

Re-Opening of Schools Committee

The primary role of the Re-Opening of Schools Committee (Committee) is to assist districts and charter schools in developing and implementing a plan for a safe, efficient, and equitable return to school. This plan will be needed to assist districts and charter schools with prevention, response, and recovery strategies to meet the changing conditions created by the COVID-19 pandemic. Because of the many variables that may shift over the coming weeks and months, schools will need a plan with multiple approaches and strategies that can be initiated independently or simultaneously, depending on need.

The Committee, consisting of state health officials, district superintendents, charter school leaders, and other experts, will work to produce an actionable framework based on the latest guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and State health officials. The framework will address the physical, mental, social, and emotional considerations to reopen and manage districts and schools during this ongoing crisis.

The plan will be created with the following principles:

- Health and safety of students, educators, and staff is paramount
- Informed by evidence-based public health and education emergency operations planning best practices
- Informed by direct feedback of epidemiologists, psychologists, district superintendents, public charter school leaders, school administrators, educators, parents, and students
- Designed to assist and support districts and charter schools in identifying locally developed, prioritized essential actions needed for each individual district and charter school
- Acknowledgement of the limited time as well as human and financial resources available

This plan will:

- Be able to be embedded into current district and charter school emergency plans and contribute to the ongoing continuum of decision making
- Provide guidance and guardrails for consideration by districts and charter schools
- Help strengthen future crisis response
- Be a companion to traditional school opening procedures

The plan will not:

- Address academics
- Be an exhaustive list of every action a district or charter school should implement
- Create mandates for districts and charter schools
- Be a distance learning playbook or school closure guide
- Be applicable only for COVID-19 response and recovery
- Be a stand-alone resource, or legal or medical advice

Timeline

The Committee will begin meeting in May 2020 and conclude with a finished framework by the end of June 2020. Meetings will be scheduled depending on progress and availability of information from the Centers for Disease Control and State health officials. Implementation feedback and support stakeholder meetings will be scheduled in July, August, and September and on an as needed basis after September to 1) collectively address and problem solve implementation issues, 2) adjust the plan to changing community conditions and/or 3) update evidence-based practices based on information from the Centers for Disease Control and State health officials.

Opening of Schools Committee Members

Name	Role	Contact information
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