2020-2021 Lancaster County School District

School Restart Schedule Proposals

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Parent/Guardian & Employee Survey Results

Summary of Results

• A total of 13,429 parent or guardians surveys were returned, and 1,386 employees completed surveys.

• Overall, parents and employees demonstrated strong support of the several safety measures proposed including temperature checks, health questionnaires, masks, social distancing, cleaning and sanitizing, as well as added hand washing/sanitizing options.

• Clearly parent/guardians are concerned about students returning to school in the fall. More than 42.4% of parents/ guardians are not at all comfortable sending their child back to school this fall. Another 26.3% are only somewhat comfortable sending their child back to school this fall — a total of 68.7% are not at all or only somewhat comfortable with their student(s) returning this fall. Only 15.3% responded that they are extremely comfortable and only 16% responded that they are quite comfortable sending their child back to school in the fall. Approximately 60% of parents and 64% of employees advocate for students wearing masks. Percents for employees wearing masks are slightly higher at 67% and 71% with 83% of employees responding that they are at least somewhat to extremely comfortable wearing a face mask or shield.

• Approximately 49% of teachers preferred the modified schedule, with 37.9% selecting the traditional model. The fully virtual model was preferred by 29.7% of teachers.

Parent/Guardian & Employee Results

• The traditional schedule option was selected by 54% of parents as their first choice, with 47.7% selecting a traditional schedule as their third choice. The modified schedule with alternating face-to-face and virtual was selected by 93.1% of parents as either their first or second choice, with only 6.4% of parents selecting that as their third choice. A fully virtual model was selected by 36.1% of parents as their first choice, with 17.8% selecting that as their second choice, and 45.9% selecting fully virtual as their third choice.

• From the data collected, with district-issued Chromebooks going home with students in grade 3-12, approximately 95% of respondents had the needed internet access to download apps at home, and responded that they have access to high speed internet when not at school.



Hello!

I am Dr. Jonathan Phipps

We started planning the week of graduation for this upcoming school year. Our principals and directors have met numerous times. We surveyed parents, teachers and students on the success and challenges we faced last semester.

Then we surveyed our parents again regarding our reopening for the upcoming school year. And, surveyed our teachers again regarding reopening school.



Survey invitations were sent by email, text, phone call, social media and on our website. If you are a parent that did not receive an email or phone call, please update your contact information at your child's school. You can also access survey results on our District Web page.

Last week. We were finally given verbal approval from the SDE regarding our plan for next year. And our waiver will reflect our plan as of today.

2020-21 School Year Options

We are offering our students a choice of two options, with the understanding that these options could change with new state or federal mandates and with an increase in the spread of the COVID virus.

Option 1 – Virtual Instruction

• This option allows students to learn from home while using their school issued Chromebook. We have worked to offer creative ways of instruction for those learners with a limited internet access such as uploading data on a weekly basis for those who have limited internet access and possible internet hot-spots for our students. We also plan to rotate these virtual students into the school in small groups on Wednesdays.

• Kindergarten and 1st grade will be a challenge for home instruction. These students will have access to home instruction with a more creative approach which will include the traditional paper packets.

Option 2 – A/B/C Days

• The A/B/C option is an alternative schedule for those parents who would like their child to return to school. Students who choose this option will have a rotating schedule.

- We will have A, B and C days of instruction.
- Students who are on an "A" day would attend on Monday and Tuesday.
- Students who are on "B" day would attend on Thursday and Friday.
- "C" day or Wednesday will be a possible rotation day for remediation or acceleration programs.
- The rotating schedule allows for more social distancing and smaller class sizes for our students.

• Safety measures will be in place with students and staff. Some of these include changes in our bus schedule to reduce the number of students on the bus, temperatures taken as students and adults enter the school, increased hand washing and hand sanitation stations, changes in seating arrangements within the school, cleaning of buses and schools will be increased and school cafeterias will change the way food is distributed.

• And finally, face masks. Teachers and staff will wear facemasks or shields during the school day. Students will be expected to wear a facemask during certain time periods of the day. The specifics of facemask requirements are based on CDC recommendations. We are working with area businesses and community members to donate facemasks for any student that needs one. Other safety measures will be in place as we continue to create the safest environment that we can for our students and staff.



Online Enrollment

As parents decide on the best option for their child, an on-line enrollment form will be available on your school website. If you do not have web access then you are welcome to call your child's school. Parents will receive more information to follow in coming days.



School Start Times

Andrew Jackson area

Elementary - 7:50 a.m. to 2:20 p.m. Middle - 8:40 a.m. to 3:40 p.m. High 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Buford area

Elementary - 7:50 a.m. to 2:20 p.m. Middle - 8:40 a.m. to 3:40 p.m. High - 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Indian Land area

Elementary - 7:50 a.m. to 2:20 p.m. Middle - 8:40 a.m. to 3:40 p.m. High - 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Lancaster area

Elementary - 7:50 a.m. to 2:20 p.m. Middle - 8:40 a.m. to 3:40 p.m. High - 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Bus Information

Bus Drivers

We are making recommendations for student and driver safety. Drivers will be provided with face coverings and/or face shields to protect them from either getting infected or infecting someone else. Drivers will also be provided with gloves and personal hygiene supplies to wash their hands properly.

• The district is instituting a cleaning protocol that requires use of an electrostatic sprayer before and after each daily run. The district is also instituting a cleaning protocol that requires drivers to wipe down each seat and hand rails in addition to the electrostatic sprayer. This process will ensure buses are in the most sanitary condition while students are on board

• All transportation offices are being retro fitted with guards to protect employees from infection. All large meetings have been scaled back to small open air meetings.

• We are closing lounges for sitting. Employees will only be allowed to use lounges to use the restroom and get a snack and must exit immediately.

• Drivers will go through daily health screenings prior to duty.

Bus Information

Students

We are strongly encouraging students to wear a face covering for their bus ride. No student will be refused transportation if they forget or do not have a face covering at the bus stop in the morning or afternoon.





• We will reflect DHEC guidelines for school closures. We will also work with students as much as possible regarding attendance. Bottom line with attendance is that we want folks to stay home instead of spreading any sickness.



School Uniforms & School Supply Lists

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- School uniform requirements will be relaxed during first semester.
- School supply lists will be available soon for students that choose A/B/C days.



Thank You!

I hope this information helps as you make plans for next year. I know many of you have been frustrated that we were not able to share this plan sooner. I wanted to make sure that we could offer a plan that would be approved by the SC Dept of Education. This pandemic has changed the way schools operate. Thanks for your patience and support as we do our best to "Put our Students First."