



# FINAL RESTART TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATION

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Superintendent  
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# SLPS RESTART SCHOOL TASK FORCE



## *PURPOSE*

To develop and present recommendations and considerations for Saint Louis Public Schools to ensure a smooth start to the school year 2020-2021

## *MEMBERS*

School leaders, teachers, district leaders, community leaders, parents, and non-profit partners who represent SLPS's wide range of schools

## *CO-CHAIRS*

Susan Reid, Carron Johnson, Addie Bond, and Square Watson

## *SUB-COMMITTEES*

*GOVERNANCE*

*WELLNESS*

*INSTRUCTION*

*FACILITIES*

*TECHNOLOGY*

## *PROJECT MANAGEMENT TEAM*

# TOP 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES



*Principles guiding overall district planning to restart school, while recognizing that each school building has its own needs*

**1.** Ensure **safety** for all: physical and emotional health and wellness.

**2.** Prioritize student **wellbeing** and **cultural responsiveness**.

**3.** Ensure **equity** and access in planning and resources to reach every student.

**4.** Honor **parents' choices**, circumstances and concerns.

**5.** Recognize **changing societal realities**, including pandemic flattening or spikes, racial injustice, the November election climate, and other external forces that impact the community.

**6.** Respect that **routine** and predictable home-school **communication**, relationship, and identity is critical.

**8.** **Empower professionals** to guide effective learning and planning.

**9.** Frame curriculum, planning, and teaching for more in-depth learning, authentic engagement, and academic foundations through **blended learning models** for learning in school and at home.

**7.** Meet students where they are by addressing **individual** academic needs.

**10.** Reconsider, **policy** and regulations, as necessary.

# RESTART PLANNING PROCESS



Making Key Reopening Decisions



What we do	Phase 1	Phase 2: June	Phase 3: July	Phase 4: August	
<p><i>Follow Guidance</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acquired initial guidance from St. Louis City Department of Health (DOH)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Closely followed the updated information and advice from the DOH</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update all documents adhering to the official guidance announced by DOH</li> </ul>		
<p><i>Research on Good Practices</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collecting and reviewing good practices that bring ideas to our framework</li> </ul>				
<p><i>Consult Implementers</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Formulated initial recommendations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reviewed initial planning by principals</li> <li>Organized Staff Town Hall in conjunction with local 420</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Principals revise plans per feedback from parents, families, and teachers</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Principals finalize plans as teachers and staff return</li> </ul>
<p><i>Communicate with Community</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set up surveys and communications with families</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surveyed about families' initial choices for attending school in the fall</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>District restart framework is open to public and feedback invited</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Families are asked to make a choice for attending school in the fall</li> </ul>
<p><i>Develop the Framework</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established Guiding Principles for district and school-level planning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established district parameters for reopening and draft recommendations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revise district parameters for reopening</li> <li>Finalize the restart framework</li> </ul>		

# WHY REOPENING SCHOOLS IS CRITICAL



Returning students to the classroom is critical to their educational experience specifically and for reopening our economy in general. We understand that many parents cannot return to work without schools providing brick-and-mortar learning for our students. Additionally, reopening schools is critical for eliminating the achievement gap. The impact of school closures is disproportionately felt by low income and marginalized students. There is little doubt that this worldwide pandemic, and its resulting school closures, have widened and highlighted this achievement gap and is wildly unacceptable. **Returning students to brick-and-mortar classrooms is a major step to helping students bridge the gap and preparing them for jobs that do not even exist today**

## RESEARCH CONCERNING PROJECTIONS ABOUT PROLONGED COVID Slide



### 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading Loss

Expect a **-34%** decline in Reading RIT scores; equivalent to **6 months** of learning loss



### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Math Loss

Expect a **-81%** decline in Math RIT scores; equivalent to **14 months** of learning loss



### Achievement Gap Expansion

COVID expected to add **+20%** to gap between highest and lowest-performing students



### Learning Recovery Time

Analysis of Hurricane Katrina aftermath suggest **4 months' learning loss** requires **2 years** of normal seat time to fully recover academic pacing

# ESSENTIAL GUIDELINES



To protect the health of students and staff, these are the “must dos” for each school district



## CITY OF ST. LOUIS SCHOOLS OPERATION GUIDELINES FOR REENTRY TO SCHOOLS

- Have an **infectious disease plan**;
- Establish a process by which each school in your jurisdiction keeps and maintains **accurate records** of anyone who has been inside a building;
- Comply with the Missouri Revised Statute Section 167.181 and 19 CSR 19c-20-28 which govern **immunization** of students;
- At a minimum, maintain a **3ft radius** around each student’s desk in the **classroom**;
- Conduct daily health and temperature **screening** for students and staff at the beginning of the school day;
- Minimize contact** and social mixing during school hours;
- Consult and obtain approval from the City of St. Louis Department of Health prior to planning any school **assemblies**;
- Work with the City of St. Louis Department of Health to ensure **COVID-19 testing** is available and required for all staff prior to returning to work;

# ESSENTIAL GUIDELINES



To protect the health of students and staff, these are the “must dos” for each school district



## CITY OF ST. LOUIS SCHOOLS OPERATION GUIDELINES FOR REENTRY TO SCHOOLS

- ❑ Require **face coverings** for all staff and students in the **4th grade and above** while in the school building and all students when riding school buses;
  - ❑ **Students with medical conditions** that prohibit them from being able to wear face coverings will be exempt, as long as they have a document from their medical provider.
- ❑ Establish an **isolation area** within each school, which will be used to remove the ill person from the school’s general population;
- ❑ Require temperature and health screenings and wearing of face coverings for all **essential visitors** (e.g. parents/guardians, health officials, business officials, vendors that provide essential services for the school);
- ❑ Prohibit visitation of **nonessential visitors**;
- ❑ Restrict in-person **field trips** during the Fall semester of the 2020/2021 school year;
- ❑ Comply with the Missouri statutes (19 CSR 20-20.020) governing communicable disease **reporting** requirements;
- ❑ Establish protocols for loading and unloading **buses** to minimize person to person contact.

# ENSURING SAFE AND CLEAN ENVIRONMENTS

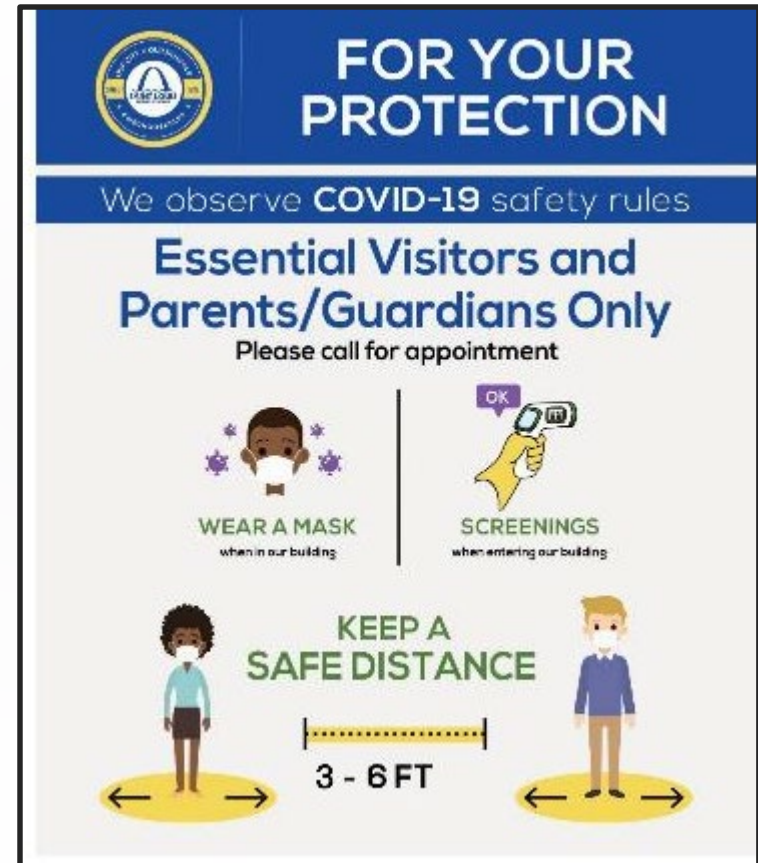


Adhere to St. Louis City DOH Guidance, SLPS Recommendations help schools to plan for a safe building reopening



## SAFE BUILDING REOPENING

- Cleaning and Disinfecting**
  - Basic recommendations from CDC
  - Daily cleaning and disinfecting checklist
  
- Operational Systems**  
(Maintenance)
  
- Setting Up for Social Distancing**
  - Classrooms
  - Cafeteria
  - Playgrounds
  - Visitor waiting area
  - Communal areas
  - School buses





# ENSURING SAFE AND CLEAN ENVIRONMENTS



*Adhere to St. Louis City DOH Guidance, SLPS Recommendations help schools to plan for a safe building reopening*



## **CLEANING AND DISINFECTING**

- Equip classrooms and communal areas with hand sanitizing supplies and disinfectant.
- Install handwashing stations in schools on an as-needed basis.
- Routinely disinfect high-touch-point areas, such as doorknobs, rails, and light switches.
- Use additional measures, such as electrostatic sprayers, foggers, and sponge applicators, for on-the-spot disinfecting.
- Custodial staff are responsible for ensuring spaces are kept clean and disinfected.
- Staff members should assist this effort by cleaning and disinfecting communal areas, including eating spaces, conference room tables, and chairs, after use.
- Facilities will coordinate, schedule and deep clean any classroom, office, or common space suspected of contamination. The area will be closed until proper cleaning procedures are complete.

# PRIORITIZING STUDENT WELLBEING



*Providing essential and critical support for students' health and wellness*



***Overview of Student Health Guidelines***



***Student Mask Guidelines***



***Students Immunizations***



***Social and Emotional Support***



***Crisis Intervention Team***



***Resources for Support Services***

***Parents*** are asked to collaborate in students' health screenings and social distancing

***Students*** are required to have current immunization records on the first day of school, August 24, 2020

***Pop-up clinics*** for immunizations are provided by the district

***SLPS*** is striving to have a nurse or licensed health professional at every school

# PRIORITIZING STUDENT WELLBEING



*To protect the health of students, these are the “must dos”*



## OVERVIEW OF STUDENT HEALTH GUIDELINES

- All students in grades 4 and above are required to wear face coverings in school and strongly encouraged for grades under 3.
- All students, regardless of age, must wear face coverings on the bus.
- All students and staff will engage in a daily health screening upon arrival to school each day.
- Parents should be instructed to keep their child at home if they are ill.
- Students will remain together in the same groups as much as possible throughout the day.
- Elementary and middle school students may have breakfast and lunch in the classroom.
- Visitors will be limited in the school building and will be required to wear masks.
- Parents and guardians coming to pick up or drop off students will be asked to stay outside the building in a designated area.

# SUPPORTING VIRTUAL LEARNING



*Ensuring inclusion and equity in learning technology and platform and home-school connection*

## ONE-TO-ONE TECHNOLOGY FOR ALL

By **September 4, 2020**, all students will have access to devices to support learning both in school and at home.

- K to 8th Grade: iPads
- 9th-12th Grade: Dell Latitude 3310 Laptops
- Wireless hot spots to family in need

## CONSISTENT VIRTUAL LEARNING PLATFORM

**Microsoft Teams** will be utilized as a single platform throughout the District, which will allow for:

- Uniform expectations
- Integrating applications
- Standardized professional development
- Streamlined online communication

## HOMEROOM TEACHER FOR VIRTUAL LEARNERS

All students attending school virtually will be assigned to a **homerom teacher at a school site** to promote a home-school connection and provide social-emotional learning supports.

# CHOOSING HOW TO ENROLL



*Offering flexible enrollment options to meet individual needs*

## IN-PERSON

- Students will be enrolled at a brick-and-mortar school site and attend school based on the SLPS 2020-2021 Academic Calendar.
- All course work will utilize a standard-based curriculum using a Blended Learning Framework.
- Families that select in-person learning may select to switch to virtual learning at each quarter.

## VIRTUAL

- Students will be enrolled in a school but will engage in all learning virtually from home.
- All course work will utilize a standard-based curriculum using a Blended Learning Framework.
- Families that select virtual learning may select to return to in-person learning at each quarter.

## EDMENTUM

- Students will be enrolled in a school but will engage in all learning online from home using Edmentum, which is a self-driven learning experience administered exclusively online from website-based content that the student may access at any time. Facilitators provide minimal support.
- Edmentum offers families a standards-based curriculum for learning, with minimal connection to a physical school.
- All courses and grade level standards required by Missouri DESE are offered.



***Families will be surveyed for their binding preference late-July.***

# ESTABLISHING CLEAR COMMUNICATIONS

*Allowing staff, students, families and the community to safely re-engage in the education process*



## Communications to Parents/Guardians

Schools will communicate with families about:

- School start date
- Health and safety measures and protocols in school buildings
- How to enroll and choose an instructional format
- The expectations of parents and students if the School Building Closure/Distance Learning Plan is implemented
- Basic information on COVID-19 and actions families can take to stay safe when not at school
- Clear direction on when to keep a student home and the process for notifying the school
- Information on pop-up clinics for mandatory immunizations and flu vaccinations

Families will receive information about community resources available to assist with:

- Mental health
- Child wellbeing
- Food security
- Medical/dental providers
- Health insurance
- Economic aid
- Internet access
- Avoiding COVID-19 scams



Families can use the district hotline. **(314) 345-5656 daily from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

They can reach out to school principals and teachers through phone calls and emails.



# ESTABLISHING CLEAR COMMUNICATIONS



*Allowing staff, students, families and the community to safely re-engage in the education process*

## Communication to Staff Members

School principals will communicate with their staff members about :

- COVID-19 Testing
- School-based action plan
- Health and safety measures and protocols in school buildings
- Personal Protective Equipment
- What to do if someone is sick
- Role of teachers and instructional expectations of blended learning framework
- Information on professional development and support
- Information on the District's Employee Assistance Program and other social emotional support

## Communication to Students

Schools will communicate with students in methods based on their age and individual needs. Information will be shared inclusively while honoring privacy and identity.

- Posters on social distancing, face masks, hand washing, coughing, etc.
- Information on social emotional support and suicide prevention hotlines
- Information on school safety hotlines
- Information on child abuse/neglect hotlines

## Communication to the Public

- Post reminders at entryways not to enter the school if experiencing signs of illness
- Publish the SLPS Restart Framework and other information on the District's website and in other communications



# NEXT STEPS

- ❑ **Restart School Framework and Recommendations**
  - ❑ Update to Board on July 25, 2020
  - ❑ Parents Complete the **District's 2020-2021 Parent Commitment Form** by **July 30, 2020**
  - ❑ Restart Plan is continuously updated based on new information and data
  
- ❑ **Principals Revise Their School-Based Plans**
  - ❑ July 27-31