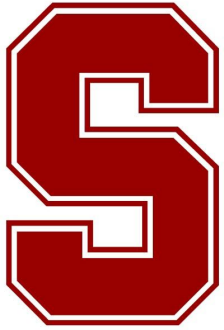# Syosset Central School District School Reopening Plans

Presentation to the Board of Education
August 10, 2020

Introduction

Coronavirus
COVID-19

On August 7, 2020, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced that schools in New York State may reopen this fall.

Schools will close if the regional infection rate rises above 9 percent, using a 7-day average, after August 1st.

Governor Cuomo directed school districts to provide excerpts from reopening plans:

- Remote learning plans
- COVID testing plans
- Contact tracing plans

And hold 4 meetings:

- 3 meetings to answer parent questions
- 1 meeting to answer staff questions

Timeline

June-July	Eight Reopening Task Force Meetings
July 13	NYS Department of Health Guidance given
	NYS DOH Checklist Provided
July 16	NYS Education Department Guidance given
	Syosset staff survey released
July 17	NYS Education Department Q&A Released
	Syosset parent survey released
July 22	Staff Survey for "vulnerable populations"
July 23	Board of Education Workshop:
	Reopening Plans and Survey Results
July 24	ThoughtExchange community feedback
July 27	*Staff survey to "vulnerable populations"*
July 29	*Survey to parents on transportation*
July 29	*Special BOE Meeting(live & streamed)*
July 30	*Parent Survey: "vulnerable populations"*
July 31	*Reopening Plans filed with NYS*

Infection Rate Statistics

Cumulative COVID-19 Cases
- Syosset - 223
- Woodbury - 232

https://projects.newsday.com/long-island/tracking-the-coronavirus-on-long-island/

Daily Infection Rate
- Nassau - 0.5% positive (8/8/20) - 7-day average 1.0%
- Long Island Region - 0.6% positive (8/8/20) 7-day average 1.0%

https://forward.ny.gov/percentage-positive-results-county-dashboard
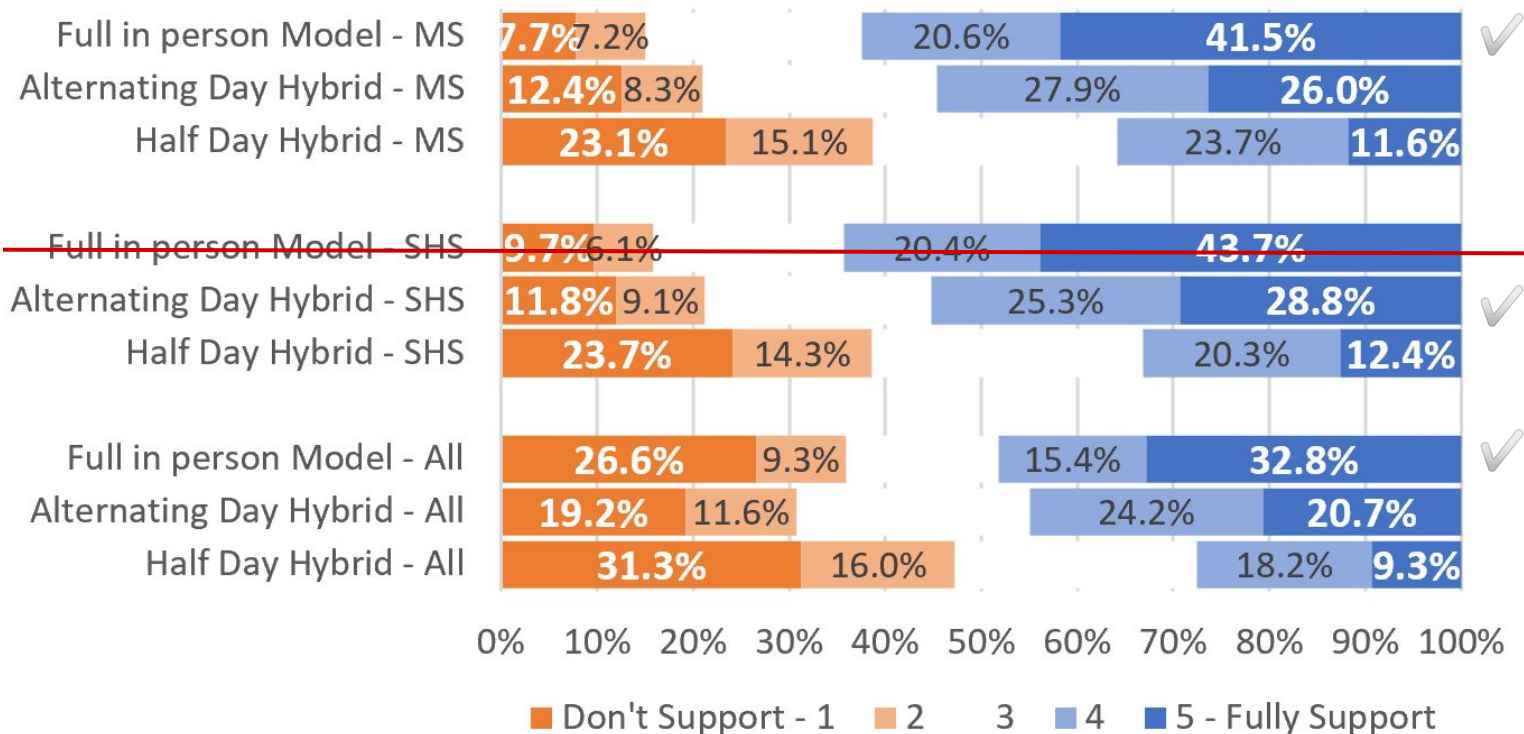
Reopening Plans: 3 Plans Required

1. A plan to **maximize the number of students** who return to live, in-person, instruction;

2. A plan for **virtual learning** in the event that COVID-19 infection rates rise and school becomes too risky; and

3. A **"hybrid"** plan that reduces the number of students in school at any one time to both increase social distance, and reduce the number of potential "close contacts" should a positive case occur in the learning community.

Please note any plans put into place for the fall will be subject to change based on the status and severity of COVID-19 in our area, as well as state and public health requirements.

Parent Feedback on Instructional Models
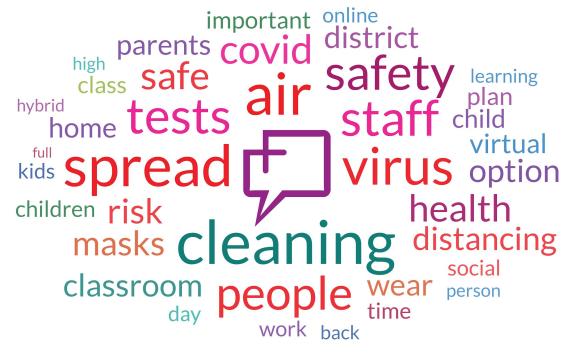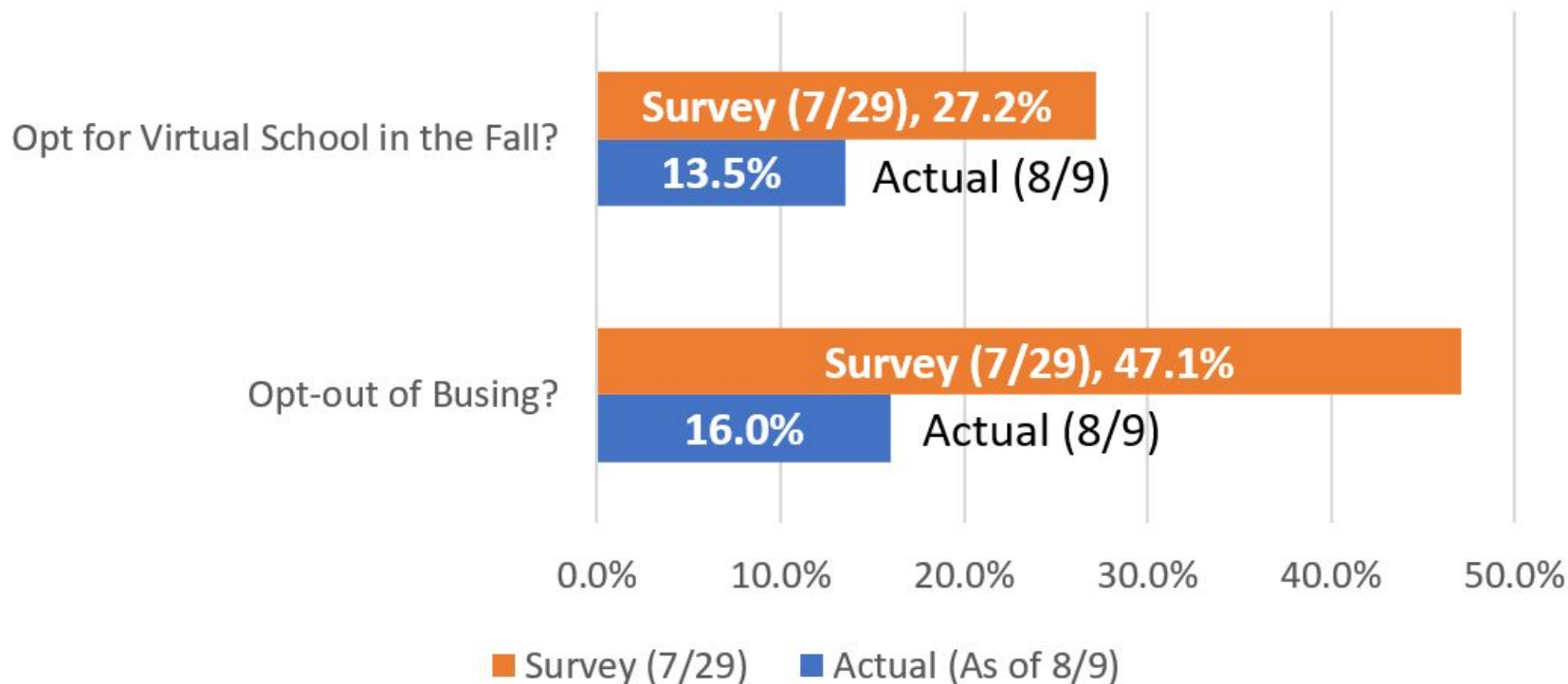
Community Input

Step 1: Parent Survey

- Total responses: 3,945
- Total number of comments: 1,661

Step 2: ThoughtExchange

- Opened July 24, 2020
- 1,638 participants; 2,613 thoughts shared, 118,537 ratings on the thoughts

Parent Survey – Planning Challenges

Reopening Plan – In–Person Instruction

➤ **Elementary** - All students 5 days/week on the regular school schedule;

➤ **Middle** - All students 5 days/week but with an 8-period day;

➤ **High School** - Students attend every other day. eLearning will take place during alternating days.

➤ **Virtual** option at all 3 levels.

In–Person Elementary

➢ All students attend in-person learning, Monday through Friday, during normal school hours.
➢ Many spaces within each building repurposed for instructional space.
➢ Classes split between two locations with a focus on small group instruction.
➢ Utilization of "co-pilot" methodology for classes split between two physical areas.
➢ Lunch and most specials to take place in classrooms.
➢ Physical Education outside weather permitting.
➢ Student schedule will allow for breaks and recess opportunities.

In-Person Middle School

➢ Shift from a 9-period day to an 8-period day <u>for 2020-21 only</u> in order to have adequate staff for all students
  ○ Special area classes designed to meet NYS guidelines and give a comprehensive experience to students
➢ Students will take a majority of their courses with a group of peers in a family setting called a "Homebase Cohort" which will also serve as Advisory Group
➢ Students will have opportunity for movement to some special area classes such as PE and Music
➢ Teachers will collaborate to teach across Homebase Cohorts remotely when classroom capacity splits a cohort into two locations
➢ "Lunch and Learn" sessions will allow students to eat lunch in their cohorts

In-Person High School

➢ Not enough physical space to bring in any full grade
➢ All students would attend on alternating-days in a continuous 4-day cycle.
   ○ Cohort A will attend on days 1&3 (eLearning on days 2&4)
   ○ Cohort B will attend on days 2&4 (eLearning on days 1&3)

Day	1	2	3	4
In Person	A	B	A	B
eLearning	B	A	B	A

High School eLearning Model

Students will follow their individual schedule and attend all their regularly scheduled classes virtually on the normal bell schedule beginning at 7:39 am.

All school district expectations for student attendance, grading, participation, and conduct apply.

All students are expected to use the District-issued Chromebook and have their faces visible at all times during instruction.

Teacher will be teaching the in-person class and live-streaming to the students at home.

Teacher's primary focus is on the live classroom.

Teacher sees each student in class every other day and can follow up individually on progress.

Teacher will provide extra help sessions to students each week.

Reopening Plan – Virtual Instruction

For students who opt for all-virtual instruction.

➢ Elementary - All students 5 days/week on the regular school schedule
➢ Middle - All students 5 days/week but with an 8-period day
➢ High School - Students attend through eLearning on a daily basis.

Virtual Elementary

➢ Students will have virtual class sessions throughout the normal school day with a certified teacher. The schedule for each of the ELA, Math, Writing, Science and Social Studies duration of time will vary based on the content and development age of the students.

➢ K - 1 will have an abbreviated scheduled

➢ 2 - 5 will follow a sequenced school day

➢ Students will receive a full day of content instruction, small group work, special area classes, and special education and ENL services.

Virtual Middle School

➢ Middle School students learning from home will remain connected to their home school wherever possible.

➢ Students will virtually follow the same 8-period day as their in-school peers, participating in online instruction with other students learning from home.

➢ Students learning at home will be supported with the same mental health, counseling, and other resources as students learning at school.

➢ All school district expectations for student attendance, grading, participation, and conduct apply.

Virtual High School

➢ Students will follow their individual schedule and attend all their regularly scheduled classes virtually on the normal bell schedule beginning at 7:39 am.

➢ All students are expected to use the District-issued Chromebook and have their faces visible at all times during instruction.

➢ All school district expectations for student attendance, grading, participation, and conduct apply.

Health and Safety Protocols

➤ Physical safety is our first priority.
➤ We cannot eliminate risk altogether, but…
  ○ we can minimize it,
  ○ and can react quickly when health concerns arise.

Risk Mitigation in Classrooms

1. All students and staff will be required to wear masks/face coverings. School will provide masks if needed.
2. All instructional spaces are redesigned with students maintaining a social distance of six feet from one another.
3. Desk partitions will be ordered for each student as an additional social-distancing precaution.

During mask breaks and eating, the partitions and distancing will be maintained.

Sample Classroom and Desk Set Up

Mask Use

1. Masks are required at all times for all students and staff.
2. Mask breaks will be:
   a. Brief in duration,
      i. (The NYS DOH defines a 10-minute exposure to an infected individual as a "close contact", so mask breaks will be of lesser duration than 10 minutes.),
   b. Not all students at once,
   c. Only during instruction while separated and partitioned.
3. Students who cannot medically tolerate masks must seek accommodations prior to school through the 504 process.

Section 504 Mask Exceptions

Per NYSED Guidance (p.36) face coverings cannot be placed on:

- "Students where such covering would impair their health or mental health, or where such covering would present a challenge, distraction, or obstruction to education services and instruction" (**must seek medical accommodation under the Section 504 process prior to the start of school**).
- "Anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious"
- "Anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance"

Students and staff may use alternate PPE (i.e., face coverings that are transparent at or around the mouth) for instruction or interventions that require visualization of the movement of the lips and/or mouths (e.g., speech therapy).

Full face shields are not an adequate substitute for masks.

Masks / Face Coverings

- The District has and will maintain an inventory of face masks for students and staff that arrive without one.

- Mask policy will be reevaluated on 30-day intervals based on any updates to CDC or NYSDOH guidance.

Air Filtration

The District has worked with our architects and engineers to ensure that adequate ventilation is maintained. Air filters are being upgraded to the highest level recommended by our architects.
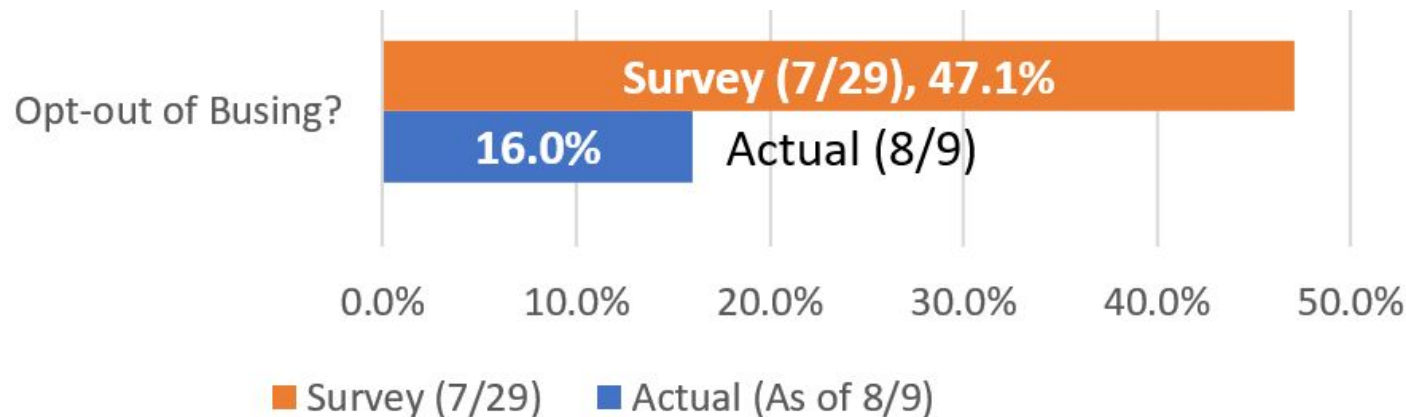
Air Filtration	Present	Sept 2020
Roof Top Units (RTU)	MERV 6	MERV 13
Classroom univentilators (older)	MERV 2 - 4	MERV 6 - 8
Classroom univentilators	MERV 7	MERV 10 - 13
Central Heating & Ventilation units	MERV 4 - 6	MERV 10 - 13
Ducted split AC fan coils	MERV 2	MERV 4
Ductless split AC wall units	MERV 2 - 3	MERV 10 - 16

Air Filtration – Priority Upgrades

1. All of the nurses stations and isolation rooms will be upgraded with negative pressure systems.
2. There are a number of interior rooms and office spaces that do not have adequate fresh air, they will be addressed as our second highest priority.
3. Classrooms that are compliant with open windows will be good to start school but will be addressed as soon as possible.

Bus Routing Challenges

Opt-out of Busing?
Survey (7/29), 47.1%
16.0% Actual (8/9)

0.0% 10.0% 20.0% 30.0% 40.0% 50.0%

■ Survey (7/29) ■ Actual (As of 8/9)

- Low-density routing will require fewer student riders;
- If more parents do not opt-out, we will have to begin scheduling "double-loop" runs and staggering pick up and start times.

COVID Testing Sites

State guidance requires us to identify potential COVID testing sites. We have been in contact with:

1. **City MD Urgent Care** on Jericho Tpke in Syosset.
   a. Rapid Testing is anticipated before the first week of September, awaiting kits
   b. Testing is free to patients, but they do submit a bill to insurance company
   c. Wait times vary, but they are willing to work with us if we call ahead to give an approximate wait time and will advise if Plainview location is available quicker
2. **PM Pediatric**, Syosset, opens at 12 noon each day to 10 PM. 516-677-5437
3. **Go Health Urgent Care** Center Syosset 103 Jackson Ave. 8AM-8PM 516-537-9062

This link from NYS provides all local testing sites, https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/find-test-site-near-you.

(Note: We are awaiting clarification on a discrepancy between CDC guidance (July 17 rev.) and NYSDOH guidance (p.3) on whether a negative COVID test will also be required to return to school.)

Daily Health Screening / Temperature Taking

All students, staff, and visitors will complete a Daily Health Screening Questionnaire and attest to the fact that they are or are not exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, that they have not been exposed to individuals knowingly positive for COVID-19, and that they have not traveled to a NYS quarantined state. Those who reply "yes" are directed NOT to enter the buildings.

Protocol for Daily Temperature Taking:
➢ Parents must take their child's temperature prior to sending the child to school or the bus stop.
➢ No student with a temperature of 100.0° F or greater should come to school or ride the bus.
➢ Upon arrival at school, trained personnel will be taking student temperatures again with touch-less IR thermometers.
➢ Students with temperatures of 100.0° F or greater will be directed to the nurses office and isolated in a separate space. A parent or guardian will be called to immediately pick the child up.
➢ Students may return to school upon symptom resolution and documentation from the health care provider per NYS DOH regulations.

Protocols for Suspected / Confirmed COVID-19 Cases

The District has identified 1 Lead Nurse as the District COVID Coordinator who will, in communication with the District Physician, the Nassau County DOH, and District Administration:

- Oversee Health Screening, Containment, Contact Tracing, and Return to School.
- Communicate directly with the 12 Building-Level COVID Managers (school nurses).

Each school building has a dedicated room to isolate students or staff with symptoms of COVID-19 identified during the school day.

- Students and staff will be moved safely, respectfully, in accordance with applicable privacy laws and regulations, to the isolation room for evaluation.
- The individual will be provided a mask if they are able to use one, and students will be supervised by a staff member who maintains at least 6' of distance and uses appropriate PPE.
- School nurses and other healthcare providers will use Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions when caring for sick people.

Protocols for Suspected / Confirmed COVID-19 Cases

- For any situation where social distancing was not maintained, any children and staff must be considered close contacts and must complete a fourteen (14) day quarantine period.
- Students and teachers in a classroom with a known COVID-19 case in which social distancing was reliably maintained should remain together in the same cohort to the extent that is possible. They should receive screening for fever and symptoms each morning until 14 days after last contact with the case.
- Any of these students or teachers who are monitored and found to have symptoms of COVID-19 will be sent home and will be required to complete the required isolation period to return to school.
- The classroom will be closed for cleaning and disinfection before use again.

Protocols for Suspected / Confirmed COVID-19 Cases – Cleaning & Disinfecting

- Immediately following a student getting sick or having infectious symptoms in a classroom, the student will be removed from the classroom and the nurse will be contacted.
- After the sick student has been removed from the class, the remaining students will be moved out of the classroom to decrease risk of disease transmission.
- Students will be directed to thoroughly wash their hands.
- The classroom will be cleaned thoroughly.
- The entire classroom will be disinfected with the Electrostatic Sprayer to disinfect all touch points in the classroom (desks, chairs, tables, door knobs, lockers, etc.).
- Evening staff will use Electrostatic Sprayer to disinfect the remainder of any common space used by the affected individual to help prevent the spreading of the germs.

Protocols for Contact Tracing Suspected / Confirmed COVID-19 Cases

- Several school nurses and school administrators have been trained in contact tracing through Johns Hopkins University.
  - https://www.coursera.org/learn/covid-19-contact-tracing (currently free of charge)
- The Nassau County Department of Health is the lead agency for contact tracing.
  - NCDOH has identified a primary contact person for school districts.
  - School districts will support NCDOH by:
    - Providing class lists and schedules,
    - Keeping logs of (and contact information for) visitors.
    - Keeping attendance records and schedules up to date
  - Syosset will assist NC DOH in contacting any affected families and staff.
  - Syosset will inform the community only to the extent permissible under privacy laws.

Next Steps

➢ **Develop class lists at every level**

➢ **Develop bus routes**

➢ **Continue to refine plan in August**

➢ **Seek additional guidance from NC DOH on quarantine protocols**

➢ **Finalize instructional models, ongoing curriculum work to develop teacher resources, and day-to-day details (rooms assignments, staffing, seamless transition, virtual model, etc.)**