

**ALL
PRINCIPALS
MEETING**



**SCHOOL BUILDING RE-OPENING
BRIEFING**

July 2, 2020



NEXT YEAR WILL LOOK DIFFERENT.

Every school district in the country is trying something different.

Up to this point, we have literally made the road by walking.

I'm excited. I'm also anxious. Just like you.

CHANGE IS HARD.

We can't predict the future.

We don't have all the answers.

We won't have all the answers all at once.

There is high potential that our answers may change.

The only constant is change.

WE NEED YOU.

We can only do this together.

Principals: I need you to lead. Now more than ever.

We will navigate this uncertainty together.

I commit to giving you as much information and support from central as I can as quickly as I can.

We must be partners.

AGENDA



- **Summary Survey Results – Family & Student Survey**
- **Health and Safety**
- **Budget Update**
- **Guiding Principles**
- **Call to Action: Next Steps**

SUMMARY SURVEY RESULTS

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In June the NYCDOE launched online, anonymous surveys to all DOE families (3K-12), students (grades 6-12) and staff. There were 300,000 families and 118,000 students who responded, providing essential feedback for plans to re-open school buildings in the fall. Key findings include:



Prevention & Mitigation

Nearly all family and student respondents (>**90%**) identified the importance of having cleaning supplies, such as hand sanitizer, available to students and staff.

When families were asked how comfortable their child would be wearing a mask to school, the level of comfort varied by grade level: **43%** of families with a student in PK-2 reported being very or mostly comfortable compared to **51%** for grades 3-8 and **62%** for grades 9-12.

48% of students in grades 6-12 reported that they were very or mostly comfortable wearing a mask to school every day.

SUMMARY SURVEY RESULTS



Preferred Schedules

53% of families reported feeling very or mostly comfortable sending their child to a school building every day this fall.

56% of students reported feeling very or mostly comfortable going to a school building every day this fall.

Among options for re-opening in the fall, over half of families (**53%**) identified alternating school days as their most preferred option compared to learning at home every day (**26%**) or alternating weeks (**19%**).

Students similarly identified alternating days as their most preferred option (**48%**), compared to learning at home every day (**25%**) or alternating weeks (**25%**).

SUMMARY SURVEY RESULTS



Student Experience

Most families (81%) and students (76%) identified instruction in core content areas (math, science, social studies, ELA) as the most important experience to prioritize for in-person learning more than other classes like P.E., arts or electives.

When asked what supports would be most helpful for learning at home, families (69%) and students (55%) were most likely to identify having a *variety* of ways to learn from home, such as paper packets, live teaching, one-on-one tutoring, etc.

While overall results were similar across districts, results vary for each school community.

The results for your school will be made available to you next week.

The results provide insight into some of the concerns that your families and/or students may have with returning to school buildings.

Along with other information, these results should inform your future communications to your school community.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

HEALTH & SAFETY

CONTEXT

Plans will need to be flexible to adapt to the changing health and policy landscape.

We are working closely with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) to coordinate efforts and ensure that we are ready for a coordinated school reopening.

The key tenets of NYCDOE's plan align to CDC guidance on school reopening. In addition to these public health protocols, we are prioritizing mental health, social-emotional learning and trauma-informed supports for all schools.

KEY TENETS OF PLAN

A Promoting Behaviors that Reduce Spread

- Physical Distancing
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Hand Hygiene
- Signage and Floor Markings

B Maintaining Healthy Environments

- Changes to School Building
- Cleaning and Disinfection
- Food Services Considerations

C Maintaining Healthy Operations

- Screening & Entry/Dismissal Protocols
- Movement Protocols
- Testing
- Staff Utilization
- School Programming
- Partnerships
- External Health Services

D Preparing for When Someone Gets Sick

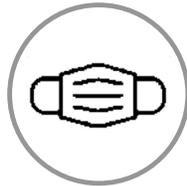
- Stay Home When Sick
- Responses to Symptoms or Positive Case
- Notification Processes & Communications
- Contact Tracing
- Coordinate with Health Authorities

A PROMOTING BEHAVIORS THAT REDUCE SPREAD



**Physical
Distancing**

Strongly Recommend all people in schools to remain at least 6 feet apart and create conditions for compliance.



**Wear a Face
Covering**

Require face coverings while inside buildings.
Exceptions will be developmentally appropriate and will be paired with heightened PPE for staff.
Provide disposable face coverings to students and staff.



**Keep Hands
Clean**

Provide increased access and multiple opportunities to wash hands or use hand sanitizer.



**Signage and
Floor Markings**

Ensure schools have adequate signage that upholds the DOHMH Four Core Actions for Prevention.

B MAINTAINING HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS

Changes to School Building:

- Modify or configure spaces to ensure compliance with physical distancing rules.
- Ensure all schools have a designated Isolation Room, as well as staff to supervise the space.
- Utilize School Based Health Centers (SBHC) to provide supplemental care, if this is a viable option.

Cleaning and Disinfection:

- Ensure schools have adequate cleaning and disinfection supplies.
- Ensure deep cleanings are completed on a nightly basis, including with the use of electrostatic sprayers.
- HVAC improvements to ensure proper ventilation.
- Implement improved cleaning in classrooms, bathrooms, and for high touch areas such as doorknobs and shared equipment such as laptops.
- Providing cleaning supplies for classroom teachers if requested.

Food Services:

- Consider holding lunch in classrooms to minimize interaction between groups of students. We will be soliciting feedback on how to best structure lunch planning.
- If the cafeteria must be used, consider personal dividers or assigned seating.

C MAINTAINING HEALTHY OPERATIONS (1/2)

Testing:

- Testing guidance continues to evolve. DOE will provide additional policy guidance.

Screening and Entry/Dismissal Protocols:

- Guidance on symptom checks continue to evolve. We will be asking for feedback from principals and monitoring best practices for entry/exit protocols.
- Consider systemwide implementation of a health screening tool and explore options for electronic data capturing of health screenings.
 - Screen staff, students, and visitors daily on arrival for symptoms.
 - Create guidelines for health screenings of staff who report to work outside of morning arrival.
- Recommend that student drop off and pick up is done outside the building to minimize the number of external visitors.
- Recommend that nonessential visitors do not enter school building. Limit frequency and duration of other visitors.

Movement Protocols:

- Redesign movement protocols within a building to minimize congestion and designate one-way direction stairwells and single file routes.

C MAINTAINING HEALTHY OPERATIONS (2/2)

Staffing Utilization:

- Use the Building Response Team structure to develop a school-based COVID-19 team.
- DOE's goal is to have a nurse or health professional in every building.
- Have adequate staff available to support with daily enhanced health protocols.

Changes to School Programming:

- Ensure systems and structures for prioritizing social-emotional and mental wellness across all DOE schools including, but not limited to, Health Education, Physical Education and Social-Emotional Learning programs.

Partnerships:

- Enhance partnerships with SBHC providers and/or CBOs.
- Build and maintain partnerships with mental health providers.

External Health Services:

- Develop recommendations for external health and support services, such as vision/dental screenings, mental health, etc.

D PREPARING FOR WHEN SOMEONE GETS SICK

Stay Home When Sick:

- Staff members and students should stay home when sick.

Responses to Symptoms or Positive Cases:

- Provide the necessary protocols, personnel, space, and DOE record keeping systems for schools to support students and staff who present COVID-19 symptoms.
- Design a clear process that has checks and balances to monitor COVID-19 illness in a school building aligned with state guidance.

Contact Tracing:

- Partner with NYC Health + Hospitals regarding contact tracing and follow up.
- You will hear directly from the Test + Trace and DOHMH team about how this will work in schools.

BUDGET UPDATE

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FY 2021 ADOPTED BUDGET



On June 30, the City Council adopted the City's FY 2021 budget.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the City is facing an unprecedented fiscal crisis, resulting in hard choices and service reductions. The City has sustained a \$9 billion revenue loss so far as a result of COVID-19. As the largest City agency, we have faced significant budget reductions.

Between service reductions in FY 2020 and budget reductions in FY 2021, over the past year, the DOE has taken over a billion dollars in cuts.

Good News

- The previously proposed \$100 million Fair Student Funding cut was restored and FSF will not be reduced at the initial budget allocation.
- The Single Shepherd program, also previously slated for elimination, will remain in FY 2021.

Bad News:

- Many SAMs will see decreases this year.
- Fewer central services will be available to schools, including PD, borough office support, etc.

Uncertainty:

- If federal stimulus does not materialize, both the City and the State have indicated additional cuts will be necessary. These cuts could come after the school year begins.
- The additional economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are uncertain and the budget picture could worsen.
- We will likely have to make additional reductions in FY 2022.

FY 2021 BUDGET PLANNING & POLICIES



As you know, SAMs for Summer in the City, NYSTL, and re-opening planning were released on Monday, June 29.

We expect to release full school budgets for next year on **Wednesday, July 8.**

When creating budgets for the next school year, please consider the following:

- Please be mindful of the possibility of additional budget reductions as the operational and financial situation continues to evolve.
 - Schools should make contingency plans for goods and services that can be reduced in the event of budget reductions announced after the school year begins.
 - Schools should avoid spending on nonessential or low-priority supplies or services until later in the year.
- Due to enrollment uncertainty, register set-asides will be increased or created for all schools this year.
- Schools do not need to purchase cleaning supplies, nursing supplies, or remote learning materials such as devices or Zoom. These will all be centrally provided.
- Schools will largely create their tables of organization in Galaxy for staff positions based on a conventional school model; actual assignments for alternative school re-opening models may need to be done outside of Galaxy.
- Please refer often to the DOE's Infohub for details about how services should be provided in a remote or blended setting.

FY 2021 HR PLANNING & POLICIES



Given these budget challenges, at this time hiring restrictions remain in effect:

- As you know, hiring restrictions mean you cannot hire any new external candidates into your schools.
- When you have approved vacancies, you may consider internal candidates.
- Open Market will be available for you to review transfer applicants through August 7 and the Excess Staff Selection System will open shortly after.
- At this time, the hiring restrictions extend to all titles and licenses - including Assistant Principals, teachers, paraprofessionals, and school aides.
- The Operations and OFDC teams will be monitoring excessing and vacancies on a regular basis to determine if and where exceptions to hiring restrictions need to be made. Exceptions will likely be limited to the highest need subject areas and may only be made for specific districts and/or school levels.
- All excessing will be reviewed by OFDC teams for necessity and to ensure in appropriate seniority order.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

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The New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE) will adhere to the following guiding principles as they plan, prepare and open schools for the 2020-2021 academic year.

- **Physical and mental health** of our students, teachers, staff, and families
- **Greater equity** among students with respect to the education they receive and the learning environment in which they receive it—whether virtual or in-person
- **Academic achievement** for students through **high-quality instruction, tailored enrichment, and culturally responsive educational practices** that allow students to see themselves reflected in the materials and lessons of their education
- **Social-emotional and trauma-informed** support for all students
- **Community and continuity** all year among students, and between students and teachers/staff
- **Priority for in-person learning for students and families who have trouble accessing and engaging in remote learning**
- **Deeper empowerment of our families** as essential partners in their children’s education
- Frequent, consistent, and transparent **communication** with families, schools, and partners
- **Clear guidance for schools** in balance with the necessary **flexibility** to meet the needs of their particular school community
- Commitment to **continuous improvement**; flexibility in response to evolving public health, budgetary, and environmental conditions; and sustained fulfillment of the needs of students, families, and staff

NEXT STEPS

CALL TO ACTION

DATES TENTATIVE -- SUBJECT TO CHANGE



JULY

July 7

Round 1 of School Guidance

- Schedule Models
- Initial Health Guidelines
- Initial School Budget Allocation (July 8)

July 9

Round 2 of School Guidance

July 15

Family Sign-Up on Remote Only Launches (target)

Projected Launch of School-Based Staff Reasonable Accommodation Application

July 16

Round 3 of School Guidance

July 23

Revision of School Guidance

Pending New York State Guidance

Schools Submit Initial Programming Model Choice

Begin weekly updates to principals of staff with accommodations to work remotely

AUGUST

August 7

Family Sign-Up for Remote Only Closes

August 14

Schools Submit Programming Model Choice

August 21

Superintendents Approve Exceptions

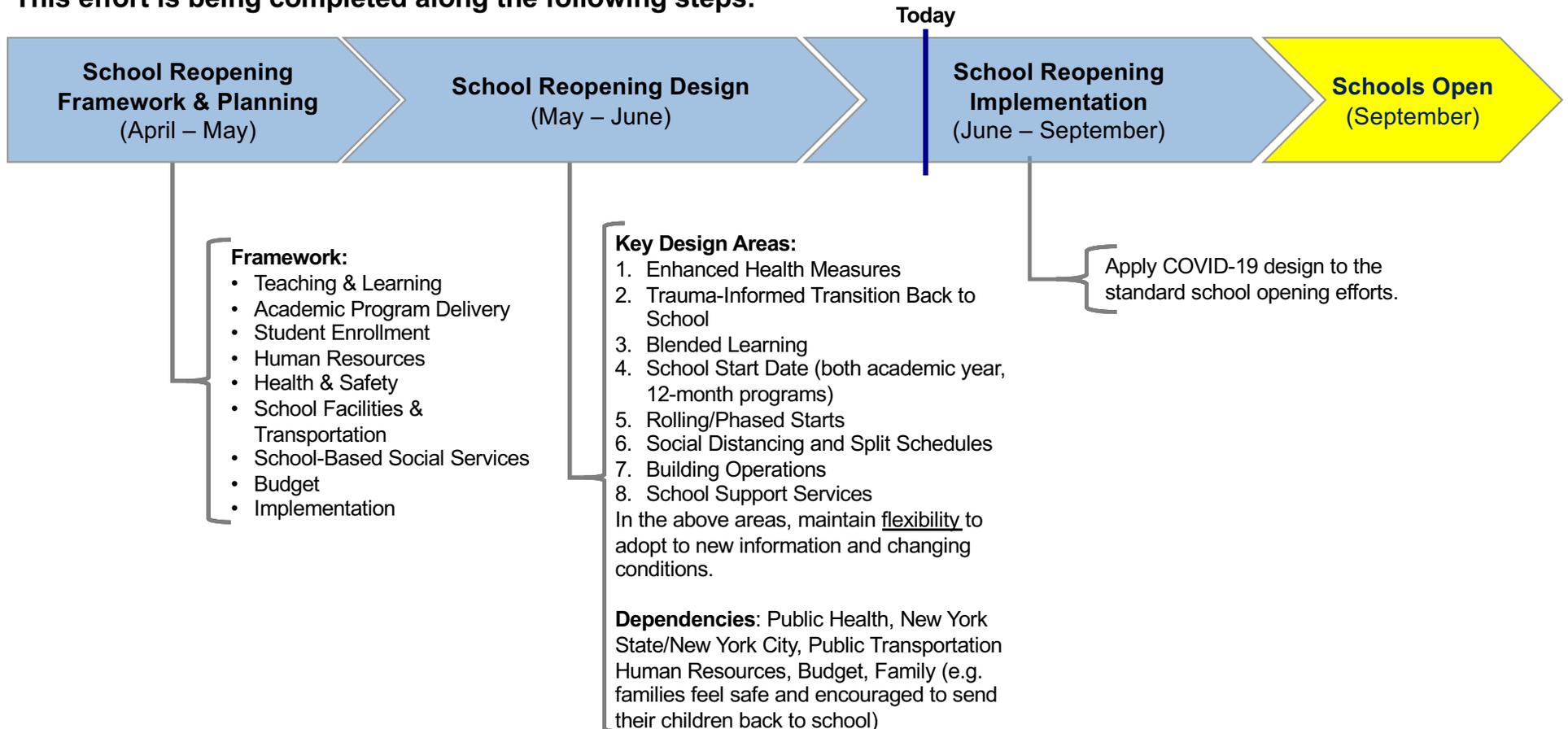
TBD in August: Parents Notified of Child's Schedule and Group, Staff Training
Ongoing: Health & Safety Metrics Monitoring

SEPTEMBER...First Day of School

APPENDIX

WHERE WE ARE

NYC Department of Education (NYCDOE) has already begun efforts to open schools buildings post-COVID-19. This effort is being completed along the following steps:



FOUR CORE ACTIONS FOR PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF COVID-19



Stay Home if Sick

Only leave for essential medical care and testing or other essential errands.



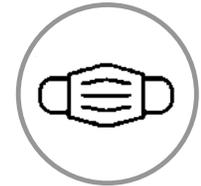
Keep Physical Distance

Stay at least 6 feet away from other people.



Keep Hands Clean

Wash your hands often with soap and water. Use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.



Wear a Face Covering

You can be contagious without symptoms. Protect those around you by wearing a face covering.

These core actions will remain in place until a vaccine is developed or daily transmission levels are close to zero. These core actions have implications for school reopening.