

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 2, 2020 - MVE SC 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
- 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. Check with your local district to confirm their educational plans for reopening.

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.

- Remote learning should continuously support whole-child success and meaningful academic opportunities, while protecting the health and safety of students, parents, caregivers, and educators.
- Each student experiences a learning opportunity that follows a master schedule that is supported by an educator who is in a different location.
- An educator might deliver instruction by using a device and checking in with students regularly.
- Remote learning also could include video or audio instruction delivered online or by television, video, telephone, or another method that relies on computer or communications technology.
- Remote learning also could include the use of printed, paper-based materials that incorporate assignments that engage and seek feedback from students.
- Powerful remote learning also could occur through thoughtful, offline lessons that encourage students to explore the natural world and engage in interdisciplinary and artistic hands-on learning.
- All staff members are prepared to return to remote learning if COVID-19 outbreaks increase dramatically.



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, OHSA, 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 Caldwell Exempted Village 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 Caldwell Exempted Village Schools during these challenging times!

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

July 2, 2020 - Plans will be modified as public health guidelines are updated.

