

Delivering the USC Experience
In-Person AND at Home

Recommendations for USCSD Instructional Delivery Model *2020/2021*



Agenda

- I. Goals for Educational Planning
- II. Recommendation for a Phased Approach
 - A. Discuss Recommended Changes to In-Person Learning
 - B. Maintain Remote Option Through Remainder of 20/21 School-Year
 - C. Share the Key Changes
- III. Key Factors in Our Decision-Making
 - A. Impact of COVID-19 Beyond Physical Health
 - B. Local COVID-19 Data (ACHD)
 - C. Updated Guidelines from County & State
 - D. Parent Survey Data
- IV. Updates From Reopening Teams
 - A. Health & Safety
 - B. Facilities
 - C. Instruction
- V. Timeline & Next Steps
 - A. Parent Commitment

Our Goals

Primary Goal

To deliver a USCSD quality educational experience to all USC families, in-school and at home, in a way that minimizes exposure and disruption to the greatest extent possible.

Key Components

- Safe schools for students and staff
- Choice for families
- High-quality education (in-school or remote) with opportunity to transition seamlessly
- Emphasis on social-emotional well-being

We are committed to a full-return as soon as conditions permit, and will continue to provide the option to remain fully remote.

*****We will monitor and adjust on a weekly basis.*****

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Phased Approach:

Recommendations for the Remainder of 20/21



Our Recommendation

Implement phase approach to move toward 5-day in-person option

1. Phase I: 2-day hybrid in-person learning option ends on Nov. 13
2. Phase II: 4-day (M,T,R,F) expanded hybrid in-person learning option begins on Nov. 16
 - a. Maintain Wednesday as a full remote learning day
3. Phase III: 5-day in-person learning option begins on Jan. 19

****Retain full remote learning option through end of the school-year.****

Key Points:

- We will be asking for a commitment for Phase II in the coming weeks
- Key details and goals for updates will be shared, but commitment #s will determine what is feasible
- All changes for Phases II and III will be contingent upon changing, present conditions

In-Person Learning Schedules by Phase

Schedules by Phase In ALL phases, remote option will be made available!					
	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
Phase I (2-day schedule) SOY-Nov. 13	In School	In School	Remote	Remote	Remote
Phase II (4-day schedule) Nov. 16-Jan. 15	In School	In School	Remote	In School	In School
Phase III (5-day schedule) Jan. 19 - EOY	In School	In School	In School	In School	In School

What Will be Different in Phases II & III?

Key Differences

- There will be a reduction in physical distancing for students to less than six feet in most instructional spaces, but excluding cafeterias and other areas where students may be eating
 - We will maintain the greatest distance possible depending on class size and composition...estimated range 3-6 feet
 - Staff desks must always remain at 6-feet distancing minimum from student desks
- Mitigation continues to be layered
 - No in-class mask breaks during classes
 - Mask breaks will be provided with 6 feet of physical distance
 - Opportunities will exist throughout the school day, but not in classrooms
- Buses will have more students
 - Masking and cleaning will remain in place
- Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) no longer likely to require the quarantining of entire classrooms
- **Asking for a 9-week commitment (if selecting remote)**
 - **If selecting remote, you cannot move to in-person during Phase II (2nd nine-weeks)**
 - **If selecting in-person, you can move to remote at any time**

Transitioning to Four Days In-Person

Safety of Students and Staff

- 20% less contact
- Ongoing monitoring of the virus for an additional 9-weeks
- Updating of safety plan

Educational Considerations

- Allowing for development and implementation of a bifurcated full-remote and full-return teaching model
- Adjusting staff and student schedules
- Minimizing disruption for students and teachers during marking periods
- Retaining capability to transfer to remote temporarily if quarantine need arises

Operational Needs

- Updating transportation routes
- Considering all staffing implications
- Collaborating w/ labor groups
- Preparing facilities (furniture, food services)

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Decision Making Criteria:

Recommendations for the Remainder of 20/21



Consulting with Professionals

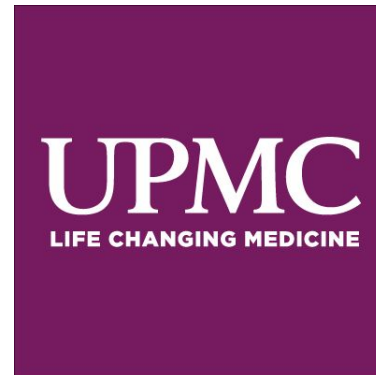
Allegheny County Health Department Contacts:

- Ms. LuAnn Brink, Chief Epidemiologist
- Ms. Andrea Collins, Epidemiologist



School Physician:

- School Physician: Dr. Thaniat Syed, UPMC
 - Board Certified in Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine



Key Factors *in August* for Hybrid Model

Full In-Person Return / Full Remote Options:

- Insufficient capacity to space students 6 feet apart
- If a student becomes a positive case, the majority of the class and potentially the teacher would need to be quarantined for 14 days
- Students could not remove their masks while seated and working

Hybrid (In-Person / Remote) and Full Remote Options:

- Capacity to space students 6 feet apart
- Additional opportunities for mask breaks while in class
- Significant reduction in learning disruptions due to quarantine

Key Factors *in October for Phased Update*

1. We need to balance mental health & academic needs with the impact of the pandemic.
2. Local data supports lower case counts in schools.
3. The PA Department of Health and Allegheny County Health Department have updated some processes.
4. Parent survey data consistently supports increasing in-person learning.

Factor #1

We need to balance mental health & academic needs with the impact of the pandemic.



Mental Health Considerations

- Internally, we have seen an increase in mental health needs reported to counseling since the outset of the pandemic
- Continued stress has manifested as symptoms of distress in some children: disturbed sleep, fearfulness, separation intolerance, inattention, agitation, somatic complaints
- Situation of prolonged isolation may have exacerbated pre-existing mental health concerns and those whose access to mental health care has been limited
- Familial stress has increased
- Protective factors such as peer relationships, access to preventative services at school, and connection with caring adults have been significantly reduced since March

Source:

Singh, S., Roy, D., Sinha, K., Parveen, S., Sharma, G., & Joshi, G. (2020). Impact of COVID-19 and lockdown on mental health of children and adolescents: A narrative review with recommendations. *Psychiatry research*, 293, 113429. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.psychres.2020.113429>

Key Factor #1

We need to balance mental health & academic needs with the impact of the pandemic.

Academic Needs

- While we continue to bolster our remote capabilities, we know:
 - In-person learning is superior to online learning for the majority of students
 - Academic regression is a national concern
 - USC students have not been in school full-time for seven months

Key Factor #1

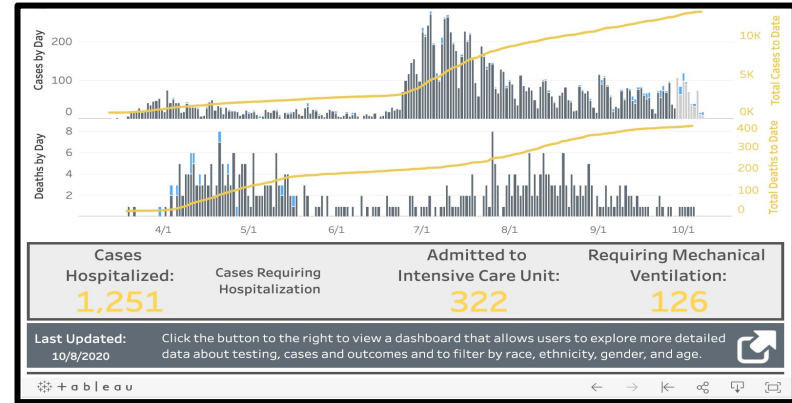
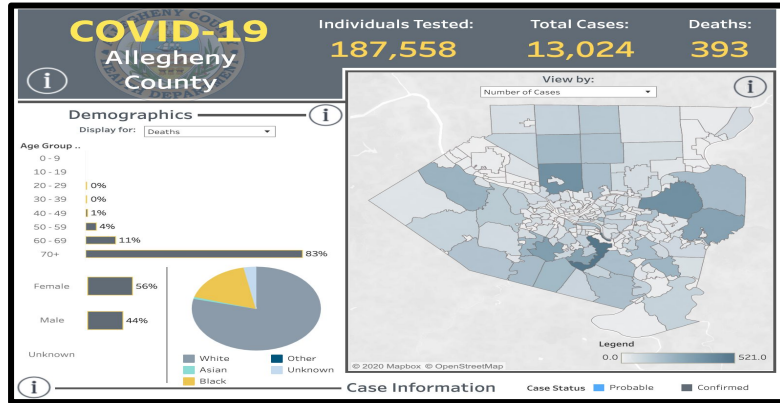
We need to balance mental health & academic needs with the impact of the pandemic.

Key Factor #2

Local data supports lower case counts in schools.



Allegheny County COVID-19 #s



SCHOOL-RELATED CASES

- Local data indicates that the spread of the virus within schools that have returned is relatively low:
 - o ACHD reports a low spread of the virus in schools and sports
- Majority of school-related cases are due to adults not following protocol

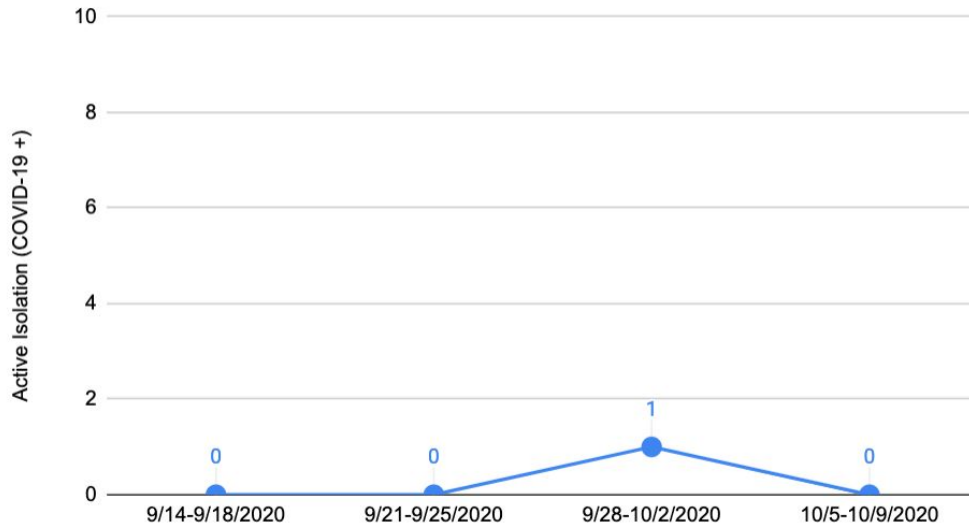
Key Factor #2

Local data supports lower case counts in schools.

COVID-19 Total Cases in USCSD

Sept. 8, 2020 - Oct. 9, 2020

Active Isolation (COVID-19 +)



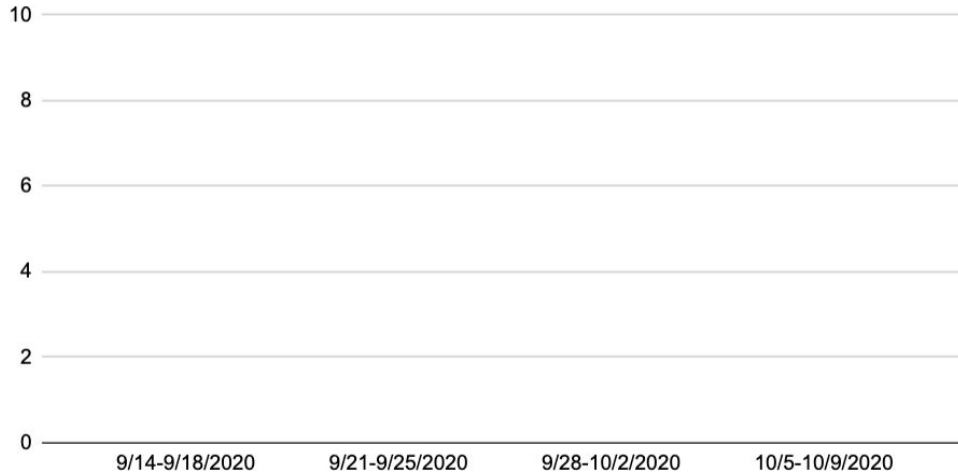
Zero COVID+ individuals have entered a USCSD school as of 10/9/20.

Key Factor #2

Local data supports lower case counts in schools.

COVID-19 Quarantines due to Close Contact in USCSD Sept. 8, 2020 - Oct. 9, 2020

Total Quarantine Due to In-School Close Contact w/ Covid+



Total Quarantine Due to In-School Close Contact

***Zero individuals
have been
quarantined as a
result of school-
related COVID +
close contacts as of
10/9/20.***

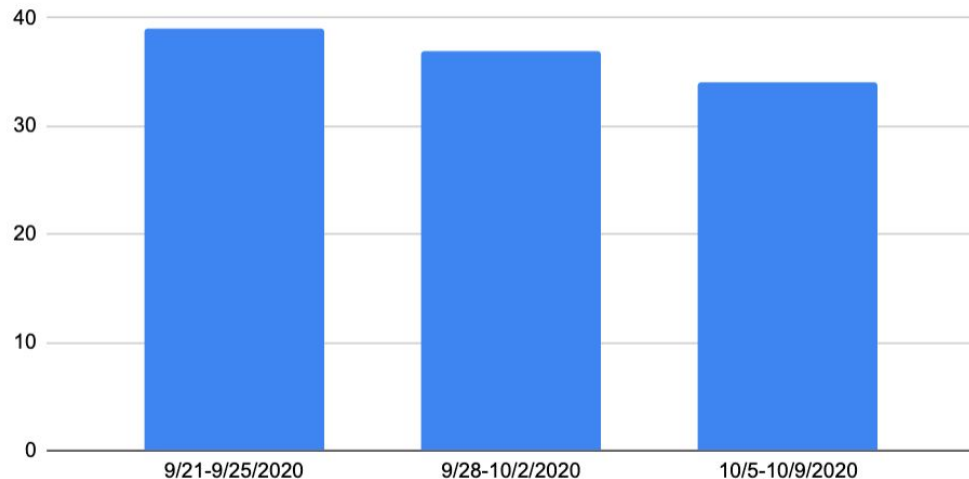
Key Factor #2

Local data supports lower case counts in schools.

Absence Due to Health Screening in USCSd

Sept. 8, 2020 - Oct. 9, 2020

Weekly # of Individuals Missing School Due to Screener Results



Weekly # of Individuals Missing School Due to Screener Results

Individuals are following the health screening guidelines.

Key Factor #2

Local data supports lower case counts in schools.

FAQ: What is the process for opening or closing?

- Communicate with families regarding positive cases and closures in a timely manner and as directed by the Allegheny County Health Department
- Recommendation from Pennsylvania Department of Education for responding to positive cases in schools:

“When a case of COVID-19 is identified in a school setting, public health staff from DOH or the County or Municipal Health Department (CMHD) will work with school administrators to provide guidance and advice related to cleaning and disinfecting, contact tracing and quarantine recommendations, and closing certain areas of the school or the entire school building if necessary. When an entire school is recommended to close, lengths of closure time will vary by level of community transmission and number of cases.”

Key Factor #2

Local data supports lower case counts in schools.

FAQ: When will communications be sent for COVID-19 + cases?

Communications will be sent when...

- A person is considered to be a close contact (an additional communication)
- Positive cases occur in school building or while attending school activities **during the infectious period**

For privacy purposes, communications will NOT be sent when...

- Positive cases occur outside of school settings that did not affect others through school-related contact
- Positive cases in which individuals were not in school during infectious period

Key Factor #2

Local data supports lower case counts in schools.

Key Factor #3

The PA Department of Health and Allegheny County Health Department have updated some processes.



Gathering Limits Update

Allegheny County Gathering Limits

- July 17, 2020 - Order
 - Limited to 25 students in a classroom and other indoor instructional spaces
- September 24, 2020 - Order lifted
 - No indoor limits other than state gathering limits, which do not apply to instructional spaces

Pennsylvania Gathering Limit Guidelines

Maximum Occupancy	Allowable Indoor Rate
0-2,000 people	20% of Maximum Occupancy
2,001 - 10,000 people	15% of Maximum Occupancy
Over 10,000 people	10% of Maximum Occupancy up to 3,750 people

Maximum Occupancy Calculator for outdoor events:

Maximum Occupancy	Allowable Outdoor Rate
0-2,000 people	25% of Maximum Occupancy
2,001 - 10,000 people	20% of Maximum Occupancy
Over 10,000 people	15% of Maximum Occupancy up to 7,500 people

Key Factor #3

The PA Department of Health and Allegheny County Health Department have updated some processes.

Updates from ACHD

- Locally, there has been a very low spread of the virus *in schools*
- According to ACHD, a temporary school closure would be necessary in the event of multiple students or staff members who have transmitted the virus while in school or during school sponsored activities
- The district will continue to work with ACHD to receive appropriate guidance and recommendations on any necessary changes to instructional models as increased in-person instructional days are implemented
- ACHD has now reported that quarantining entire classrooms may not be necessary if some students are seated less than 6-feet apart

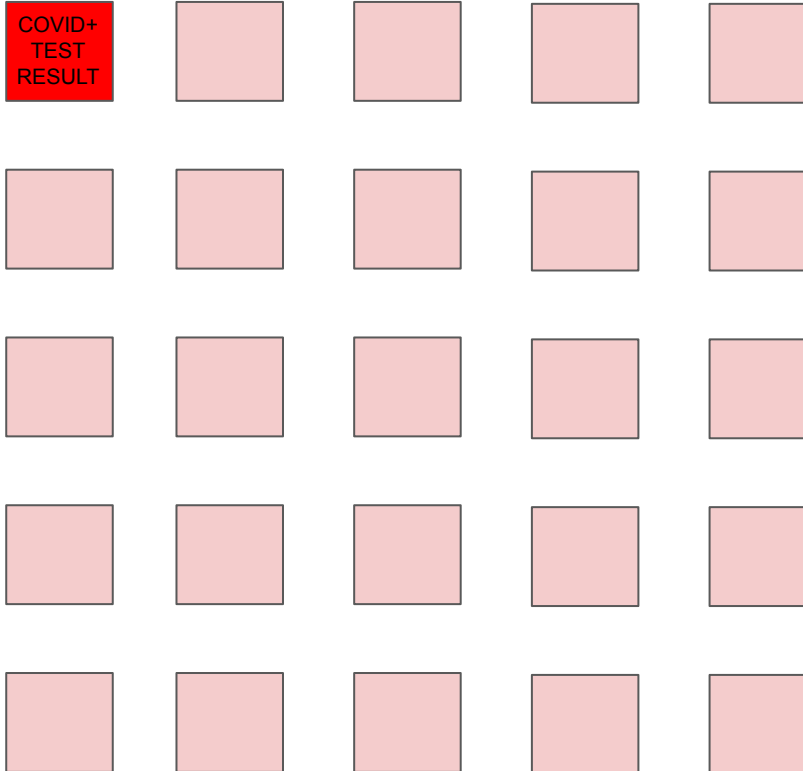
Key Factor #3

The PA Department of Health and Allegheny County Health Department have updated some processes.

ACHD Changing Classroom Quarantining Process

August 2020

If desks were under 6 feet apart, full class quarantining was expected due to a single positive case, including the teacher.

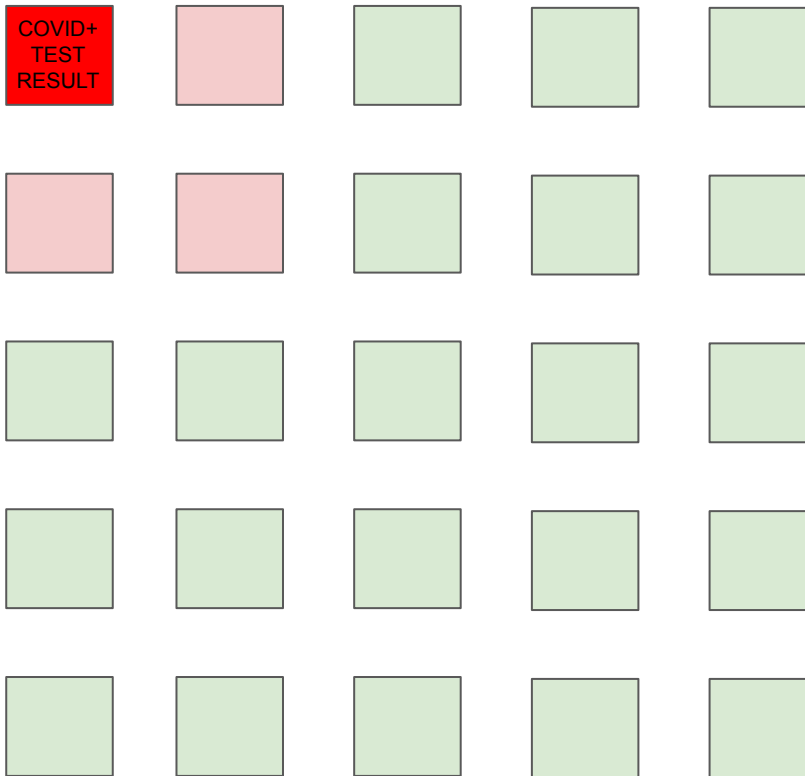


ACHD Changing Classroom Quarantining Process

EXAMPLE: Scenario 1

October 2020

*If desks under 6 feet apart, only contacts at under 6 feet will be required to quarantine.
(If staff follows protocol, they will not be quarantined.)*

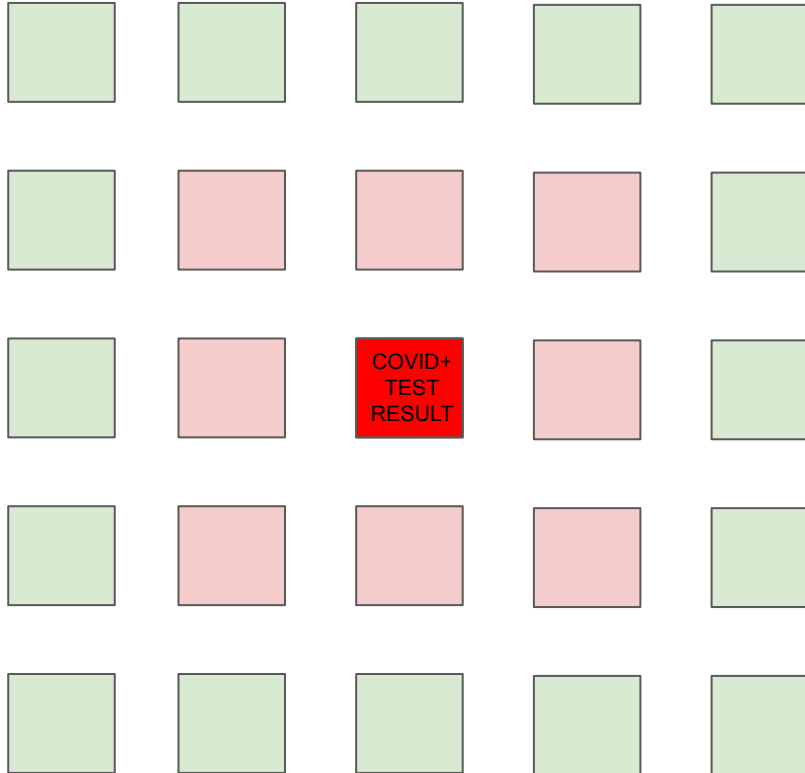


ACHD Changing Classroom Quarantining Process

EXAMPLE: Scenario 2

October 2020

*If desks under 6 feet apart, only contacts at under 6 feet will be required to quarantine.
(If staff follows protocol, they will not be quarantined.)*



Key Factor #4

Parent survey data consistently supports increasing in-person learning.



Purpose of October Survey to Families

Purpose

- Measure families' interest in an increase to in-person learning (or preference to learn remotely)
 - Informed in survey of anticipated changes to be made related to physical distancing and mask breaks
- Gauge # of students we can expect to return to school if we switch our hybrid choice from 2-days/week to 4/5 days/week
- Identify transportation impact of a potential change to 4/5 days/week

Key Factor #4

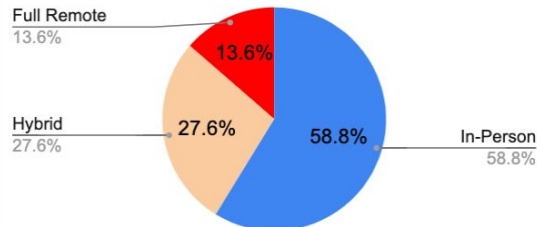
Parent survey data consistently supports increasing in-person learning.

October Survey Data

October Survey: Preference

Preference	raw #	% of submitted	% of possible
In-Person	2016	58.76%	50.25%
Hybrid	948	27.63%	23.63%
Full Remote	467	13.61%	11.64%

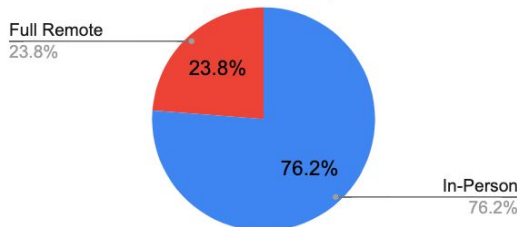
October "Preference"



October Survey: If 4/5 Days

If 4 or 5 Days	raw #	% of submitted	% of possible
In-Person	2616	76.22%	65.20%
Full Remote	816	23.78%	20.34%

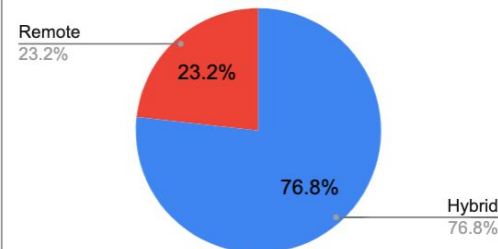
October Choice if 4/5 Days in Person



October 2020 Enrollment

Current Hybrid vs. Remote	Actual #s
Hybrid	3078
Remote	931

Current Hybrid vs. Remote #s



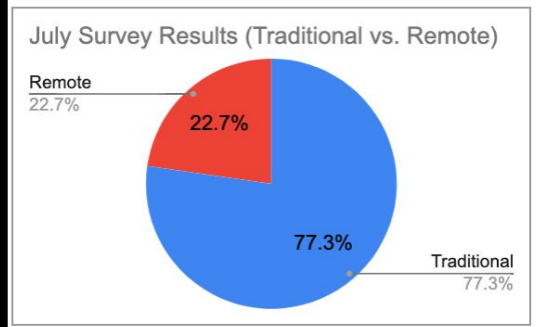
Key Factor #4

Parent survey data consistently supports increasing in-person learning.

Consistent Feedback

July 2020 Survey

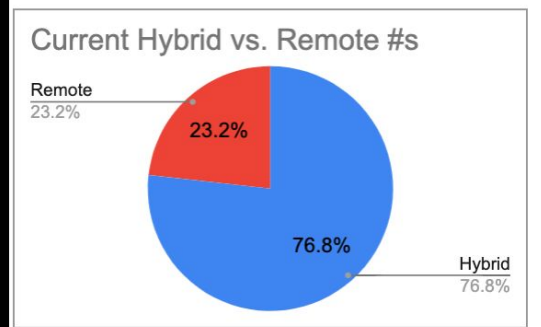
July Family Survey (Traditional vs. Remote)	
Traditional	77.28%
Remote	22.72%



81.9% response rate

October 2020 Enrollment

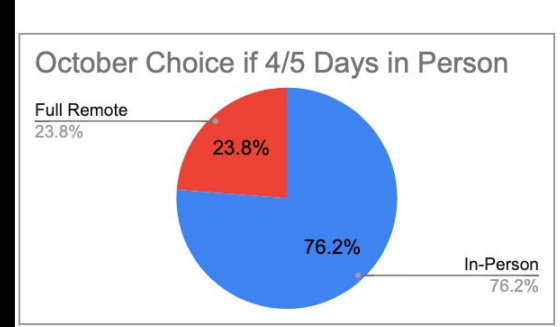
Current Hybrid vs. Remote	Actual #s
Hybrid	3078
Remote	931



100% actual #s

October 2020 Survey

If 4 or 5 Days	raw #	% of submitted	% of possible
In-Person	2616	76.22%	65.20%
Full Remote	816	23.78%	20.34%



85.5% response rate

Key Factor #4

Parent survey data consistently supports increasing in-person learning

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Phase II & III: *Health & Safety Updates*



On-Going Mitigation Strategies

- Requiring daily health checks for staff and students
- Requiring quarantine after travel to high-risk areas
- Requiring “Return to School” process for any exposed/symptomatic individuals
- Collaborating with ACHD
- Using desk dividers
- Focusing on hand hygiene
- Ensuring high-frequency cleaning
- Emphasizing strategic movement of students in buildings
- Maintaining at least 6 feet distancing for students while eating
- Planning carefully for any events/activities

Updating Mitigation Strategies

- Eliminating mask breaks within classrooms (Will be conducted periodically in an alternate setting)
- Encouraging consistent seating charts by cohort when changing classrooms
- Articulating clear communication plan
- Spacing students as far apart as possible, but will likely be seated < 6 feet apart in classrooms and on buses
- Reinforcing staff mitigation efforts on an ongoing basis to prevent staff-to-staff transmission (most identified spread in schools is occurring in staff eating/common areas, per ACHD)

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Phase II & III: *Facilities Updates*





Social Distancing - Cafeteria
will remain at 6-feet in all eating areas



Tri-fold desk dividers



Plexiglass sneeze guards

Mitigation Strategies: Facilities

- Changing custodial shifts to support health plan and education schedule
- Utilizing quick drying disinfectant
- Replacing current hand sanitizers and soap dispensers with touchless equipment; Increasing the number of mobile hand sanitizer stations
- Installing hand sanitizers at building entrances, conference rooms, nutrition centers, and large group areas
- Building and installing plexiglass sneeze guards in offices and other high traffic areas where social distancing may be challenging
- Installing an adhesive covering on every other urinal select water fountains, and hand dryers

NEW

Providing auxiliary custodial support during second shift.



Mitigation Strategies: Ventilation

- Maintaining outside air mixtures to meet or go beyond ASHRAE standards
- Maintaining air exchange rates to meet or go beyond ASHRAE standards
- Maintaining use of high grade air filters with frequent filter changes

NEW

- Clean evaporator coils
- Run exhaust fans continuously to pull air out of the buildings



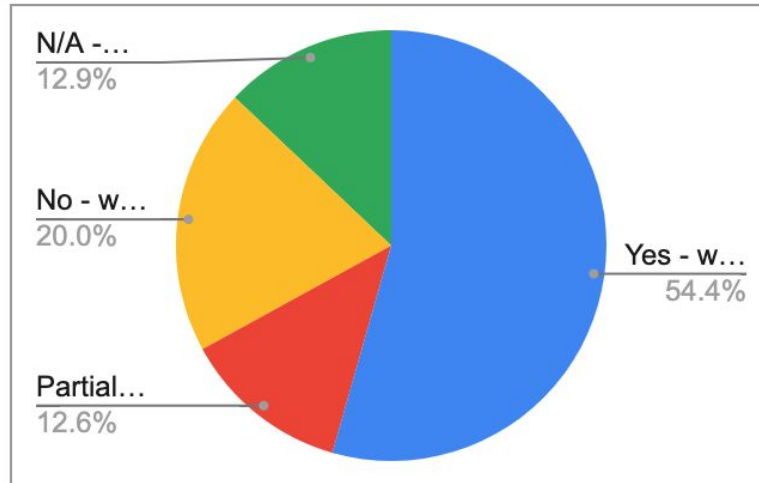
Mitigation Strategies: Signage

- *Reinforcing and utilizing CDC signage and other messages as a mitigation strategy*



Survey Data: Planned Source of Transportation

Transportation	raw #	% of submitted	% of possible
Yes - we will primarily use district transportation	1859	54.40%	46.34%
Partial - we will self-transport at one time of day	431	12.61%	10.74%
No - we will primarily drive our child(ren) to scho	685	20.05%	17.07%
N/A - my child(ren) will be in the full remote prog	442	12.94%	11.02%



~3,400
Students
Represented

Mitigation Strategies: Transportation

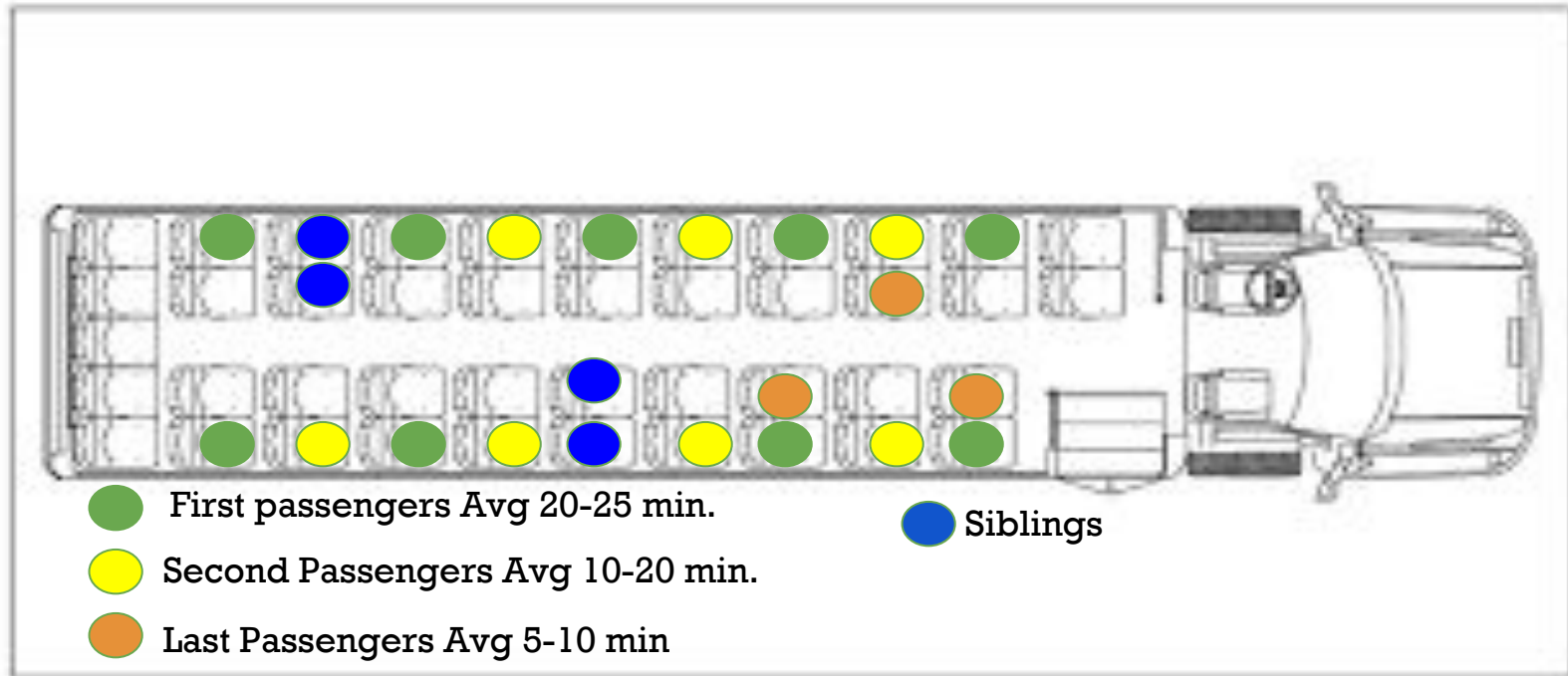
- Drivers and attendants will wear masks and potentially face shields
- All students will wear masks to and from school
- Weather permitting, roof hatches and windows will be opened to provide fresh air
- Drivers and custodians will clean the interior of the bus between bus routes/runs while no students are on board
- Student bus passes (allowing students to ride on a different bus) are prohibited unless emergency situation is approved by building administration
- Students (except kindergarten students) will load from back to front and unload front to back



NEW

- HS Juniors will no longer drive.
- Open windows and hatches will be dependent upon temperatures above 40 degrees.
- We will need to re-examine traffic patterns.

Example Bus Loading Procedures



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Phase II & III: *Instructional Updates*



Phase II Updates to In-Person & Remote Offerings

- Increase hybrid in-person learning option to 4-days while continuing:
 - Full remote learning practices (will include robust synchronous and asynchronous instruction)
 - Similar in-person instructional approaches and schedules to 2-day model
 - Remote Wednesday schedule for in-person and remote learners
- Modifications being considered:
 - Adjusting schedules to ensure adherence to mitigation strategies regarding lunch & hallway traffic
 - Evaluating potential for separate remote sections where possible
 - Continuing development of parent resources to support monitoring of student learning

In-Person Learning Schedules by Phase

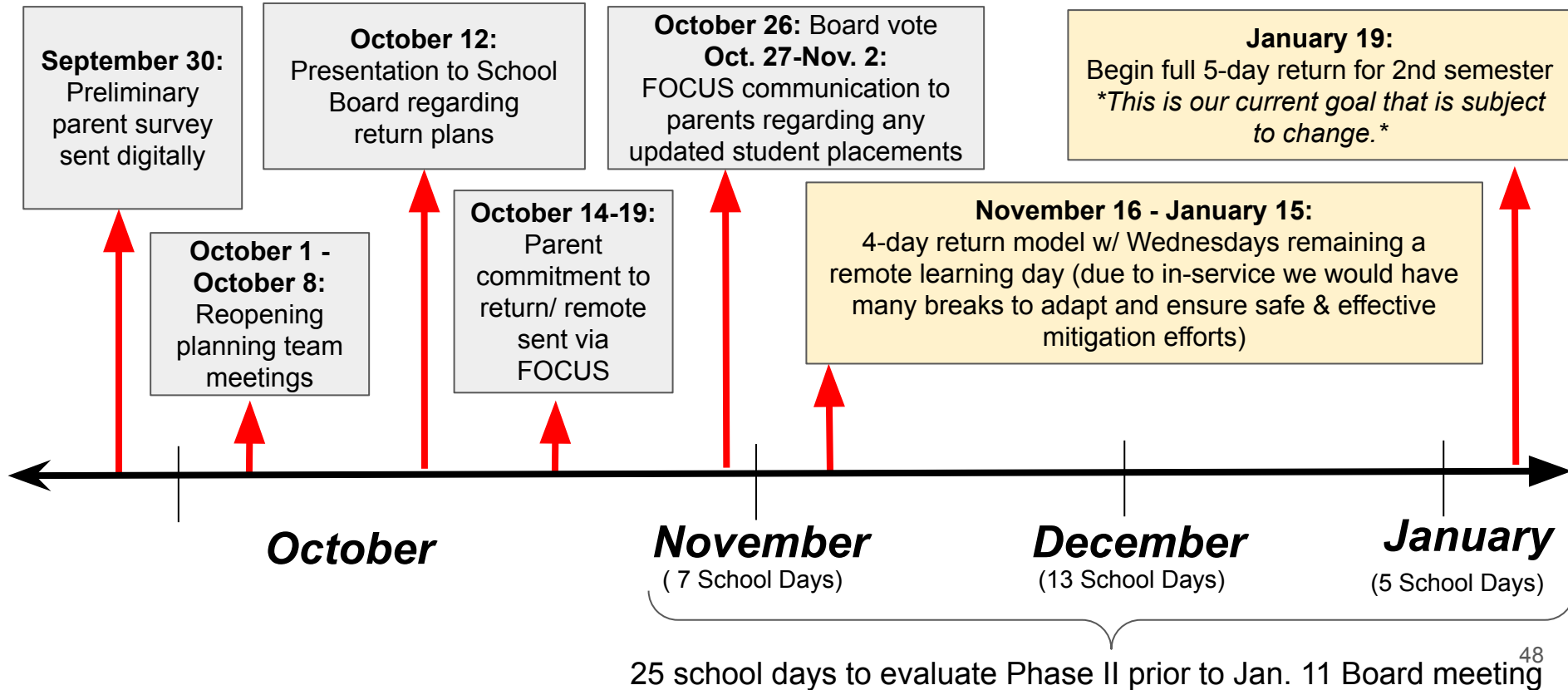
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Phase II and III: *Timeline for Implementation*



Timeline for Change



Final Parent Survey

Tool Used:

Focus

Purpose:

Firm Commitment to Full Remote or 4-day
Return for 2nd nine weeks (through Jan. 15 2021)

Timeline for Completion:

Sent Wed. Oct. 14, due Sun. Oct. 19

Questions:

4-days in-person or full-time remote?
Using District transportation?



Information related to the two options will be sent home, including:

- Recording of Board presentation
- Updated Q&A on District website

Our Goals

Primary Goal

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Key Components

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- Choice for families
- High-quality education (in-school or remote) w/ opportunity to transition seamlessly
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We are committed to a full-return as soon as conditions permit, and will continue to provide the option to remain fully remote.

*****We will monitor and adjust on a weekly basis.*****

Questions?

