

BOARD MEMO

Date: February 4, 2021
For ACTION ___
For INFORMATION X
Board Agenda: Yes X
No ___

FROM: Terri H. Mozingo, Ed.D, Chief of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership

THROUGH: Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Meagan Alderton, Chair, and
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: Enhanced Continuity of Learning Plan 5.0: Reimagining Schools Update

ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN EQUITY FOR ALL

Goal 1: Systemic Alignment

Goal 2: Instructional Excellence

SY 2019-2020 FOCUS AREA

Focus Area 1: Educational Equity

FY 2021 BUDGET PRIORITY

K-2 Literacy Programming

Outreach to Hispanic Families to Improve Attendance and Graduation

Outreach to Underserved Communities to Increase Engagement

SUMMARY

The Enhanced Continuity of Learning Plan 5.0: Reimagining Schools was presented to the School Board on Thursday, October 15, 2020. Based on our commitment to providing regular communication to the School Board and Alexandria community, we have prepared this presentation to focus on the following areas: inputs and health data guidance; revised Staff and Student Return-to-School Timeline; teacher in-school status versus teacher remote status; availability of classroom monitors and hallway monitors; and facility and operations support.

Guiding Principles

While the community spread of COVID-19 is still part of the decision-making process, the new guidance includes six principles that must be taken into account when reopening schools:

1. **Support in-person learning** considering both students and staff. Account for the learning needs and the health needs of all students.
2. **Prioritize younger learners, students with disabilities, and English Learners.**

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3. **Put education first.** Prioritize educational opportunities over extracurricular activities or other events in the school and surrounding community. Establish reasonably safe in-person educational environments and then think through including extracurriculars and athletics.
4. **Focus on prevention.** Establish a school culture of adherence to mitigation strategies both in and out of school. Encourage people to physically distance, wash hands, and wear masks. Coordinate closely with your local health department. Educate students/staff to monitor health daily and stay at home if they have symptoms, and follow public health recommendations.
5. **Consider community needs.** Consider disease data and understand the socioeconomic factors, literacy barriers, and other educational needs in your community when making plans.
6. **Be flexible and innovative.** Scientific knowledge evolves rapidly, and local context is incredibly important. Decisions about instructional modality ideally should be made for shorter periods of time (e.g., 2-4 weeks) in response to changing disease dynamics rather than for longer periods or months ahead of time.

Core Indicators

The new guidance further calls for schools to assess their ability to adhere to the five mitigation strategies:

- Wear a mask
- Physical distancing
- Wash hands
- Clean and disinfect
- Contact tracing

According to VDH, the mitigation strategies are most effective when compliance is universal and when all the strategies are used together. Along with the mitigation strategies, the school division will also need to continually collaborate with the Alexandria Health Department regarding the extent of community transmission. Secondary indicators can be used to inform decision making, but would not be the sole basis (e.g., % occupied hospital beds, % of COVID-19 hospital patients, % change of new cases/100k, and number of outbreaks.)

RECOMMENDATION

The Superintendent recommends the School Board review the revised Staff and Student Return-to-School Timeline presented based upon the new guidance from the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Interim Guidance to K-12 School Reopening.

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IMPACT

ACPS will implement a plan contingent upon community transmission metrics, staffing, and building capacity to ensure that all students and staff are healthy, safe, and engaged during the reopening of our school buildings while following required health and sanitation procedures from the *Alexandria Health Department (AHD)*, the *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)*, and the *Virginia Department of Health (VDH)*. This plan also ensures that all students receive personalized academic support and interventions to address any learning losses resulting from school building closings.

ATTACHMENT

1. 210204_PowerPoint_Enhanced_Continuity_of_Learning_Plan_5.0_Reimagining_Schools_Update

CONTACT

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