



# Reopening Schools

## Plan for the Reopening of Miami-Dade County Public Schools

Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools  
Wednesday, July 1, 2020

Miami-Dade County Public Schools

# Elements of the District's Reopening Plan

- 1 M-DCPS COVID-19 Response and Planning for the 20/21 School Year
- 2 Reopening Our Schoolhouses
- 3 Proposed Instructional Models
- 4 Safety and Support for Staff
- 5 Communications, Family Engagement and Advocacy
- 6 Final Preparations

01

02

03

04

05

06

SECTION ONE

# M-DCPS COVID-19 Response and Planning for the 20/21 School Year

2020-2021

Miami-Dade County Public Schools

# Response to COVID-19 (March - June)

18,000+ teachers  
trained on Distance  
Learning best practices

119,000 devices  
distributed

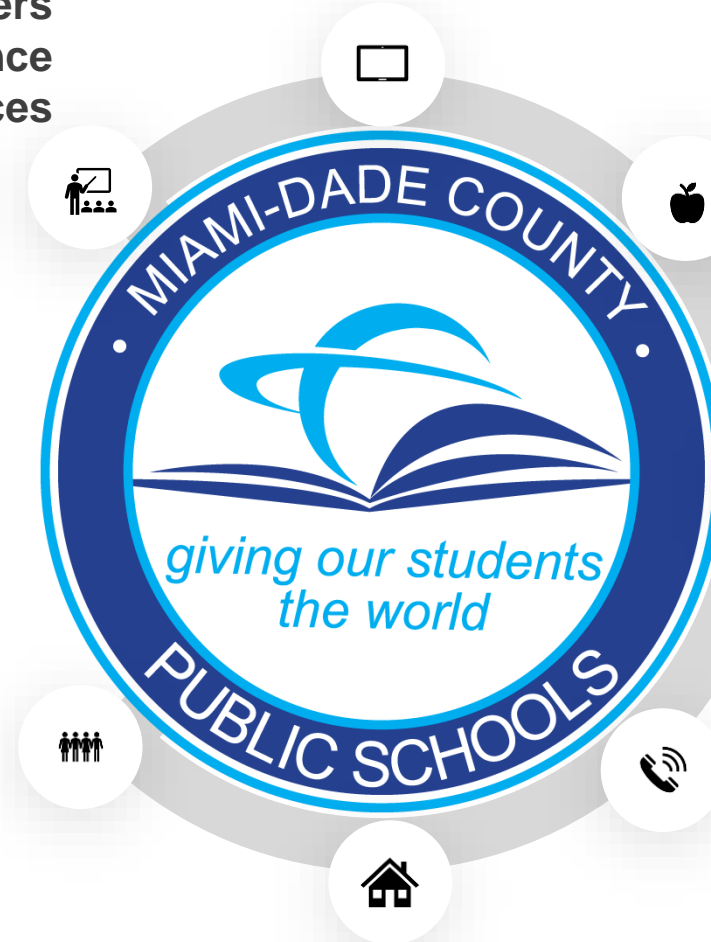
4,900,000+ school  
meals distributed

99% student  
connection  
rate; 92%  
attendance  
rate

50,000+ calls to  
District helplines  
answered

3,000+ home visits  
conducted

Raised ~\$1M  
to support  
community  
feeding



# M-DCPS COVID-19 CHRONOLOGY



Jan  
2020

MONITORING

**M-DCPS begins monitoring potential impacts from a respiratory virus affecting parts of China.**

- *District Critical Incident Response Team tracks news reports of unexplained pneumonia cases in Wuhan, China.*
- *Miami-Dade County Health Department contacts District Safety Director with CDC update on the novel coronavirus.*
- *Staff begins updating the District's Pandemic Plan.*
- *District and school staff begin monitoring student absenteeism.*

## February

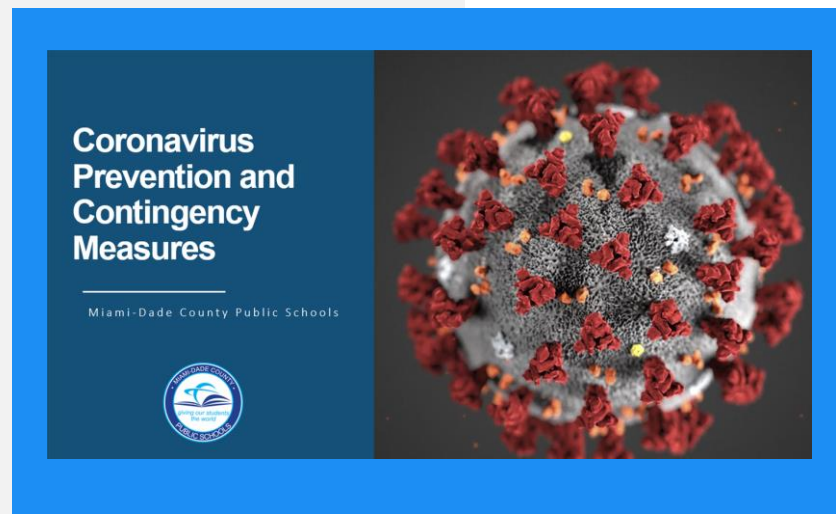
District verifies availability of adequate cleaning supplies/equipment and places environmental contractors on standby.

## March 2

The Florida Department of Health (FDOH) issues guidelines to stop the spread of the coronavirus, asking residents not to travel to certain areas overseas.

## March 10

District staff present the School Board and community with an update on M-DCPS' coronavirus prevention and contingency measures to date.



# Early March

PREPARATION

## March 1

Governor Ron DeSantis announces first two confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Florida and directs the FDOH to declare a public health emergency.

## March 5

**District opens two New Student Service Centers.**

*At this point, new students' travel history remains a concern. Earlier enrollment reports indicated that the District was enrolling 30-50 students from foreign nations in home schools daily. To minimize potential staff and student exposure to the virus, two New Student Service Centers are established in the District. These sites are staffed with counselors and a nurse to assist with the registration and health clearance process.*

## March 11

**District activates its Emergency Command Center.**

*The District Emergency Command Center was activated to address questions from parents, employees and students regarding potential school closures and provide general information concerning the District COVID-19 response.*

## March 13

### Ruth K. Broad/Bay Harbor K-8 Center Closed.

*On the evening of March 12, the Town of Bay Harbor Islands advised M-DCPS that one of its employees tested positive for the coronavirus, which has been confirmed by the FDOH. The individual, who works at an after-care program located in the Town's community center, interacted with students who attend that program.*

### School Closures Announced.

*Superintendent Carvalho announces closure of all M-DCPS campuses and facilities until further notice, due to COVID-19.*

# Mid March

CLOSURES  
ANNOUNCED

## March 16

### M-DCPS transitions to Distance Learning and Teleworking.

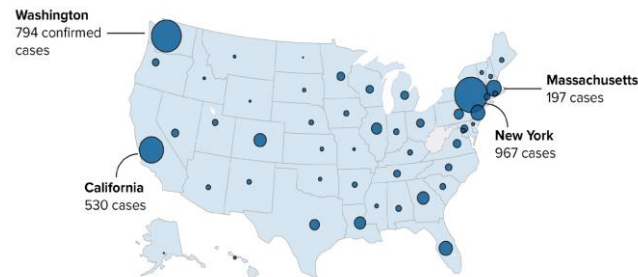
- ✓ *Distance Learning through the M-DCPS Instructional Continuity Plan commences.*
- ✓ *Over 18,000 teachers are trained on Distance Learning.*
- ✓ *Distribution of grab-and-go school breakfast and lunch meals commences at school sites across M-DCPS.*
- ✓ *Vast majority of the District workforce transitions to performing their functions remotely.*

## March 17

**The Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) announces school closures statewide through April 15.**

### Reported coronavirus cases in the US

As of March 16, 2020



SOURCE: Johns Hopkins University. Data as of March 16, 2020 at 6:15 p.m. ET

## March 26

**Safer-At-Home Order is issued for Miami-Dade County. About half the state's reported COVID-19 cases are in Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties.**

## April 1

**Governor DeSantis signs Executive Order 20-91, thereby implementing a statewide Safer-At-Home Order effective April 3 and expiring April 30.**

## April 18

**The FLDOE extends school closures and distance learning statewide through the end of the school year.**

# April

SAFER AT HOME

## March 31

**The FLDOE extends school closures statewide through May 1.**



## April 6

**M-DCPS launches ICP 2.0 and begins capturing student attendance through virtual means.**

## April 29

**Recovery and reopening plans announced.**

- ✓ *Governor DeSantis unveils Florida's Recovery Plan, a step-by-step guide to reopen Florida's economy.*
- ✓ *Superintendent Carvalho announces summer learning plans through the S.O.A.R. initiative and his intent to convene a Reopening Workgroup to inform M-DCPS' reopening plans for 2020-2021.*

## STATE OF FLORIDA

### OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 20-91 (Essential Services and Activities During COVID-19 Emergency)

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2020, I issued Executive Order 20-51 directing the Florida Department of Health to issue a Public Health Emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2020, the State Surgeon General and State Health Officer declared a Public Health Emergency exists in the State of Florida as a result of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, I issued Executive Order 20-52 declaring a state of emergency for the entire State of Florida as a result of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, President Donald J. Trump and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") issued the "15 Days to Slow the Spread" guidance advising individuals to adopt far-reaching social distancing measures, such as avoiding gatherings of more than 10 people, and in states with evidence of community spread, recommending restrictions to certain establishments conducive to mass gatherings and congregations; and

WHEREAS, on March 29, 2020, the President extended such guidance to be in effect until April 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on March 31, 2020, the President updated the guidance, renaming it "10 Days to Slow the Spread", and along with the White House Coronavirus Task Force urged Americans to continue to adhere to the guidelines and expand community mitigation efforts; and



## May 4

Governor DeSantis lifts statewide Safer-At-Home Order, except for Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties.

## May 15

M-DCPS opens Parent Reopening Survey in English, Spanish, and Haitian-Creole to obtain critical feedback from parents regarding their beliefs on COVID-19 and preferences on school reopening.

# May

THE ROAD TO  
REOPENING

## May 13

Miami-Dade County releases draft guidelines in anticipation of its Phase I reopening on May 18. These are part of the County's "The New Normal Guide."



Media Contact:

Patty Abril

[patricia.abril@miamidade.gov](mailto:patricia.abril@miamidade.gov)

### Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos A. Gimenez releases Phase I draft guidelines in anticipation of May 18th reopening

MIAMI ( May 13, 2020 ) — In an effort to allow for the lead time many of our local businesses may need in order to prepare for an anticipated Phase I reopening date of Monday, May 18, 2020, we are publishing the New Normal Guide

## Week of May 18

M-DCPS initiates phased reopening of the School Board Administration Building Complex for those employees who cannot easily telework, implementing distancing measures and temperature checks.

**News Alert**  
Office of Communications

Miami-Dade County Public Schools  
1450 N.E. 2nd Avenue, Miami, FL 33132  
305-995-1825 • [news.dadeschools.net](http://news.dadeschools.net)



CONTACT: Daisy Gonzalez-Diego  
305-995-2060

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Friday, May 15, 2020

### M-DCPS Seeks Parent Feedback on the Reopening of Schools

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) is actively preparing and planning for the 2020-2021 school year, including the consideration of various possible models for reopening schools. The District is currently seeking feedback from M-DCPS parents and guardians through an online survey.

## June 3

### Last Day of School at M-DCPS.

*After 51 days of Distance Learning, M-DCPS students close out the 2019-2020 school year. Despite the numerous challenges, student attendance for the last quarter averaged 92.3%*



## June 11

### FLDOE Releases Guidance on Reopening Schools

## June 17

**Data released from Johns Hopkins University indicates that Florida is 1 of 10 states seeing the highest average of daily new COVID-19 cases since the pandemic started.**

## June 26

**M-DCPS School Reopening Workgroup holds its third meeting.**

# June

CERTAIN  
UNCERTAINTY

## June 4

**M-DCPS opens Teacher Reopening Survey to obtain critical feedback from teachers regarding their beliefs on COVID-19.**

## June 8

### Summer Learning and Meal Distributions start.

- ✓ *M-DCPS enters the "Recover" phase of its S.O.A.R. initiative, targeting nearly 50,000 students.*
- ✓ *School meal distributions continue at 50 school sites across the county.*

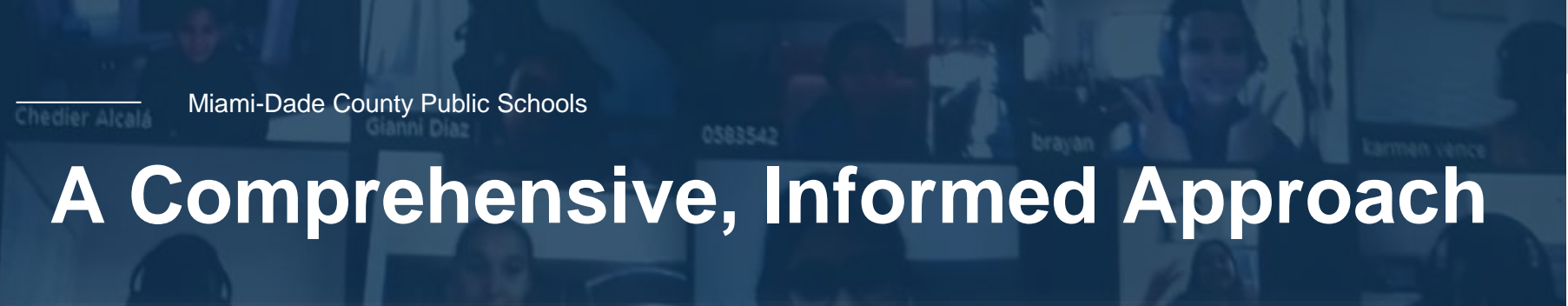
## June 15

**M-DCPS School Reopening Workgroup holds its first meeting.**

## June 22

**M-DCPS School Reopening Workgroup holds its second meeting.**





# A Comprehensive, Informed Approach

## Guiding Documents

- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Guidelines for Schools](#)
- Florida’s Recovery Plan
- FLDOE Reopening of Schools Guidance

### K-12 Schools and Childcare Programs FAQs for Administrators, Teachers, and Parents

**Administrators**

**WHAT SHOULD WE DO IF A CHILD, STUDENT, OR STAFF MEMBER HAS RECENTLY TRAVELED TO AN AREA WITH COVID-19 OR HAS A FAMILY MEMBER WHO HAS TRAVELED TO AN AREA WITH COVID-19?**

Review updated [CDC information for travelers](#), including [FAQ for travelers](#), and consult with state and local health officials. Health officials may use CDC’s [Interim US Guidance for Risk Assessment and Public Health Management of Persons with Potential Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Exposures: Geographic Risk and Contacts of Laboratory-confirmed Cases](#) to make recommendations. Individuals returning from travel to areas with community spread of COVID-19 must follow guidance they have received from health officials.

**Planning and Responding to COVID-19**

**WHAT SHOULD I CONSIDER AS I PLAN AND PREPARE FOR COVID-19?**


Administrators should always reinforce healthy practices among their staff and students, as well as prepare for a potential case of COVID-19, regardless of the current level of community transmission.

As you create and update your preparedness plans, work with your local health officials to determine the most appropriate plan and actions for your school or program. Together, you will need to consider your local community situation—whether you have local transmission in your community, and if so, the level of transmission (none/minimal, minimal to moderate, substantial).

CDC has created overall guidance, as well as guidance tailored for transmission level in your area to help childcare programs, schools, and their partners understand how to help prevent COVID-19 and react quickly when a case is identified. The guidance includes information about the following:

- How to prepare if you have no community spread of COVID-19.
- How to prepare if you have minimal to moderate community spread in your community.
- How to prepare if you have substantial community spread in your community.
- What to do if a person with COVID-19 has entered your school.

[See CDC’s full interim guidance for more details.](#)  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-schools.html>



[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

© 2020 CDC. All rights reserved.

**HOW SHOULD MY SCHOOL PREPARE WHEN THERE IS MINIMAL TO MODERATE COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION IN OUR AREA?**

Work with your local health officials to determine a set of strategies appropriate for your community’s situation. Continue using the preparedness strategies implemented for no community transmission, and consider the following social distancing strategies:

- Cancel field trips, assemblies, and other large gatherings.
- Cancel or modify classes where students are likely to be in very close contact.
- Increase the space between desks to at least 6 feet.
- Stagger arrival and/or dismissal times.
- Reduce congestion in the health office.
- Limit nonessential visitors.
- Limit bringing in students from other schools for special programs (e.g., music, robotics, academic clubs)
- Teach staff, students, and their families to maintain a safe distance (6 feet) from each other in the school.

**WHAT SHOULD I DO WHEN THERE IS SUBSTANTIAL COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION?**

If local health officials have determined there is substantial transmission of COVID-19 within the community, they will provide guidance to administrators on the best course of action for childcare programs or schools. These strategies are expected to extend across multiple programs, schools, or school districts within the community.

You may need to consider extended school dismissals (e.g. dismissals for longer than 2 weeks). This longer-term, and likely broader-reaching, dismissal strategy is intended to slow transmission rates of COVID-19 in the community. During extended school dismissals, also cancel extracurricular group activities, school-based after-school programs, and large events (e.g., assemblies, spirit nights, field trips, and sporting events). Remember to implement strategies to ensure the continuity of education (e.g., distance learning) as well as meal programs and other essential services for students.

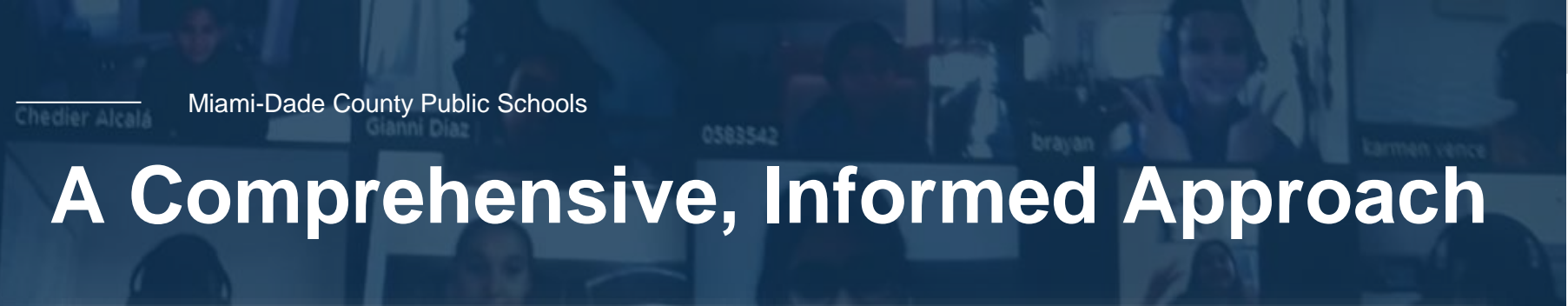
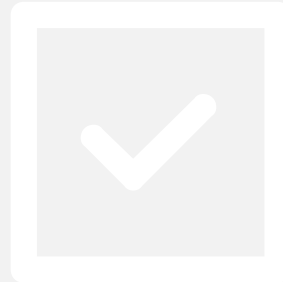
**SHOULD MY SCHOOL SCREEN STUDENTS FOR COVID-19?**

Schools and childcare programs are not expected to screen children, students, or staff to identify cases of COVID-19. If a community (or more specifically, a school) has cases of COVID-19, local health officials will help identify those individuals and follow up on next steps.

**WHAT RESOURCES DOES CDC HAVE AVAILABLE TO SHARE WITH STAFF, STUDENTS, AND PARENTS?**

Share resources with the school community to help them understand COVID-19 and steps they can take to protect themselves:

- CDC’s [health communication resources](#)  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/index.html>
- CDC information on [stigma and COVID-19](#)  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/reducing-stigma.html>



# A Comprehensive, Informed Approach

## Guiding Documents

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Guidelines for Schools
- [Florida's Recovery Plan](#)
- FLDOE Reopening of Schools Guidance

**The Plan: Phases for Re-Opening PHASE 2**

Phase 2 will begin after the successful conclusion of Phase 1, which includes a downward trajectory of the syndromic and epidemiology criteria while maintaining adequate health care capacity. This will occur when there is no evidence of a rebound or resurgence of COVID-19 cases and satisfies the benchmarks outlined in this **Safe, Smart, Step-by-Step** plan.

The **Safe, Smart, Step-by-Step** plan sets forth minimum recommended health protocols. Individuals and businesses should adhere to all public guidance by federal, state and local officials, including state regulatory agencies.

**INDIVIDUALS**  
**Vulnerable Populations**  
 Individuals older than 65 years of age and individuals with a serious underlying medical condition (such as chronic lung disease, moderate-to-severe asthma, serious heart conditions, immune-compromised status, cancer, diabetes, severe obesity, renal failure and liver disease) should continue to stay at home. When leaving the home, these individuals should follow social distancing and other general mitigation guidance. Those living with vulnerable individuals should be aware of the exposure risk that they could carry the virus back home after returning to work or other environments where distancing is not practical. Vulnerable populations should affirmatively inform their employer that they are a member of the vulnerable population so that their employer can plan accordingly.

**Social Gatherings**  
 All individuals should continue to maximize physical distance from others in public, particularly in enclosed environments.

- Individuals should avoid socializing in groups of more than 50 people in circumstances that do not readily allow for appropriate social distancing of at least 6 feet.

**Travel**  
 Individuals may resume non-essential travel.

**EMPLOYERS**  
**Telework**  
 All employers should continue to encourage teleworking where practical. Employers should begin implementing plans for employees to return to work in phases.

**Employee Screening**  
 All employers should screen employees before entering the premises for symptoms of COVID-19 or influenza like illness and, where practical, take the temperature of each employee.

REPORT TO GOVERNOR DESANTIS FROM THE RE-OPEN FLORIDA TASK FORCE 23

**The Plan: Phase 2 (continued)**

**Travel**  
 Employers should minimize non-essential travel and adhere to CDC guidelines regarding isolation following travel.

**Local Government Meetings**  
 In-person quorum for local government bodies should resume, allowing no more than 50 people in attendance, as long as social distancing guidelines can still be maintained. Continue to allow authorized technology and video conferencing for public participation at local government meetings.

**OTHER**  
**Bars, Pubs and Nightclubs**  
 Bars, pubs, and nightclubs that derive more than 50 percent of sales from alcohol should operate at 50 percent of building capacity with an emphasis on diminished standing room capacity and prioritizing outdoor service. Owners should consider:

- Spacing tables at least six feet apart and reducing and spreading the arrangement of seating at the bar to incorporate appropriate social distancing between patrons as well as between patrons and the bar staff.
- Restricting coupling of tables or table groups to 10 or fewer patrons.
- Encouraging beverage orders to be taken at the table by bar or wait staff rather than at the bar counter.
- Incorporating intentional and manageable traffic flows to enable responsible social distancing for patrons waiting on service when accepting orders directly at the bar.
- Cleaning and disinfecting all surfaces after each use.
- Menus, if laminated, should be cleaned after each usage. Paper menus should be designed for single use and then disposed of immediately after use.

**Restaurants**  
 Restaurants and food establishments should operate at no more than 75 percent of building capacity, with appropriate social distancing and a minimum of 6 feet separating parties, as the virus is most transmissible indoors under close, sustained contact.

- Parties should not exceed 10 people. Businesses should limit inside waiting areas for patrons waiting to be seated.
- Allow walk-ins but continue to emphasize a reservations-only business model or call-ahead seating to manage spacing effectively in restaurant.
- Outdoor dining areas should continue to be prioritized.
- Operators should clean and disinfect all surfaces after every use.
- Businesses should consider posting signs to remind staff and patrons of safety and sanitization protocols.
- Businesses should continue to screen employees before work and consider requiring employees to wear face masks or face coverings while inside or within close proximity to members of the public.

REPORT TO GOVERNOR DESANTIS FROM THE RE-OPEN FLORIDA TASK FORCE 24



# A Comprehensive, Informed Approach

## Guiding Documents

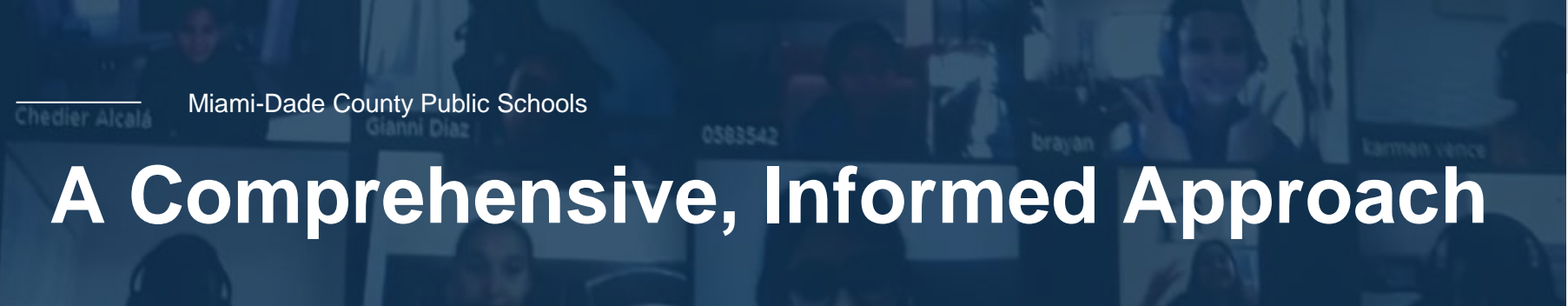
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Guidelines for Schools
- Florida’s Recovery Plan
- [FLDOE Reopening of Schools Guidance](#)



### Reopening is a Locally Driven Decision

- This document is NOT a set of mandates or final set of considerations.
- Reopening ultimately must be driven by local data and the goal of restoring optimal conditions for learning.

- This document is:
  - A guidance document with recommendations.
  - Informed by both published expert guidance and input from dozens of stakeholders (see appendices).
  - A resource and framework for local decision making.
  - A document that is intended to be updated and changed as the context evolves.
- Child care (early learning) programs, K-12 schools and postsecondary institutions should **use this document as points to consider and implement with local context**, knowing that there is not one perfect formula for reopening and differently situated communities will likely establish equally successful plans to reopen that do NOT mirror each other.



# A Comprehensive, Informed Approach

## Guiding Documents

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Guidelines for Schools
- Florida’s Recovery Plan
- [FLDOE Reopening of Schools Guidance](#)



**General Mitigation Strategies: Employers (Schools, Programs)**

Employers are encouraged to prepare their workplaces and consider how to minimize the spread of COVID-19 and lower the impact in their workplace. Refer to pages 12-13 of the [Safe, Smart, Step-by-Step, Plan For Florida’s Recovery](#).

The following general guidance is recommended for all employers throughout each phase of re-opening:

- [Practice social distancing](#), whenever feasible, as the virus is most transmissible indoors under close, sustained contact.
- Clean and disinfect high-touch, high-traffic surface areas.
- Develop and implement policies and procedures to train employees on personal hygiene expectations, including increased frequency of hand washing, the use of hand sanitizers with at least 60 percent alcohol and, clear instruction to avoid touching hands to face.
- Make hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, soap and water, or similar disinfectant readily available to employees, students and visitors.
- [Encourage employees and students who feel sick to stay home.](#)
- [Monitor employees and students for COVID-19 symptoms.](#)
- Do not allow symptomatic people to physically return until they meet CDC criteria to do so or are cleared by a medical provider.
- Consult with the county health department regarding procedures for workforce tracing following a positive COVID-19 test by an employee, student or those who have come into contact with an individual testing positive for COVID-19.



# A Comprehensive, Informed Approach

## Guiding Documents

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Guidelines for Schools
- Florida’s Recovery Plan
- [FLDOE Reopening of Schools Guidance](#)



### Recommendations to Redesign the School Day to Reduce Risks

While most educational programs are not designed for social distancing, schools are encouraged to explore creative redesigns of how a campus or program is utilized and how students move about can dramatically reduce risks and simplify, when necessary, contact tracing.

- ✓ *As feasible*, keep groups of students together throughout the day to minimize the number of people in close contact with each person.
- ✓ *As feasible*, convert cafeterias, libraries, gymnasiums, auditoriums, outdoor areas into classroom space.
- ✓ Explore allowing students to eat meals in traditional classroom space or outdoors.
- ✓ Move nonessential furniture and equipment out of classrooms to increase distance between students and turn desks the same direction.
- ✓ Maintain a maximum distance between desks as possible, even if not able to achieve 6 feet, and avoid sharing of textbooks, supplies and toys.
- ✓ Consider setting up a secondary clinic in schools, exclusively for students showing symptoms of COVID-19.
- ✓ Establish procedures in consultation with school health staff to quickly separate students and staff who become sick from others.
- ✓ Create a disinfection protocol for cleaning door knobs, counters and other surfaces throughout the day.
- ✓ Consider limiting nonessential visitors to campuses and programs.
- ✓ Consider alternative meeting options for nonessential volunteer activities, clubs and other elective meetings that require in-person contact.
- ✓ Explore limiting nonessential mass gatherings or reschedule as virtual gatherings.

# School Reopening Workgroup

Appointee	Affiliation
Dr. Linda Brown, PhD, ARNP	President/CEO – Xspurt Provider Services
Mr. Michael Finney	President & CEO – Beacon Council
Dr. Lisa Gwynn	Vice President – Academy of Pediatrics, Florida Chapter
Ms. Karla Hernandez-Mats	President – UTD
Father Reginald Jean-Mary	Pastor – Notre Dame d’Haiti Church
Ms. Adriana Jimenez, MPH	Infection Control & Prevention Specialist – Jackson Health System
Mr. Eric Knowles	President & CEO – Miami-Dade Chamber of Commerce
Dr. Joycelyn Lawrence, MD	Chief Medical Officer – UM Jackson Health System
Ms. Phyllis LeFlore	President – AFSCME
Ms. Mercy Lopez	Teacher – M-DCPS
Ms. Claudia Mariaca	Councilwoman – City of Doral
Mr. Roberto Martinez	Parent/Formal State Board of Education Member/Attorney
Dr. Aileen Marty	Professor of Medicine, Infectious Disease – FIU
Dr. Vivek Murthy	Former US Surgeon General
Mr. Brandon Post	Certified Firefighter and Paramedic
Mr. Hector Roca, MSgt., US Army Ret.	Former Special Operations Command South
Dr. Benny Rub, MD	Pediatrician – Rub Pediatrics
Mr. Alfred Sanchez	President & CEO – Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce
Dr. Judy Schaecter	Chief of Service for Child Health – UM Jackson Health System
Ms. Eileen Segal	Chair – Family and Community Involvement Advisory Committee
Ms. Maria Tavel-Visiedo	Retired Principal – M-DCPS
Dr. Yesenia Villalta, APRN, DNP	Administrator – Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade
Ms. Sandra West	President – Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA)



## Stakeholder Surveys

- ✓ Observations from other countries that have begun reopening their schools show that support and agreement for such decisions are associated with people's attitudes on various topics.
- ✓ Understanding our stakeholders' attitudes and beliefs about COVID-19, its risks, and preventative measures enables the District to develop plans and protocols that better align with their expectations and needs.
- ✓ Two surveys were designed and deployed – one for parents and one for teachers – to learn more about their perceptions of COVID-19, as well as their preferences for school/work attendance, transportation needs, potential barriers to working in either a physical or virtual environment, and proficiency with various learning platforms.



### PARENT SURVEY

- Open from 5/15 – 5/27
- Available in English, Spanish, and Haitian-Creole
- 100,707 surveys were completed, representing 155,545 students



### TEACHER SURVEY

- Open from 6/4 – 6/10
- 18,622 surveys were completed out of 19,250 teachers

Miami-Dade County Public Schools

# Perceptions on COVID-19 Health Risks



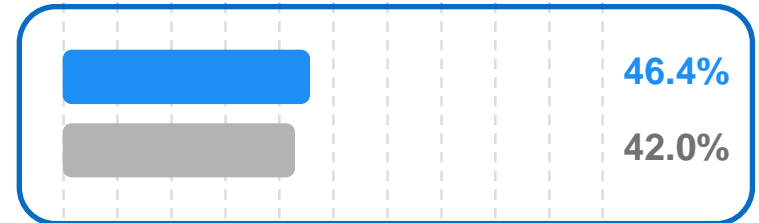
PARENT



TEACHER

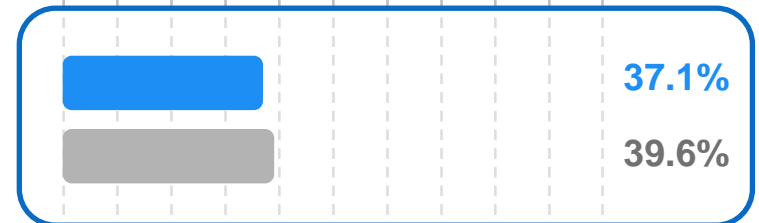
A

Reopening of the schools can put children and others at high risk of getting the virus.



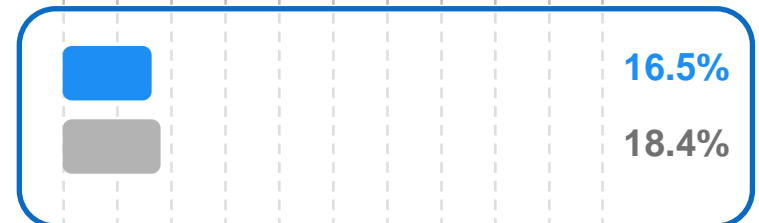
B

Risks for children to get the virus is moderate; reopening of schools still is seen as a risk because the virus can be spread without having symptoms.



C

Risks for children and teachers to get the virus (even when not showing symptoms) is low.



Parents and teachers were asked to indicate which statement they believed the most about the public health risk of COVID-19.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools

# Perceptions on COVID-19 Prevention

Parents and teachers were asked to indicate which statement they believed the most about the ability to make schools safe.

**A**

It is very difficult to make schools safe because children can be careless (not covering mouth or social distancing).

**B**

Health & Safety measures (such as cleaning and social distancing) can lower the risk of getting the virus in schools.

**C**

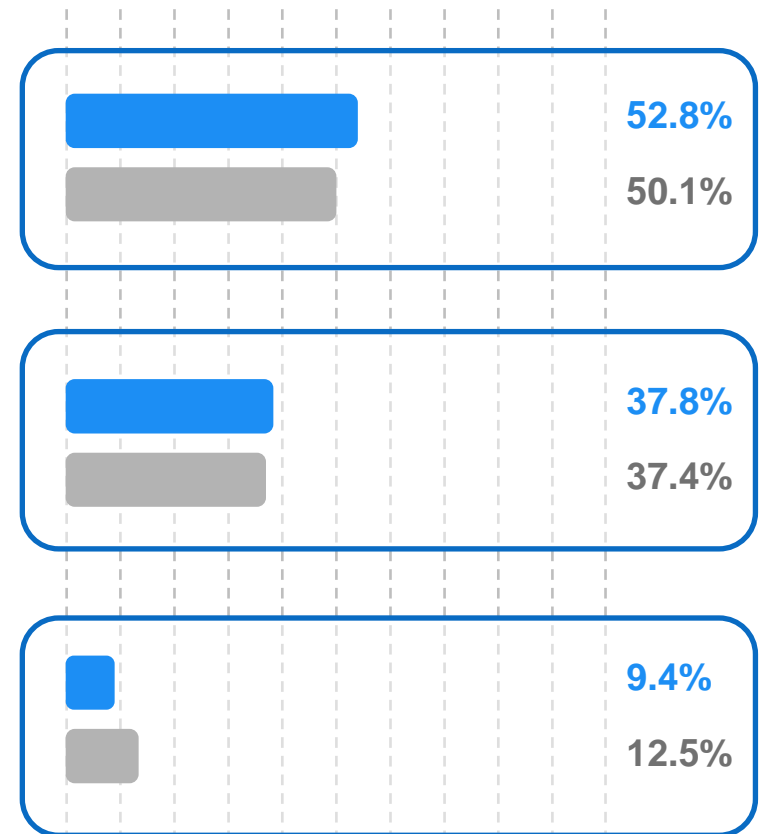
Health & Safety measures (such as cleaning and social distancing) are not enough to prevent the virus in schools.



PARENT



TEACHER



Miami-Dade County Public Schools

# Four **Guiding** Principles for Reopening Schools

- 1 Ensure the safety and wellness of students and staff.
- 2 Deliver high-quality instruction to students, regardless of delivery model.
- 3 Provide parents flexibility and choice in instructional delivery models.
- 4 Optimize use of resources.

01

02

03

04

05

06

SECTION TWO

# Reopening our Schoolhouses

2020-2021

Miami-Dade County Public Schools

# Focused on the **Student** & **Staff** Experience



**Before Students & Staff  
Arrive on Campus**



**When Students  
& Staff Arrive**



**When Students & Staff Move  
About on Campus**



**When Students & Staff  
Are in Classrooms**



**When Students & Staff  
Participate in  
Extracurriculars**



**When Students & Staff  
Leave**

# Beginning Student Experience Safety First



01. Bus Drop Off



02. Sanitation Station



03. Breakfast Grab-n-Go



04. Single Direction Walking



05. Reduced Classroom Seating



06. Lunch Outdoors/In Classroom

Miami-Dade County Public Schools

# Stakeholder Feedback

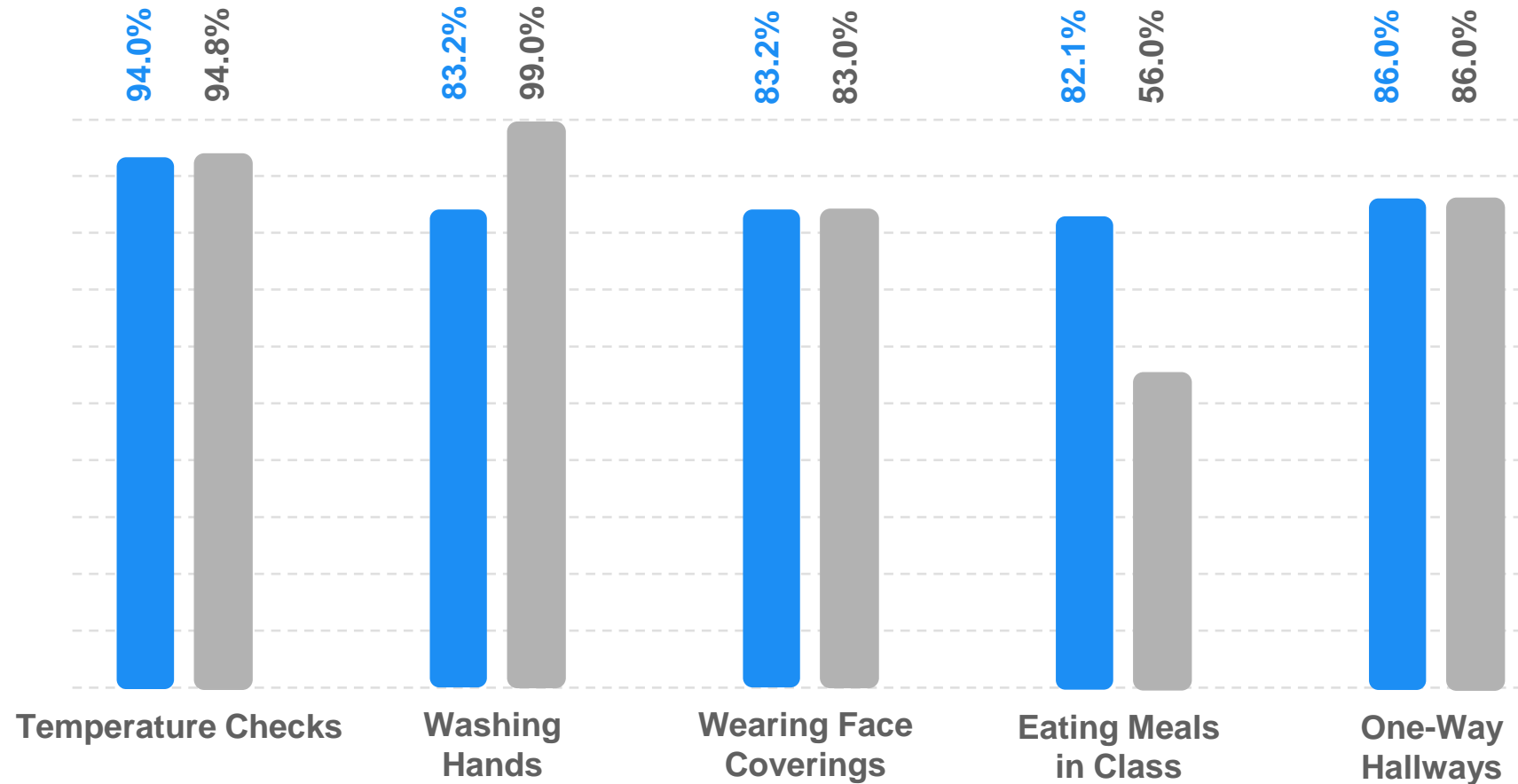
Percentage of those who agree with proposed prevention measures



PARENT



TEACHER





# Safely Arriving to, Leaving from and Moving around School Campuses

Though schools are not designed to easily allow for social distancing of 6 feet, every effort will be made to maintain as much distance as possible. Reopening schools requires certain procedures be in place to ensure safety as students, teachers and staff return to school campuses.

- ✓ Establish protocols for expanded entry areas in compliance with State mandates for safety and security
- ✓ Assess staggered arrival and dismissal times for students
- ✓ Establish parent pick-up/drop off protocols
- ✓ Evaluate emergency drill procedures (active shooter, fire drill, etc.)
- ✓ Stagger classroom release, when feasible
- ✓ Create protocols for transitions during passing times
- ✓ Strategically place signage to reinforce safety protocols
- ✓ Require parents to perform temperature checks on students prior to school arrival
- ✓ Require face coverings for staff and students

# HAND WASHING



Stay healthy. Wash your hands!

- 1 Get your hands wet.
- 2 Put on soap.
- 3 Rub soapy hands for as long as it takes to sing "Happy Birthday" two times or about 20 seconds.
- 4 Scrub fingertips and between fingers. Make lots of bubbles!
- 5 Scrub just below your wrists.
- 6 Rinse off. Wash all those bubbles away!
- 7 Dry your hands with a paper towel.
- 8 Turn off water with the towel. Throw the towel away.

## COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS DISEASE STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

For more information: [FloridaHealth.gov/COVID-19](https://www.floridahealth.gov/COVID-19) and [tinyurl.com/u7oyx4s](https://tinyurl.com/u7oyx4s)

CS314915

## Following Some Simple Steps...

Posters and flyers with simple and effective measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 illustrate and remind us of ways to stay safe and healthy.



Miami-Dade County Public Schools

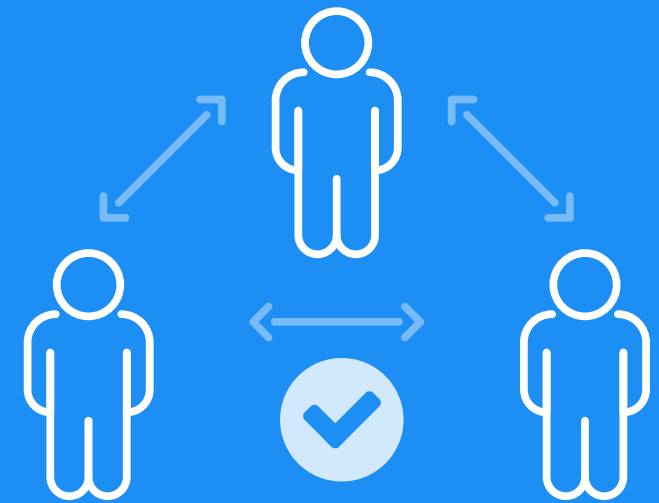
# District/Campus Health Protocols and Sanitation Procedures

- ✓ Perform routine sanitization of general facilities throughout the day
- ✓ Create sanitation logs, checklists and procedures for routine deep cleaning
- ✓ Require face coverings for students, staff, and visitors
- ✓ Set screening protocols for all visitors
- ✓ Set capacity limitations for restrooms and elevators
- ✓ Install hand sanitizing stations in high-traffic areas (e.g. building entrance, etc.)
- ✓ Monitor student attendance for increased chronic absences
- ✓ Establish protocol for reporting symptoms and initiate contact investigation/tracing in collaboration with the Miami-Dade FLDOH
- ✓ Continue replacing quality air filters for HVAC systems
- ✓ Increase frequency of sanitization of high-touch areas with hospital-grade germicide throughout the day and after school in preparation for next day
- ✓ Explore deep sanitization of schools on weekends



# Classroom Environment

- ✓ Manage class size to maximize social distancing
- ✓ Require face coverings for students and staff
- ✓ Explore installation of physical transparent barriers where appropriate
- ✓ Cohort students to minimize exposure and allow for contact tracing
- ✓ Create in-classroom meal service options to reduce exposure
- ✓ Designate handwashing breaks throughout the school day
- ✓ Remove non-essential shared items from the classroom
- ✓ Creatively repurpose alternate spaces (cafeterias, gyms, media centers, courtyards) for instructional use
- ✓ Encourage use of digital resources for instruction
- ✓ Determine feasibility of singular platform to facilitate parent engagement during distance learning



## FDOE GUIDANCE

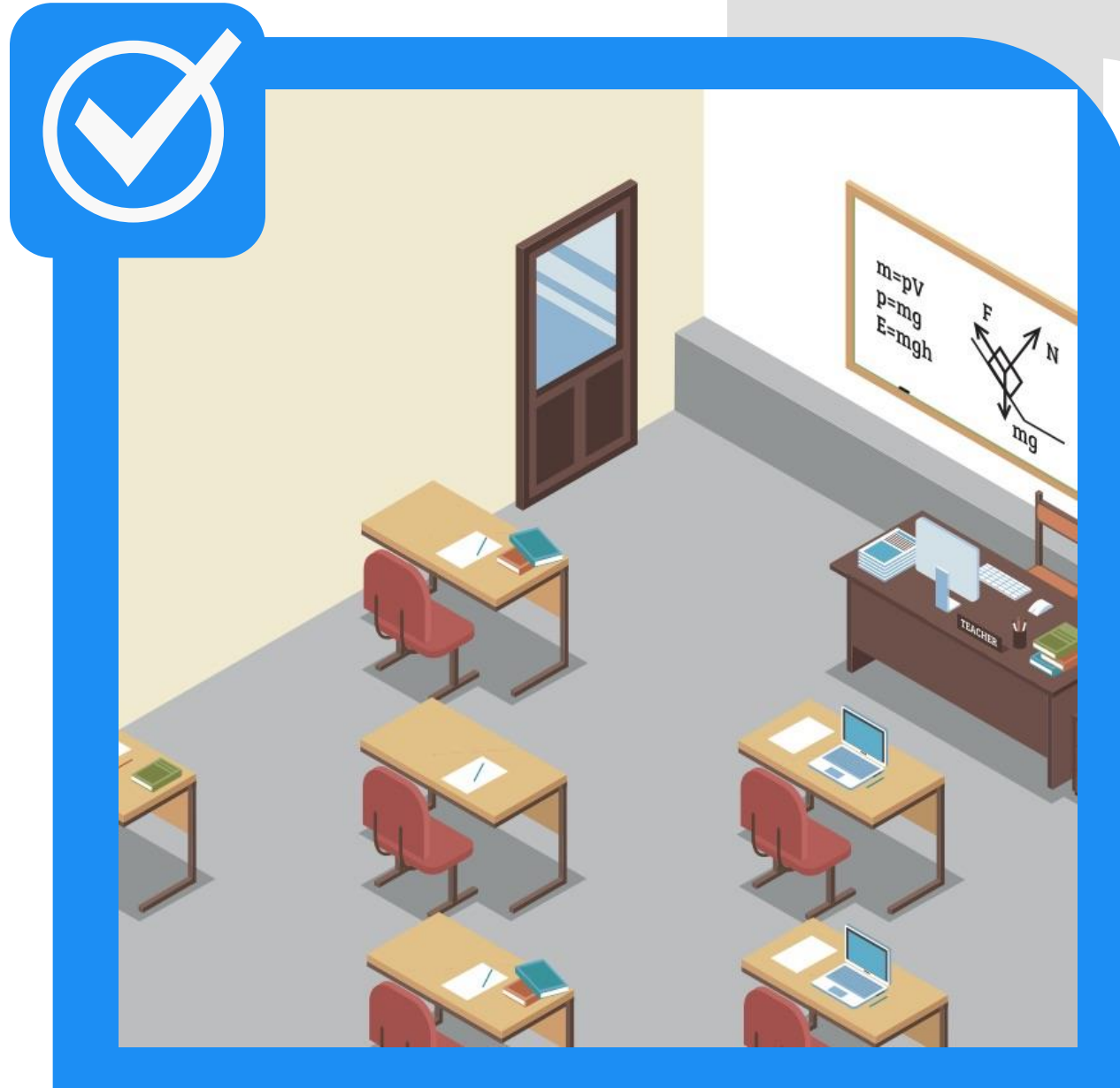
### Where Social Distancing is Not Feasible: Class Size and Busing

6 feet of distance between desks is not feasible for most classrooms and almost never for school buses. However, the impact of class size is not as significant, as [Florida's K-12 class sizes are already constitutionally mandated to be small](#): 18 or fewer students for grades K-3; 22 or fewer students for grades 4-8; and 25 or fewer students for grades 9-12.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools

# Classroom Capacity

Social Distancing  
Configuration



2020

---

Miami-Dade County Public Schools

# Bus Transportation Considerations

- ✓ Require face coverings for students and staff on the bus
- ✓ Create bus route models to accommodate reduced occupancy
- ✓ Intensify cleaning protocols for transportation
- ✓ Increase the number of bus stops to facilitate social distancing
- ✓ Evaluate options for screening and requirement of face coverings
- ✓ Install barrier to prioritize health and safety of school bus drivers
- ✓ Re-evaluate availability options for courtesy bussing
- ✓ Recruit additional drivers to support reduced occupancy per bus
- ✓ Encourage social distancing at pick-up/drop-off points



Miami-Dade County Public Schools

# Adapting Student Meal Service

- ✓ Minimize crowds by deploying alternative meal service options
- ✓ Provide Grab-and-Go Meals to be eaten in the classroom
- ✓ Design classroom delivery models for younger students
- ✓ Use signage and other social distancing strategies in cafeteria
- ✓ Adjust lunch service options to utilize alternative space for meal consumption (i.e. cafeteria service line, meal delivery to classroom or use of outdoor space)
- ✓ Adopt cashless, touchless point-of-sale transactions for cafeteria service line
- ✓ Stagger meal schedules to limit students in the cafeteria at one time
- ✓ Maximize social distancing as much as possible during mealtimes





# Before/After-School Care, Extracurricular Activities and Athletics

- ✓ Implement a phased approach for participation in activities and athletic programs, starting in July
- ✓ Monitor and follow guidance from Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA)
- ✓ Conduct extracurricular activities virtually when possible
- ✓ Establish sanitization procedures for shared equipment
- ✓ Evaluate before/after school program models to accommodate reduced adult/child ratio, which may include adjustment of operational hours

20/21



# Contact Tracing

Individual Showing Symptoms



School/Worksite Response

1. Individual is moved to Isolation Room and monitored/ screened

2. If needed, individual is asked to seek medical assistance

3. If individual leaves the worksite/school, notify Chief Health Officer (CHO)/School Operations

If individual is suspected/confirmed positive:

Initiate Contact Tracing and Identify:

- Students and staff with direct contact
- Areas of building individuals have traveled
- Whether individual resides with students/ staff at another worksite



CHO collaborates with FDOH on Contact Investigation

Worksite Administrator follows FDOH guidance for worksite/community notification (in event of positive case)



## FDOE GUIDANCE

### Consider a Contact Tracing Protocol

Districts and schools are encouraged to have communications and protocols in place to work with local health officials to implement [contact tracing](#). Local health departments have comprehensive contact tracing programs and can coordinate with health staff at schools. The CDC also offers guidance on the [importance of maintaining the privacy of those impacted](#).

### Responding to a Confirmed Case

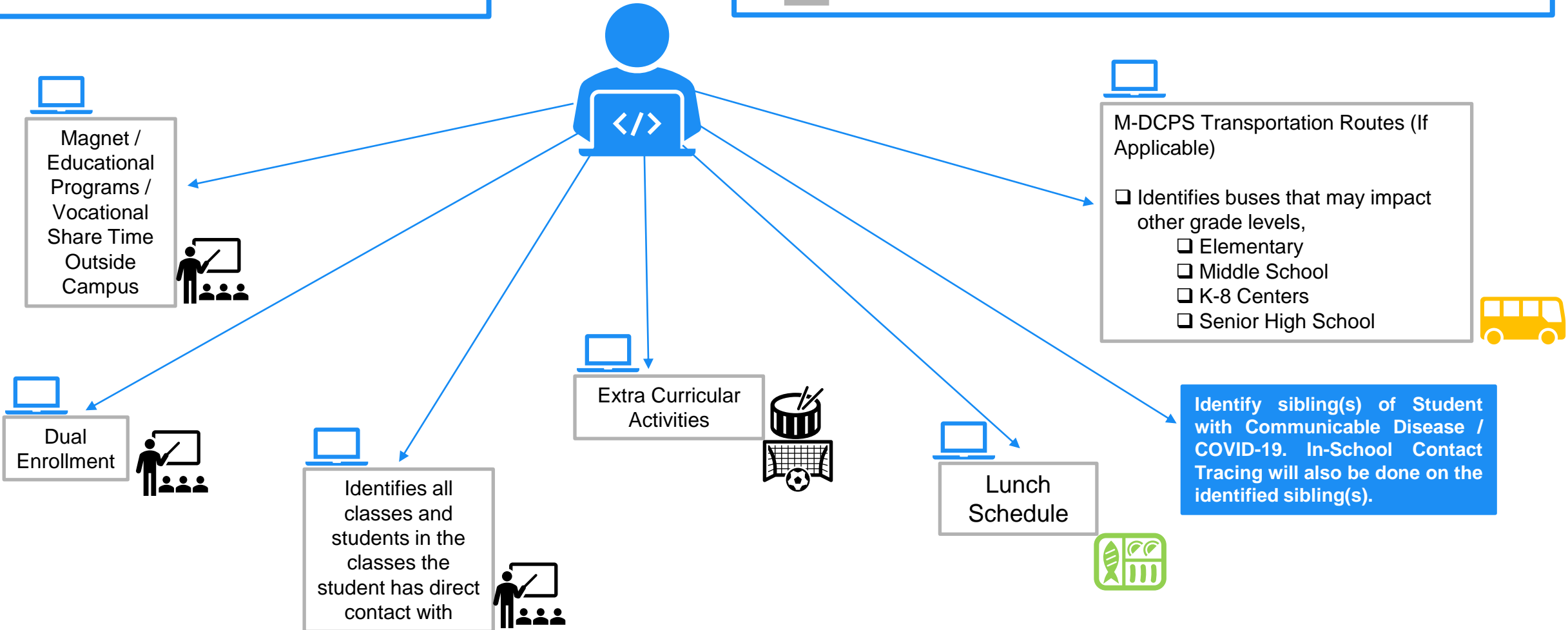
[Schools are best prepared if they are ready to respond to a confirmed case](#). To help prepare, FDOH is collaborating with FDOE on guidance for contact tracing, testing, verbal screening, preparing school clinics, PPE and more.

# In-School Contact Tracing System

Student Suspected/Confirmed Positive for Communicable Disease/COVID-19



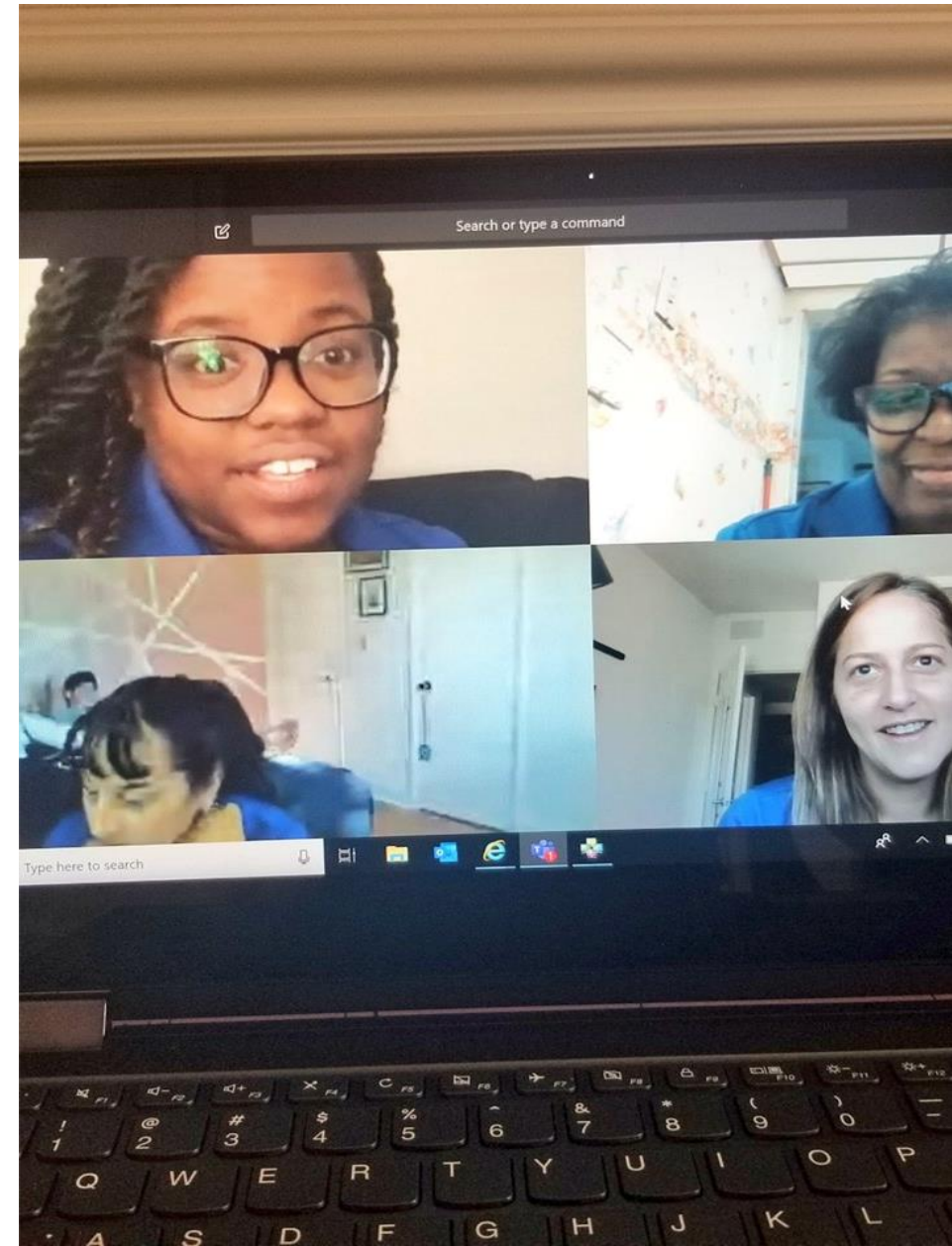
Student's information is entered into an In-School Contact Tracing System. Our Contact Tracing strategy identifies all students connected with the educational programs, activities, and/or services that the student participates in with other students and connections to staff.



Miami-Dade County Public Schools

# Mental Wellness Support

- ✓ Administer wellness survey to families to identify priority supports for reopening
- ✓ Provide a blended model of support, inclusive of in-person and virtual deployment of mental health services
- ✓ Enhance partnerships with network of mental health professionals to provide services
- ✓ Continue operating Mental Health Parent Assistance Line to support families with their needs - (305) 995-7100
- ✓ Implement trauma-informed practices by training school-site administrators and staff to identify warning signs



01

02

03

04

05

06

SECTION THREE

# Proposed Instructional Models

2020-2021

# Instructional Models

The instructional models contained in this plan have been designed based on input garnered from parent surveys. The different instructional options offered in this document considered the following concerns and recommendations:

- Preserving in-school instruction whenever possible;
- Providing a distance learning option;
- Addressing students' academic, emotional and social needs;
- Minimizing health risks while at school; and
- Pivoting with agility to distance learning in the event of a subsequent school closure.

## Gauging the Reopening of Schools



### STUDENT EXPERIENCE

*INCLUDES ACADEMIC, EMOTIONAL & SOCIAL EXPERIENCE*



### POTENTIAL HEALTH RISKS

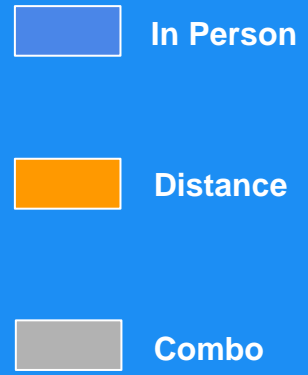
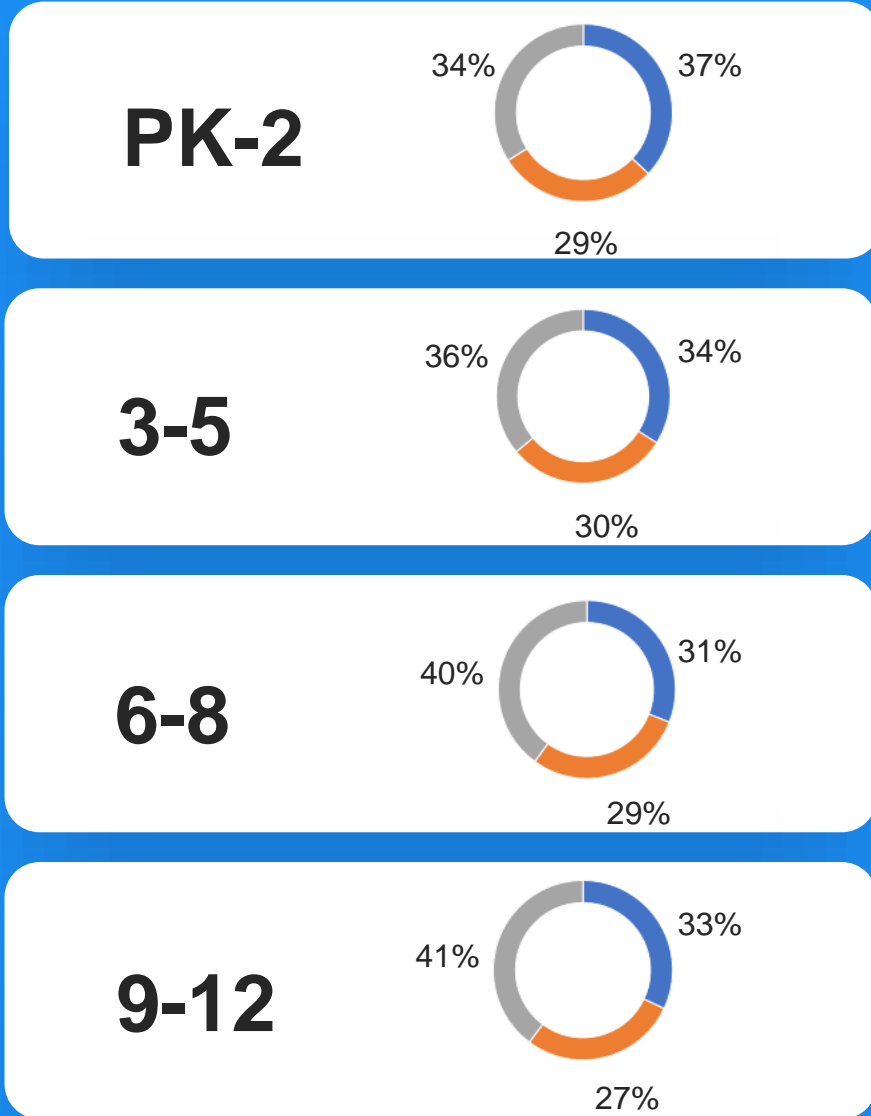
*INCLUDES THE POTENTIAL SPREAD OF COVID-19*



### PIVOT BETWEEN PHASES

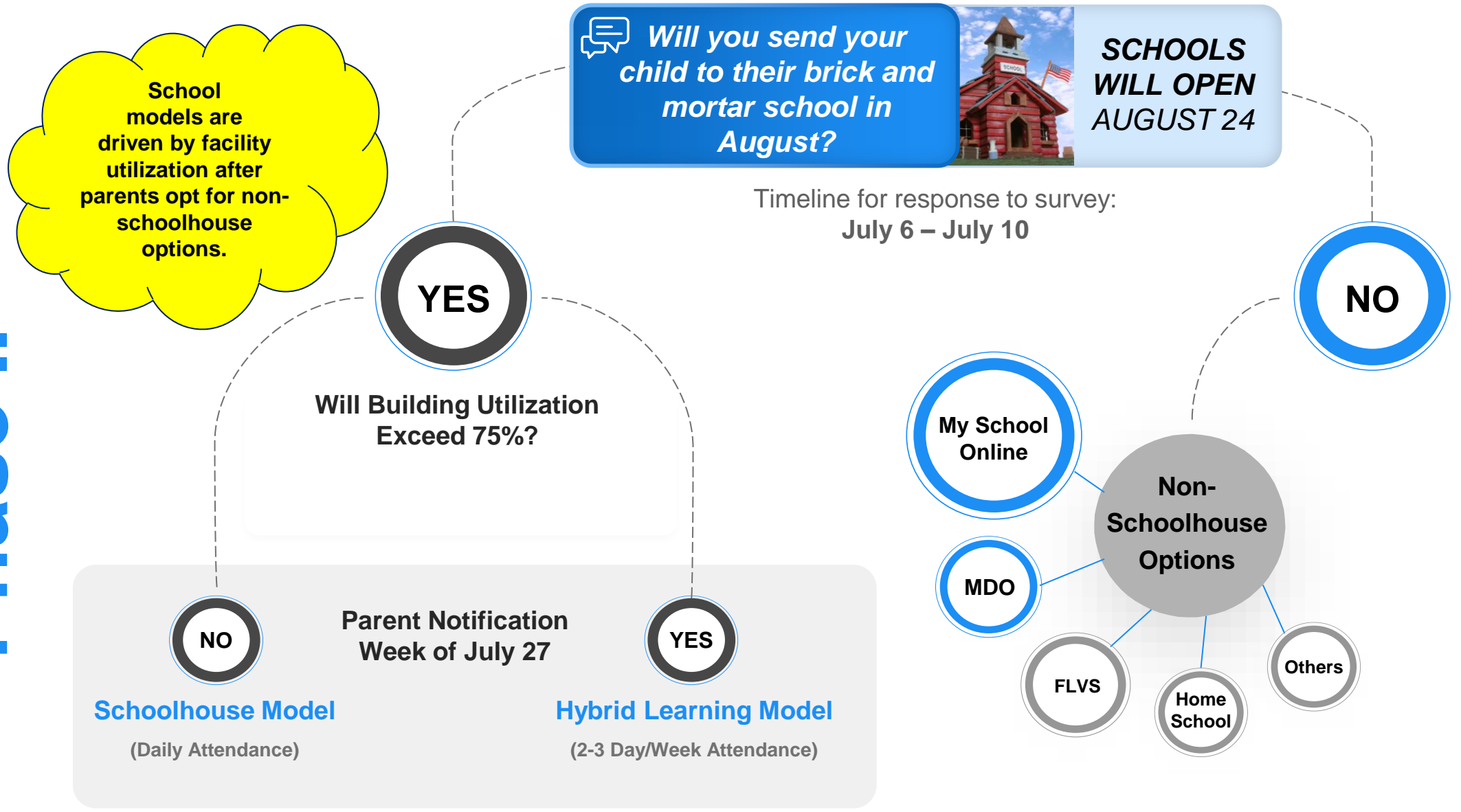
*AGILITY TO GO TO DISTANCE LEARNING AND BACK TO SCHOOL HOUSE*

# Incorporating Parent Preferences Into Our Models



### Communications Campaign through July 10

# Reopening Decision Timeline Phase II



# Schoolhouse Model

## Schoolhouse Daily Attendance Model:

- ✓ Students attend school daily for face-to-face instruction with teachers.
- ✓ Teachers use blended learning model to be prepared for potential building closure.
- ✓ Class sizes will be reduced to promote greater social distancing.
- ✓ Non-traditional spaces are used for instruction to maximize safety.
- ✓ Cohort model is used to build community and limit mass movement.
- ✓ Includes VPK, Head Start/Early Head Start, and students with disabilities in separate classroom settings.

STUDENT EXPERIENCE

HEALTH RISKS

PIVOT BETWEEN PHASES

Models

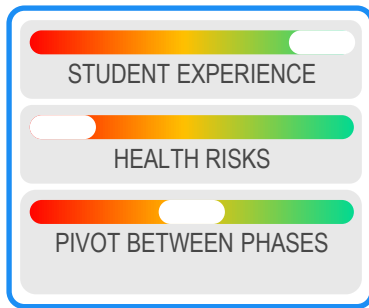
Schoolhouse Model

Hybrid Models

Distance Learning



# Schoolhouse Model



- Models
- Schoolhouse Model**
- Hybrid Models
- Distance Learning



## ADVANTAGES

- Where feasible, students will attend school daily and receive the support and instruction needed.
- School district will receive regular FTE funding per student because seat time requirements will be met
- No issue with lack of mobile device or connectivity at home.
- Students will have access to both core courses and electives.
- Working parents will not need to make alternate arrangements to take care of children during school hours.
- Students with special needs or English Language Learners will receive instruction and support services daily.



## DISADVANTAGES

- As attendance increases, maintaining social distancing may be more difficult.
- Employees and students have a higher risk of contracting COVID-19.
- Teachers would have to quickly shift to delivering online instruction if COVID-19 cases are identified.

# Hybrid Models

Models

Schoolhouse Model

Hybrid Models

Distance Learning

- ✓ Students will attend school either two or three days per week.
- ✓ Teachers will be provided with District-developed curriculum content to modify as needed for instructional delivery for eLearning days. This would allow a seamless transition into distance learning.
- ✓ Schools will employ physical distancing measures meeting established thresholds.
- ✓ Class sizes will be reduced.
- ✓ Schools will have to account for specialized classroom space needs for students with disabilities.
- ✓ Not an option for Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Program and Head Start/Early Head Start Programs.

# Hybrid Model 1: 10 Day Continuous Instruction

		MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SESSIONS	
							IN-SCHOOL	eLEARNING
WEEK 1	Cohort A*	In-School	eLearning	In-School	eLearning	In-School	3	2
	Cohort B*	eLearning	In-School	eLearning	In-School	eLearning	2	3
WEEK 2	Cohort A*	eLearning	In-School	eLearning	In-School	eLearning	2	3
	Cohort B*	In-School	eLearning	In-School	eLearning	In-School	3	2

Each cohort represents ½ the student body. \*Students on modified curriculum will attend school daily as possible.

## ADVANTAGES

- Reduces class size to support social distancing and poses a medium/moderate health risk.
- Model maximizes contact time with cohorts of students in school daily.
- Teachers will be provided with District-developed or purchased content to modify as needed for instructional delivery that can seamlessly transition into distance learning should schools close suddenly due to COVID-19.
- Model allows for block scheduling in secondary schools.

## DISADVANTAGES

- Classroom teachers will not be available to students on the eLearning days.
- Schools will not have any days during the week without students in the building for deep cleaning and sanitation.
- Model may not allow for academically fragile students, ELL, or ESE students to spend additional time with teachers and/or therapists in school.
- Not approved for the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Program and Head Start/Early Head Start Programs.

STUDENT EXPERIENCE

HEALTH RISKS

PIVOT BETWEEN PHASES

Models

Schoolhouse Model

Hybrid Models

Distance Learning

# Hybrid Model 2: Block Schedule

(2 Consecutive in-school days)

		MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SESSIONS	
							IN-SCHOOL	eLEARNING
WEEK 1	Cohort A*	In-School	In-School	eLearning	eLearning	In-School	3	2
	Cohort B*	eLearning	eLearning	In-School	In-School	eLearning	2	3
WEEK 2	Cohort A*	In-School	eLearning	eLearning	In-School	In-School	3	2
	Cohort B*	eLearning	In-School	In-School	eLearning	eLearning	2	3

Each cohort represents ½ the student body. This is a two-week overview, the number of in-school sessions for each cohort will even out at the 4-week mark. \*Students on modified curriculum will attend school daily as possible

## ADVANTAGES

- Reduces class size to support social distancing and poses a medium/moderate health risk.
- Model maximizes contact time with cohorts of students in school daily.
- Teachers will be provided with District-developed or purchased content to modify as needed for instructional delivery that can seamlessly transition into distance learning should schools close suddenly due to COVID-19.
- Model allows for block scheduling in secondary schools.

## DISADVANTAGES

- Classroom teachers will not be available to students on the eLearning days
- Schools will not have any days during the week without students in the building for deep cleaning and sanitation.
- Model may not allow for academically fragile students, ELL, or ESE students to spend additional time with teachers and/or therapists in school.
- Not approved for the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Program and Head Start/Early Head Start Programs.

STUDENT EXPERIENCE

HEALTH RISKS

PIVOT BETWEEN PHASES

Models

Schoolhouse Model

Hybrid Models

Distance Learning

# My School Online (Distance Learning)

STUDENT EXPERIENCE

HEALTH RISKS

PIVOT BETWEEN PHASES

Models

Schoolhouse Model

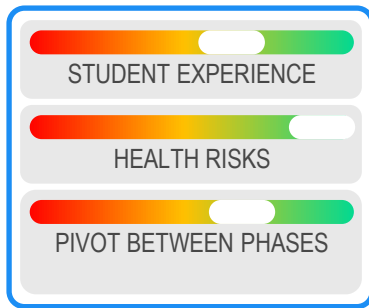
Hybrid Models

Distance Learning

## Online Daily Attendance Model:

- ✓ Students maintain their enrollment status at their brick and mortar schools.
- ✓ Students attend school online during regular school hours and follow a standard school schedule.
- ✓ Teachers meet with students daily utilizing web conferencing technology.
- ✓ Teacher-designed lessons using purchased courseware.
- ✓ Students can return to their school campuses second semester if they so choose.
- ✓ Wrap-around support services provided for students (e.g. Counseling Services, Therapies, and Mental Health) on campus or remotely as appropriate.
- ✓ Not an option for Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Program and Head Start/Early Head Start Programs.

# My School Online (Distance Learning)



- Models
- Schoolhouse Model
- Hybrid Models
- Distance Learning**



## ADVANTAGES

- Eliminates classroom exposure to COVID-19
- Student experience will be uninterrupted should schools close suddenly due to COVID-19 outbreak.
- Licensed courseware will ensure an improved and consistent student experience.
- Students can accelerate their learning.



## DISADVANTAGES

- Additional costs
- Student supervision and support is not as robust as in the brick and mortar environment.
- High need for parental involvement, especially in lower grades
- Difficult for many students with special needs (Pre-K to grade 12) or English Language Learners
- All students need a mobile device and connectivity
- Limited course offerings
- Not approved for the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Program and Head Start/Early Head Start

- 01
- 02
- 03
- 04
- 05
- 06

SECTION FOUR

# Safety and Support for Staff

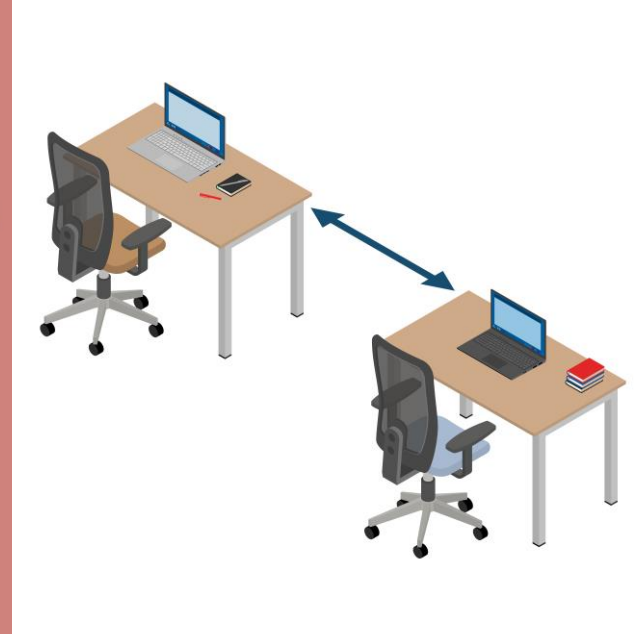
2020-2021



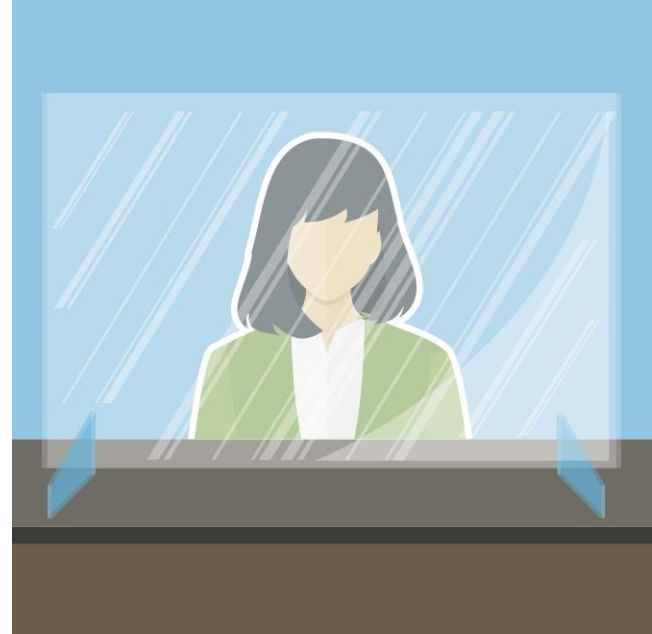
# Preparing Staff Experience Safety First



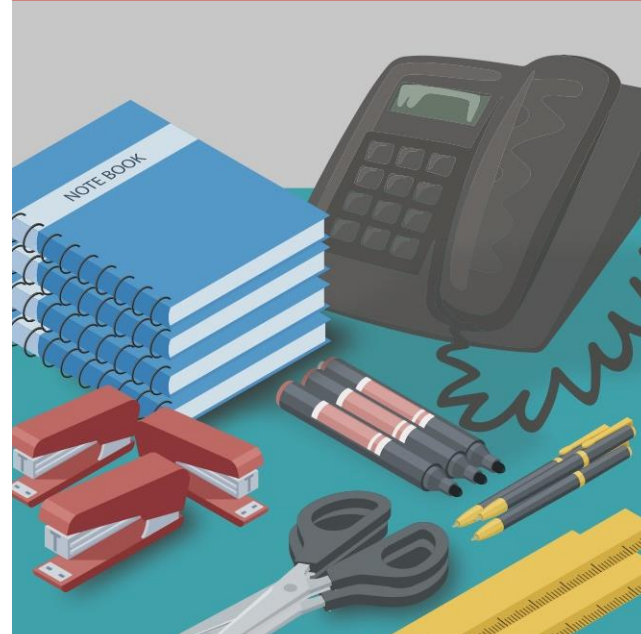
**01.** Daily Health Screening



**02.** Distanced Workstations



**03.** Physical Barriers



**04.** Avoided Sharing of Equipment



**05.** Virtual Meetings



**06.** PPE / Increased Sanitization



# Protecting & Supporting Our Workforce

- ✓ The District's confidential, cost-free support program, the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), will continue to support employees by providing ongoing assessments, counseling, referrals, and case/care management as needed.
- ✓ The District's Employee Wellness Program, Well Way, remains committed to promoting the physical and mental wellbeing of all staff through employee education and partnerships for services, including telemedicine and telecounseling.
- ✓ Employees with underlying medical conditions may seek accommodations to continue performing their essential job functions by contacting the District's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Office.



**EAP: 305-995-7111**

**Wellness: 305-995-2265**

**ADA: 305-995-7104**



---

Miami-Dade County Public Schools

# Professional Development & Training

Training modules regarding health and safety precautions will be developed for all employee groups.

## Synergy 2020

### LEADing Forward (Operations)

- ✓ Leading with Equity in Mind
- ✓ Responding to COVID-Related Employee Concerns
- ✓ Student Health Protocols During COVID-19
- ✓ Supporting Student and Employee Mental Health
- ✓ Effective Family Communications Strategies for Schools

### Virtually Unstoppable (Teaching and Learning)

- ✓ Building an Equity-Centered Social-Emotional Learning Program
- ✓ Strategies to Support Social-Emotional Learning
- ✓ Distance Learning A to Z
- ✓ Zooming into 2021: Strategies for Creating Virtual Collaborative Spaces
- ✓ Trauma-Informed Pre-K Classrooms

- 01
- 02
- 03
- 04
- 05
- 06

SECTION FIVE

# Communications, Family Engagement and Advocacy

2020-2021

Miami-Dade County Public Schools

# Communications

**Multiple means of communication with families, employees, and community stakeholders in English, Spanish, and Haitian-Creole will be utilized. These include:**

- ✓ Automated text, voice, and email messaging to families and employees
- ✓ Digital newsletters
- ✓ Social media posts on various platforms
- ✓ Published editorials and newspaper columns
- ✓ Radio announcements
- ✓ Television, radio, print, and digital media news coverage
- ✓ Various telephone support lines
- ✓ Dedicated webpage on District website



Miami-Dade County Public Schools

# Community Partnerships

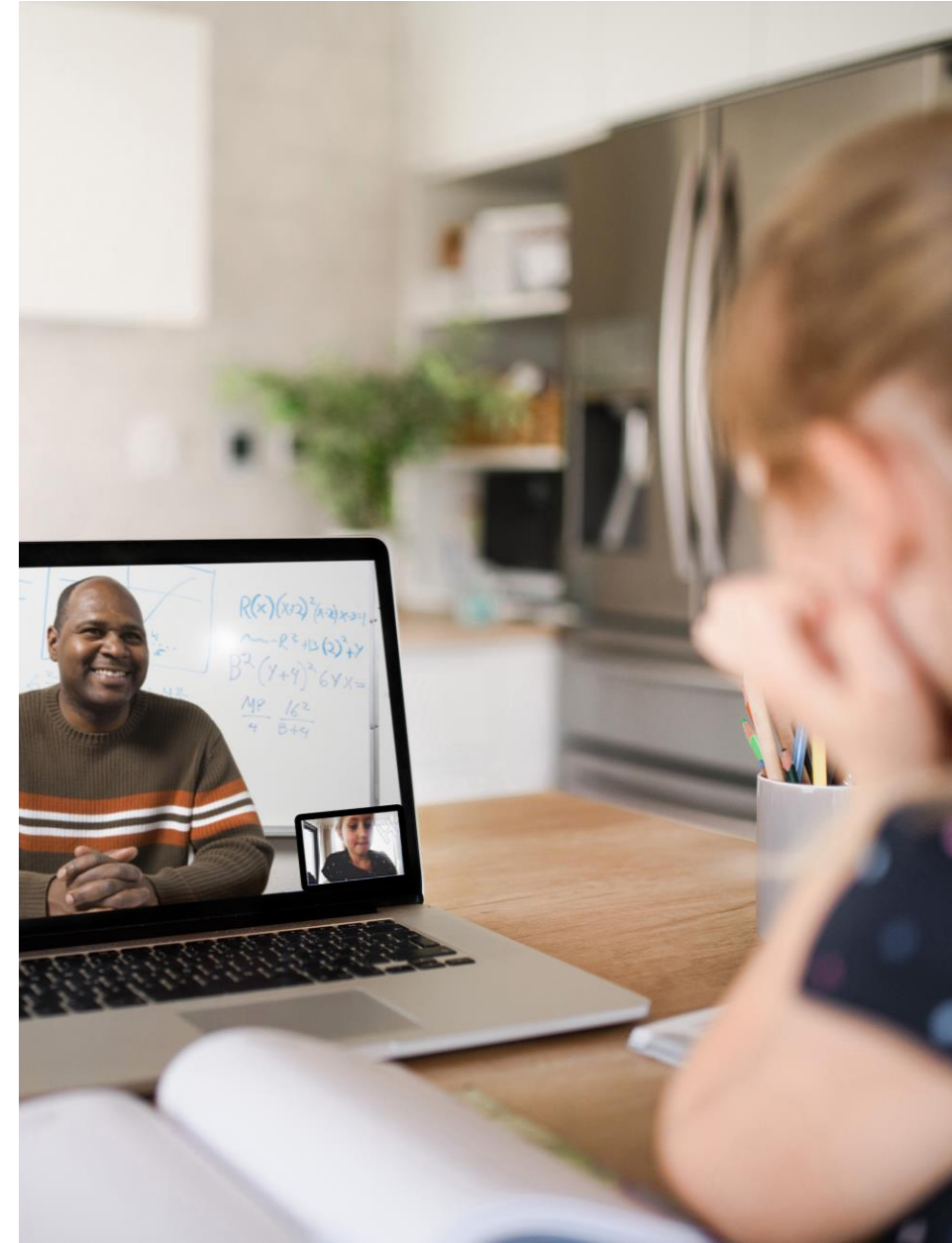
- ✓ CDC guidelines recommend limiting nonessential visitors to campuses.
- ✓ Partnerships with business, alumni, municipalities, chambers and other CBO's will continue to support the needs of our students, their families and the District.
- ✓ All volunteers, mentors, and community partners will be encouraged to continue their service utilizing alternative methods (i.e., virtually and outside the school building).
- ✓ School volunteers, mentors and community partners will be encouraged to follow CDC guidelines, if their roles require visiting campuses.
- ✓ Volunteer policies and procedures are being revised to incorporate CDC guidelines and alternative methods of service.



Miami-Dade County Public Schools

# Family Engagement

- ✓ All volunteers and school-site liaisons will utilize Raptor for registration, background screening, tracking their service hours and communications.
- ✓ Professional development on virtually engaging families and partners will continue to be offered throughout the year to our educators and community stakeholders.
- ✓ District recognition events will be held virtually to prevent mass gatherings.
- ✓ District advisory committees and PTA/PTSA will continue to meet virtually; working to advocate and communicate with stakeholders.



Miami-Dade County Public Schools

# Ongoing **Advocacy** to Support Reopening Efforts

## REGULATORY

### FTE/Attendance

- ✓ Seeking flexibility in definition of “present”
- ✓ Full FTE Funding for virtual & blended
- ✓ Hold harmless for Transportation FTE

## ADVOCACY

### School Lunch

- ✓ Waiver extension
- ✓ Bailout for lost revenue

### Additional Stimulus

- ✓ Supplemental Funding

### E-Rate

- ✓ Connectivity beyond the schoolhouse

## FINANCIAL PICTURE

### Budget Picture

- ✓ Predictions of \$8B-\$10B statewide loss look accurate
- ✓ State plans on honoring K-12 obligations using reserves and stimulus

### CARES Act

- ✓ K-12 Fund → \$119M for all Miami-Dade. Needed for program protection when revenue decreases
- ✓ Gov. Fund → Fund Summer Restart program

01

02

03

04

05

06

SECTION SIX

# Final Preparations

2020-2021



# Reopening District Checklist



- ✓ Finalize instructional models, staff training and plan to support schools with implementation.
- ✓ Maximize funding sources to support reopening.
- ✓ Assess parental preferences regarding instructional models.
- ✓ Maintain clear communication channels with schools, parents and community stakeholders.
- ✓ Continue collaborative conversations with union leaders to establish clear expectations for all employees.
- ✓ Ensure supply chain for keeping schools stocked with critical supplies.
- ✓ Update protocols to respond to changing conditions and clearly communicate them to all stakeholders.
- ✓ Deploy operational toolkit to schools to support implementation of all health and safety protocols and procedures.

# Reopening Schools Checklist

The District will provide schools with a readiness checklist that addresses:



Miami-Dade County Public Schools

# Parent Guidance

To support families, Miami-Dade County Public Schools will create a parent guide to assist them in:

## Evaluating Risks

Based on your family's circumstances and needs, determine if you'd like to send your child(ren) to the physical schoolhouse or participate in distance learning.

## Preparing for Opening of Schools

Ensure you and your child are ready for a return to physical and/or distance learning setting in terms of materials, and stay updated on new procedures.

## Remaining Engaged

Learn what tools/applications your school will use to communicate with you and your child(ren) during the year and check them frequently for new information and best practices.

01.

## Selecting Your Schooling Preference

Between July 6 and 10, choose your preferred instructional model for the fall via the Parent Portal, Dadeschools Mobile App, or contacting your child's school.

03.

02.

04.

## July 1

Special School Board Meeting is held to discuss M-DCPS Reopening Plan.

## July 14-17

Professional Development related to Reopening is provided for teachers and school administrators during Synergy 2020.

## Week of July 27

Parents will receive notification regarding their child's instructional model assignment.

**July-  
Aug.**

NEXT STEPS

## July 6-10

Between July 6 and 10, parents will indicate the preferred instructional model for their child in the fall via the Parent Portal, Dadeschools Mobile App, or contacting their child's school.

## July 27

Early Start for targeted students (L25, SWDs, ELs) commences.\*

## August 24

Start of the 2020-2021 School Year



