



Kevin Smith, Ph.D.
Superintendent
of Schools

WILTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
395 DANBURY ROAD
WILTON, CT 06897



Charles Smith, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent
Curriculum and
Instruction

Andrea Leonardi
Assistant Superintendent
Special Services

Maria Coleman
Director
Human Resources and
General Administration

Anne Kelly-Lenz
Chief Financial Officer

July 23, 2020

The Board of Education approves for submission to the Connecticut State Department of Education the attached description of three scenarios as required by the State for the reopening of the Wilton Public Schools in August, 2020, with the following provisos:

1. As of July 23, 2020, the Board of Education has not yet approved or endorsed the specific scenario(s) to be implemented in the Wilton Public Schools.
2. The Wilton Public Schools comprise Miller-Driscoll School (PreK-Grade 2), Cider Mill School (Grades 3 – 5), Middlebrook School (Grades 6 – 8) and Wilton High School (Grades 9-12). The Board of Education will examine which scenario best matches student health and safety needs at each individual school. We do not want to assume a “one size fits all” approach.
3. The Board of Education believes that examining each school campus separately
 - responds to the recent medical research showing differences in susceptibility and transmission of COVID 19 based on the ages of children;
 - responds to the variation in the ability to implement sufficient and effective mitigation strategies at the different school levels;
 - allows for a phase-in or ramp-up approach when appropriate.

These provisos are prompted by concerns about the safety of a full-open for older students. For example, the high school structure does not support forming cohort groups; students traverse the entire school building multiple times during the day; our facility can accommodate only three feet of social distancing when students are seated at desks; and the school day is 6 ½ hours long held mostly indoors. Recent medical research from South Korea concluded that older students are more like adults in their transmission and susceptibility to COVID 19. We are concerned that the mitigation strategies we can reasonably employ may not be sufficient and we think it may be wiser to start slowly at the high school.

The Board of Education hopes that the CSDE will consider and support our approach to planning for reopening in Wilton.