Students without internet access or limited access we cannot improve
  - Students with special needs who cannot access the curriculum virtually as determined by their Individual Education Plan (IEP)
  - English Learners in Grades 4-12 with WIDA levels 1 and 2
- ACPS will not offer athletics or in-person extracurricular activities.

Students Without Internet Access

1. **No Internet OR Adequate Wi-Fi Hotspot Signal:** Beginning in Stage 2, students may come to a school building OR have curriculum offered at home via paper packets, flash drives, and recorded videos, based on student and family choice

2. **No Internet AND Adequate Hotspot Signal:** Schools issue at least one hotspot per household

3. **No Internet due to financial situation:** Where specific Broadband service available for eligible families, the plan is for ACPS to provide financial assistance for the connectivity

   Based on spring 'No Internet' data and preliminary 'Return to School Intent' responses:
   Approximately 700 to 1100 students may be affected by the above scenarios

Options In Process: Comcast Internet Essentials program and unlimited data plans for hotspots

Stage 2: Students with Special Needs

- Students with disabilities with IEPs and Section 504 plans are expected to be educated in the same manner as their non-disabled peers; the regular education environment.
- IEPs written in the Spring of 2020 are expected to be implemented in the Fall of 2020.
- Only those students with disabilities who cannot receive ANY meaningful educational benefit virtually, will have an Individual Education Plan (IEP) proposed that may include in-person learning in this stage.
- Students invited to receive in-person instruction are students with the most intensive needs that include children served through the C-BASE, Functional Skills, Community Based Instruction and Post High Programs in addition to A-BASE programs.
- This in-person access is being offered. Students can remain at home if a family chooses.
- Estimate ~ 100 students

Stage 2: English Learners

English Learners with WIDA levels 1 and 2 in grades 4 through 12:

- We know from research that English Learners who have not reached English proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing by 4th Grade find it more challenging to master the curriculum.
- English Learners must acquire language and content simultaneously, and the content increases in rigor in 4th Grade.
- Direct instruction is crucial for Level 1 (entering English) and Level 2 (emergent bilingual) English Learners to acquire the academic language needed to access the content.
- This in-person access is optional. Students can remain at home if a family chooses.

Grade Level	**English Language Proficiency Level 1 & 2**
Grades 4-5	84
Grades 6-8	70
Grades 9-12	118
Total	**272**

Stage 3

Virtual Learning for Most +
In-Person Access for a Moderate Number of Students +
Hybrid Learning for PK -3

- ACPS will continue offering optional in-person access to buildings for students identified in Stage 2. Additionally, ACPS will provide optional in-person access to buildings to students in grades 4 -12 that meet the following criteria:
  - English Learners
  - SPED students
  - Students exhibiting a lack of engagement in the virtual experience

- ACPS will provide hybrid learning for all students in grades PK-3. Alternatively, these families may elect for their child to participate in a fully virtual learning option.

- Students may participate in athletics or in-person extracurricular activities upon approval. Schools must submit a plan in accordance with VHSL guidelines and be approved by ACPS for each sport or activity.

Stage 4

Virtual Learning by Choice +
In-Person Access for a Moderate Number of Students +
Hybrid Learning for All

- ACPS will deliver instruction through a hybrid model to the majority of students:
  - Elementary students will receive four days of in-person instruction per week;
  - Middle and high school students will receive one or two days of in-person instruction per week; and
  - ACPS will deliver instruction virtually on the remaining days of the week.
- Alternatively, families may elect for their child to participate in a fully virtual learning option, including four days per week of teacher-directed online instruction and one day per week of independent learning.
- Students may participate in athletics or in-person extracurricular activities upon approval. Schools must submit a plan in accordance with VHSL guidelines and be approved by ACPS for each sport or activity.

Stage 4: Hybrid Learning Scenarios Summary

Details Presented at July 9 Board Meeting

Scenario A *Limited Reduction in Ridership*	**Scenario B** *Moderate Reduction in Ridership*	**Scenario C** *Reduction in Ridership + Adequate Space*
5 week Rotation	Elementary: 4 days/week Secondary: 1 day/week	Elementary: 4 days/week Secondary: 2 days/week

Based on preliminary survey data, these scenarios would be feasible for transportation.

Stage 5

Virtual Learning by Choice +
In-Person Learning for All

- All students will receive in-person instruction under more typical attendance schedules and operating practices.
- Alternatively, families can elect for their child to participate in a fully virtual learning option.

Stages of Returning - For Students

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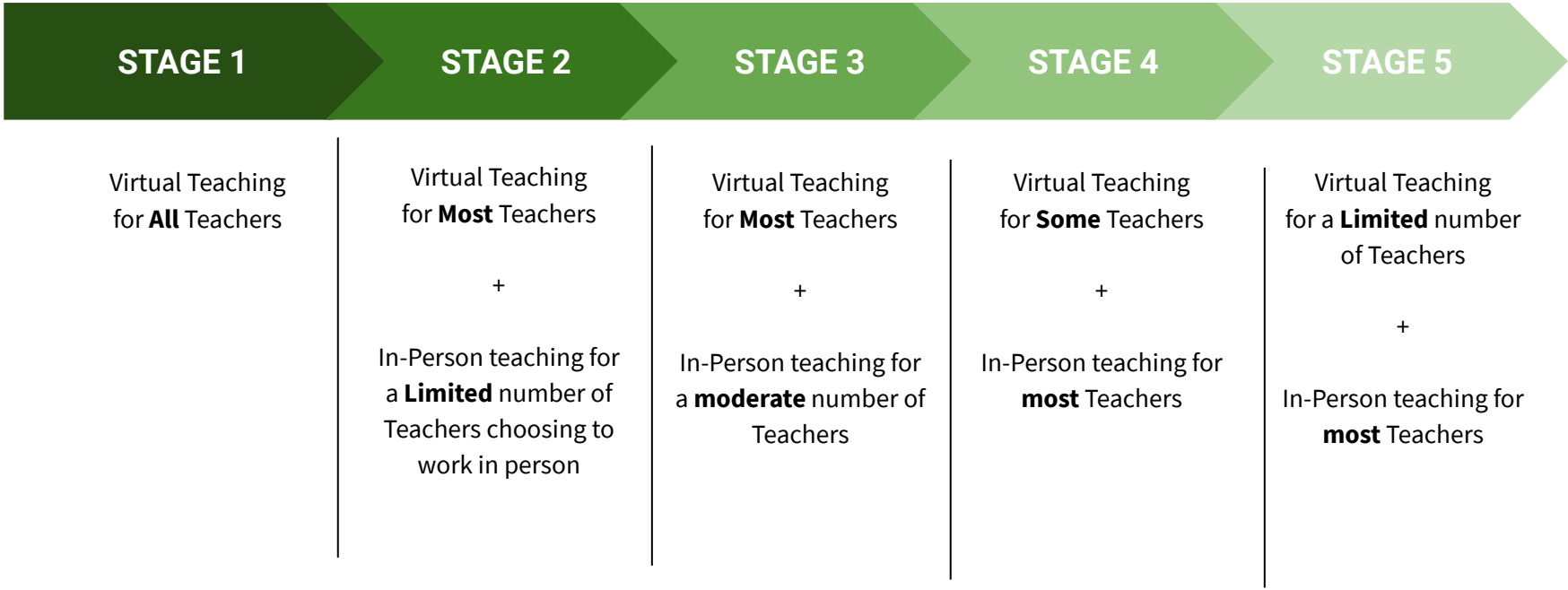
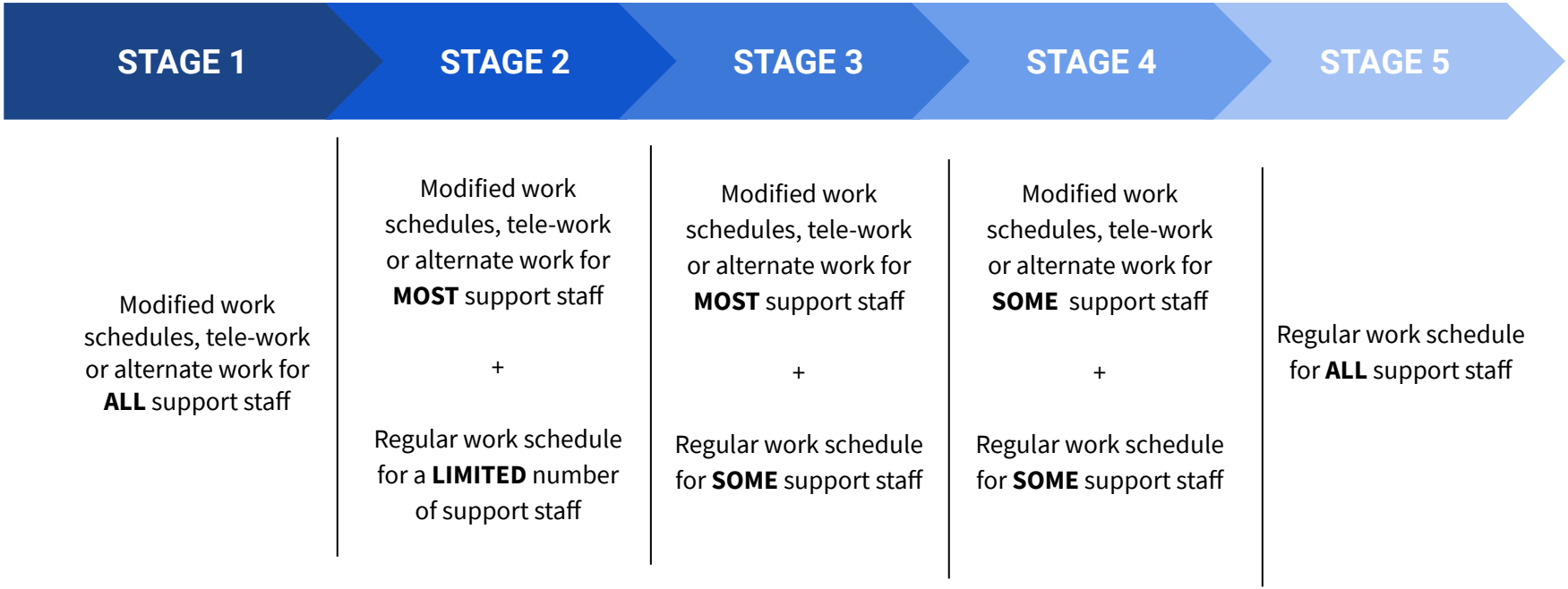
Stages of Returning - For Teaching Staff



Stages of Returning - For Support Staff



Progression Between Stages

- The Board will select a starting stage for first 9 week grading period (September 8 - November 6).
- Shifts in stages would be made at the nine weeks mark unless it is necessary to move to a lower stage which could occur immediately.
- Halfway through the grading period, the Superintendent will make a recommendation to the Board as to the whether or not the school division can go forward based on numerous factors.

Current COVID-19 Conditions in Albemarle

Excerpt from Regional Emergency Operation Center COVID-19 Phased Opening Scorecard
Monday, July 27th

	Metric	Status	Comments
1	**Percent Positive Tests** – Downward trend of moving average[1] over 14 days	**Unmet**	Positivity moving average: **7.6%** on July 13, **6.6%** on July 20 **7.4%** (most recent average available today)
2	**New Cases** – Downward trend of moving average over 14 days	**Unmet**	New cases in Charlottesville and Albemarle moving average: **20.6** on July 13, **20.1** on July 20 **23.1** on July 27
3	**COVID Hospital Capacity/Census –** Adequate capacity and falling COVID+ census	State -NoVA: **Unmet**	State excluding Northern Region – hospitalizations moving average: **783.9** on July 13, **909.0** on July 20 **993.3** on July 27
4	**Testing Capacity –** Moving average of daily test encounters ≥ 350	**Met**	Moving average of daily test encounters in TJHD: **634.6** (most recent average available today) *Note*: SMJH has ended community testing sites; UVA sites to continue
5	**Contact Tracing –** Capacity: ≥ 90% of case investigations started within 24 hours	**Unmet**	Goal: ≥ 90% of case investigations started within 24 hours Unmet per latest update from TJHD
	Reach: ≥ 90% of close contacts reached within 24 hours	**Met**	Goal: ≥ 90% of close contacts reached within 24 hours Met per latest update from TJHD
6	**PPE** – Increasing and sustainable supply	Hospitals: **Met**	Hospitals report: Adequate PPE using conservation methods; UVA Health reporting weekly or as exceptions occur
7		Public Safety: **Met**	No known unmet Public Safety PPE needs
8		Unaffiliated[a]: **Unmet**	Regional EOC PPE Supply Chain reports: unmet needs from most recent weekly resource requests

Current COVID-19 Conditions in Albemarle

VDH Data as of 7/29*

	BURDEN (7 DAY MOVING AVERAGE)	**TREND** (14 DAYS)
CASES	What is the case incidence rate per 100,000? Goal: <10 **10.1** ✘	Is the number of reported cases increasing or decreasing? **↑ (10 days)** ✘
PERCENT POSITIVITY	What is the test percent positivity? Goal: < 10% **5.7%** ✓	Is test percent positivity increasing or decreasing? **↓ (6 days)** ✘

**Data is for Albemarle County only and is derived from a newly developed dashboard available to public health officials.*

Current COVID-19 Conditions in Albemarle

Testing

- Access to testing remains limited.
- Turn-around time for testing can be 5 -7 days if not longer.

Factors to Determine Progression to Next Stage

- Guidance offered by the CDC and state and local health authorities
- Applicable executive orders and local ordinances that may impact the ability to provide successful classroom learning
- Current Covid-19 conditions in the Albemarle County region and within the Albemarle County Public Schools, including, but not limited to community transmission, testing positivity rates, and other public health data
- Status of Covid-19 testing and tracking capabilities in the Albemarle County region
- Ability of the Albemarle County Public Schools including staffing and resources to implement the division's instructional and health plans.
- Feedback and input from stakeholders and school communities.

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Superintendent Recommendation

Stage 2 for First Nine Weeks (September 8 - November 6)

School Board Questions, Discussion, and Motion

Next Steps

- Updates to Return to School Website by early next week:
  - Virtual Learning Details
  - Response Plan for Illness and Suspected/Confirmed Cases (COVID)
- August 13 Agenda Items:
  - 2020/21 Calendar (attached for information 7/30, for action 8/13)
  - Mask Policy