



McGuffey School District
Return to School Update
October 15, 2020

Overview

- The Return to School Committee has been investigating whether we should return some or all grade levels to full time in-person learning
- The full committee met on September 24th, 2020 to review the return to school thus far and investigate the next steps of reopening
- It was decided to form three sub-committees, one to focus on Health, one to focus on Facilities, and one to focus on Teaching & Learning
- Each subcommittee discussed their aspect of the return
- The full committee met on October 9th, 2020 to review and discuss the work of the sub-committees



Sub-Committee Members

HEALTH



Debbie Butterfield*
Karen Ealy
Dan Gottron
Charissa Rychcik
Sherri Brownlee
Jake Kribel*
Amy Todd
Sheryl Fleck
Brenda Steele
Mark Bonus

FACILITIES



Craig McKee*
Laura Young
Dan Gottron*
Sherri Brownlee
Amy Todd
Mike Wilson
Sheryl Fleck
Mark Bonus

TEACHING & LEARNING



Amanda Becker	Jake Kribel
Roxanne Bluman	Renea Lacock
Dina Crockett	Kirstin Legler
Jen Ealy	Denise Leigh
Teresa Engler	Amy Osko
Dan Gottron*	Laurel Stock-Celani
Kristen Guyaux	Jonnie Swarrow
Setrak Haroutounian*	Amy Todd
Jen Janovich	Matt Wolfe

* Indicates subcommittee co-chair



HEALTH



Infection Model without Hybrid

- Any one high school student infected with COVID-19, has the potential to impact 40-50 students and 13 teachers, requiring 10-24 days of quarantine.
- In the Elementary, an infected student has the potential to impact 19 students and 9 teachers, requiring 10-24 days quarantine.
- The above scenarios assume that the infected student did not use district transportation.
- The Department of Health has not recommended anyone quarantine from an exposure at school due to us programming at 6 feet. We would have had quarantines, and probable school closures, if we were programming less than 6 feet.



Washington County COVID Case Trends as of 10/9/20

- There have been 192 confirmed cases in last 14 days
- Increase from 4.4% positivity rate over the last seven days and continues to trend upward.
- Over the last week, Washington County has averaged 12 new confirmed cases per day (5.9 for every 100,000 residents).
- Over the next year, this translates to around 4,500 cases and an estimated 22,000 infections (10.8% of the population).
- On average, each person in Washington County with COVID is infecting 0.98 other people.
- Washington County continues to be classified as “moderate” on the weekly transmission reports.



Pennsylvania COVID Case Trends as of 10/9/20

- Last week marked the highest one day total since March 22, 2020
- There were 1,829 new cases on 10/13/20
- The positive case numbers for 10/13/20 included 632 children ages 0-19, which is 35% of the new cases.
- There are now 26 different states on the quarantine travel list
 - <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Travelers.aspx>



Health

- The Health and Learning Subcommittee met and developed the pros and cons for the following scenarios
 - Return grades K-1 four days per week
 - Return grades K-5 five days per week
 - Return all grades five days per week
 - Maintain hybrid Blue and Gold Schedule



Health - Return K-1 for Four Days

Pros

- We have the ability to maintain social distancing of six feet at Claysville and Joe Walker.
- Educational advantage for the younger students
- Lunch and schedule adjustments will be necessary but can be done safely
- The four days schedule would enable quarantined students the ability to attend virtually

Cons

- Greater chance for student or staff illness which could require closure
- Potential transportation challenges
- With more students in classes, if a K/1 teacher would require quarantine, we would not be able reassign students, presenting coverage challenges.
- Loss of any extra space & furniture if all McCyber students returned
- Class rosters will need to be adjusted



Health - Maintain Current Hybrid Model

Pros

- Hybrid model reduces the chance of closure due to illness with Blue/Gold schedule and reduced building capacity.
- Maintain social distancing in all areas including cafeteria and transportation
- Remote learning is built in for students under quarantine
- Students are able to consistently take mask breaks.

Cons

- Many students are having difficulty with remote learning.
- Face to Face education is missed.
- Although we are offering the to go food program two days a week, students are not receiving daily access to our nutrition program.
- There is a financial implication for many families with students not in school five days a week.



Health - Return K-5 for Five Days

Pros

- Educational advantage for all students having increased face to face instruction
- Minimizes the impact of regression for students which may have financial impact

Cons

- Inability to social distance & reduced mask breaks
- Increase chance of illness and exposure to students and staff which may result in increased closure further impacting education
- Transportation challenge relating to social distancing
- We will no longer offer the hybrid model for families at the elementary grades.
- Quarantined student learning will be impacted (may be up to 24 days)
- Class rosters may need to be adjusted
- Substitute shortage



Health - Return All Grades for Five Days

Pros

- Educational advantage for all students having face to face instruction
- Minimizes the impact of regression for students which may have financial impact

Cons

- Inability to social distance and reduced mask breaks
- Increase chance of illness and exposure to students and staff which may result in increased closure further impacting education
- Transportation and lunch can not maintain social distancing at 6 feet
- We will no longer offer the hybrid model for families
- Quarantined students' learning will be greatly impacted
- Education will be impacted with group activities & labs
- Not all families want a full return of 5 days and have been cautious of being in the building at all
- Substitute shortage



FACILITIES



Facilities

- Overall, only K-1 can return four days with continued six feet social distancing in the classroom
- Additional items will need to be taken out of classrooms to support spacing
- In order to return 2-5, we will need to reduce social distancing in the classroom to three feet, which is not the recommendation of PDE nor DOH
- Once K-5 returns four or five days, the cafeteria cannot maintain social distancing.
- Once students return four or five days, we will need to use the desks in the classrooms, which will eliminate the use of desks in the cafeteria
- Secondary students would face the same issues with classroom and lunchroom capacities, as well as number of desks for the lunchroom



Facilities

For a 4 or 5 day in person return, we would need to:

1. Reduce social distancing in classrooms for grade levels 2 and above
2. Reduce social distancing in the cafeteria for all grade levels
3. Switch out desks from the cafeterias for use in classrooms
4. Return to the use of regular tables in the cafeterias



TEACHING & LEARNING



Teaching & Learning

The teaching and learning committee discussed key topics related to increased in person attendance:

1. Preparedness for if we need to go full remote
2. Expectations for Google Classroom for full in person setting
3. Learning and behavioral issues with full population returning
4. Return of McCyber students to in person learning
5. Critical curriculum areas to focus on
6. Expectations for use of educational technologies



Teaching & Learning Pros and Cons - Hybrid

Pros

- Stability and consistency of schedule
- Allows certain activities in person because of fewer students (labs, projects, small group assistance, etc.)
- Allows for easier cleaning and re-use of curricular equipment
- Less chance of closure

Cons

- Many students are struggling with or not engaging in remote portion
- Challenging for families to provide curricular support
- Chromebooks have been on backorder
- Still have internet challenges



Teaching & Learning Pros/Cons - Phased Return for K-1

Pros

- Additional face to face direct instruction for our youngest children who may struggle with remote learning
- Support students who have had less experience with remote technologies
- Critical stage for early intervention, related services, instructional supports, and special education identification.
- First grade benchmark assessment scores were lower than last year's first grade scores. This plan would increase time for direct instruction and Title 1 Services.

Cons

- Additional number of students in the classroom will limit movement & small group instruction.
- Students may be reallocated to a different teacher or classroom



Teaching & Learning Pros/Cons - Return Beyond K-1

Pros

- More in-person curriculum and instruction
- Full in-person sessions for interventions and supports
- In-person early intervention and identification for Title 1, special education, etc.

Cons

- Disruption to continuity of education if staff or students need to quarantine or if building closes
- Certain lab sciences and group activities not possible with increased numbers

Summary

- Key Questions:
 - Should programming continue to occur at the recommended 6 feet social distancing or be reduced to 3 feet?
 - CDC: *To practice social or physical distancing, stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms' length) from other people who are not your household in both indoor and outdoor spaces.*
 - PDE: *Students, faculty, and staff should maintain a safe social distance at least 6 feet apart when feasible. This includes offices, classrooms, laboratories, hallways, restrooms, common areas, and outdoor spaces.*
 - DOH: *Defines social distancing as 6 feet*
 - WHO: *Maintain at least a 1-metre (approximately 3 feet) distance between yourself and others to reduce your risk of infection when they cough, sneeze, or speak. Maintain an even greater distance between yourself and others when indoors. The further away, the better.*



Summary

- Key Questions, cont.:
 - Is being open on a measured but consistent basis preferred over the risk of increased closures?
 - If we begin not following the guidance from the CDC, PDE, and/or DOH, then what is the process for us to determine what recommendations we are going to follow and which ones we are not going to follow?
- Unknowns
 - If we change our model, how many McCyber students will return to the building or request to transfer to McCyber, which may or may not impact social distancing, staffing, and/or transportation?



COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS



Recommendations

Recommendation 1: *Remain in Hybrid*



- This model has prevented school closure so far due to the extended days off between in-person exposures.
- Students can continue to do classwork while quarantined.
- Follows all CDC, DOH and PDE guidelines.
- Will continue to improve academic supports to students who are struggling or not engaging

Recommendation 2: *K&1 return 4 days Nov. 2-9, 2020*



- Hire 1st grade substitute at Joe Walker
- Hire 1st Grade (unfilled) teaching position at Claysville
- Redistribute furniture and desks for classrooms
- Adjust lunch schedules
- Revise bus rosters
- Modify approved health & safety plan

Not recommended at this time: *Full Return*



- Can only happen if we reduce the social distancing from 6 feet to 3 feet
- We need time and manpower to get furniture and desks in place
- Hire 3rd Grade (unfilled) teaching position at Claysville
- Hire 1st grade substitute at Joe Walker
- Hire 1st Grade (unfilled) teaching position at Claysville
- Modify approved health & safety plan

QUESTIONS

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