2020-2021 School Year

Guiding Principles for Reopening Schools

Introduction

Recent events have challenged our community, state, nation, and world. In rising to meet those challenges, school districts in our seven-county region responded immediately. Fueled with the commitment to serve students, faculty, and staff, we used determination, flexibility, and creativity to identify and meet the needs of students and their families. To ensure the continuation of our mission in education, which extends far beyond ABCs, we need to plan now.

As we look to the upcoming school year, the health and safety of our students, staff, and families are of utmost importance. When the 2020-2021 school year begins in our districts, school will look much different than in previous years due to new health and safety measures. Each district will develop plans to reopen schools based on guidance from public health officials and state agencies. There is no "one-size-fits-all" solution for this work, and districts will plan with the realization that guidelines are "subject to change." The plans will be updated as the situation and guidance evolves from our local, state, and federal leaders.

Notably, district plans will focus intensely on academic instruction to enhance student performance, addressing the specific needs of every student. At the same time, districts also will endeavor to address the social, emotional, and physical needs of all who learn and work within our system.

July 8, 2020 - MVESC Member School Districts

Considerations for Reopening Buildings

Health-Safety

- Continue to consider guidance from the Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Department of Education, Ohio High School Athletic Association, and our local health departments.

Educational-Learning Possibilities

- Provide in-person instruction for all attending students as much as possible.
- Provide remote learning options for at-home situations.
- Prepare to return to remote learning at any time due to COVID-19.

Social Emotional

- Support social learning and interaction to the fullest extent even while we are physically distancing.

Operations

- Resources
- Facilities
- Transportation
- Child Nutrition
- Student Activities
- Family Needs
- Technology

Health-Safety Considerations

We will continue to consider guidance from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), Ohio Department of Education (ODE), Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA), and our local health departments on items including but not limited to:

- Safety and social distancing
- Restrooms
- Drinking fountains
- Books, devices, supplies
- Classroom spacing
- Cleaning protocols
- Clinic
- Masks
- Protocol for suspected/confirmed COVID-19 cases
- Student and staff safety
- Student and staff safety drills
- Transportation
- Visitors

Educational-Learning Possibilities

When schools resume in the fall, each district will reopen using learning options that are based on their specific community needs and available resources. Those choices may come from the options you see below and could include some, all, or a combination of these possibilities.

Provide face-to-face/in-person instruction

* In-person instruction
* Maximize learning spaces
* Modified school schedules could include:
    * Smaller groups of students (i.e., one group on Monday/Wednesday, the other group on Tuesday/Thursday with both groups alternating every other Friday).
    * Half-day schedule (i.e., half the students attend class in the morning while the other half attends in the afternoon.
    * Stagger schedules (i.e., staggered start and end times within a day, staggered lunch schedules)
    * Block scheduling at the high-school level to reduce passing periods and possible points of contact in each classroom.
    * All students with safety protocols in place.

Provide remote learning options based on House Bill 164 requirements.

In the event that FLSD finds it necessary to conduct the learning process remotely, the following plan will be implemented.

* Student learning needs will be determined through screenings using various vendor assessments such as STAR 360 for ELA and math, Pearson, McGraw-Hill, etc, teacher-created preassessments and, when possible, observations. Information from these assessments will be used to determine student strengths and areas for improvement.
* Competency will be assessed through student work samples and ongoing, formative and summative assessments. Credit and promotion will be granted when work has been completed with satisfactory success at a satisfactory rate. Incomplete work will result in a grade of incomplete, and may result in a failure to receive course credit.
* Students will be assigned letter grades for classwork completed remotely. Students are required to engage (login/communicate) with their remote instructor. Student engagement time is flexible, but needs to be completed each day/week. Remote learning students are expected to complete 20-25 hours of academic coursework weekly.
    * This engagement with the instructor and/or the completed assignments will be considered "attendance" for the class/school day. ProgressBook will be used to document student attendance.
* Student progress will be assessed in multiple formats and at regular intervals to inform instruction. Teachers will document and communicate educational levels/progress via Remind, Google Classroom and/or ProgressBook.
* Students and families will have equitable access to educational materials and supports to successfully use those materials. These materials may be accessed digitally and/or through "paper" copies. Students will receive instructional support from a licensed teacher. As much as possible, academic content will be parallel to in-class content, making for a smooth transition back to Face-to-Face instruction. Instructors will prioritize academic content standards and focus instructional efforts on those standards identified as most important.
* FLSD has professional development for the creation of teacher webpages, G-Suite for Education applications, Atlas Curriculum Mapping, Remind, and the use of other remote tools and strategies is scheduled to take place prior to the school year. Ongoing trainings and workshops will be offered as needs are identified and/or opportunities arise. Knowledge Base will be set up on our website to support families and staff with common technical issues.

FLSD will offer the remote learning plan for parents who do not wish to send their child to school.

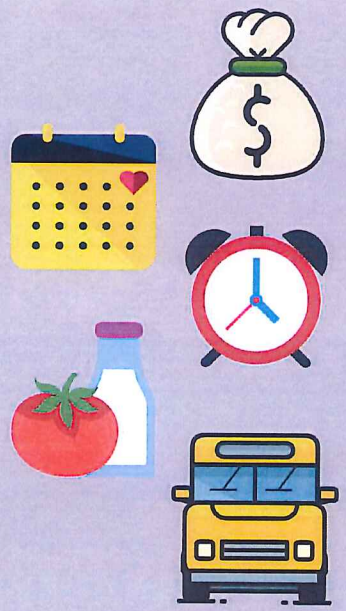
* Remote learning option requires that, if at any point in the year, you decide to return to Face-to-Face instruction, you will not be permitted to return to Remote Learning.
    *If unforeseen circumstances arise, those will be handled on a case-by-case basis by school administrator(s).
* FLSD Administration and staff will make every effort to create a remote option for the majority of courses with the understanding that courses may require students to be in the physical buildings.
* Students can and will be exited from the remote learning option due to non-compliance or lack of engagement if the district is operating on the Green/Face-to-Face Plan.

Social-Emotional Considerations

Attending to the social emotional well-being of our students will be a top priority as they return to school

District and school staff are committed to supporting students' social emotional wellness and offering resources to ensure students transition back to school smoothly. Support may include social emotional learning, building relationships, community-building activities, and increased access to mental health/wellness services. Families and schools will need to work together to monitor how students are feeling and assess their individual needs to provide the support they need during these challenging times.

Operational Considerations



Resources

- Use current budgets and staff to the fullest extent while serving the needs of all students.
- Allocate CARES funding to fill budget gaps.
- Keep disruptions to building assignments to a minimum while ensuring safety protocols.
- Maintain commitment to fiscal responsibility.

Facilities

- Continue to consider the guidelines set forth by ODH, ODE, and our local health departments to ensure safety and cleaning protocols.

Transportation

- Continue to consider guidance set forth by ODH, ODE, and our local health departments to provide the fullest extent of transportation possible with our buses.
  - This may impact capacity and could require a return to state-minimum busing in some districts.

Student Activities

- Provide extracurricular activities, such as sports, clubs, etc., as much as possible while considering guidance from ODH, ODE, OHSAA, and our local health departments.

Family Needs

- Understand that families need to know the structure of school for the fall ASAP to give them time to plan accordingly.
- Recognize that district plans must meet the needs of all children.

Where Do We Go From Here?

Next Steps

The Muskingum Valley Educational Service Center, its 18 member school districts, and the local health departments are committed to ensuring the health and safety of all students and staff. Our health department will continue to closely monitor the rates of infection in our community.

As public health guidelines change, we will work with our students and families to keep our children and employees safe as we transition to our new approach to educating the students of Franklin Local Schools. Communicating our plans, once finalized and approved by our board of education, is a top priority to help our families prepare for the fall.

Thank you for being an active partner with Franklin Local Schools during these challenging times!

"Success is a journey, not a destination.
It requires effort, vigilance, and reevaluation."
~ Mark Twain

July 8, 2020 - Plans will be modified as public health guidelines are updated.