CCSD
Safe Restart

Charleston County School District’s plan to safely reopen schools in Fall 2020

Presented for First Reading
July 20

Presented for Second Reading
July 27
**Required Restart Plan Components** – SDE Friday, July 17, 2020

- **Parent Choice #1: An in-person option for all students**
  - Districts encouraged to offer a five day a week face-to-face instruction when it is safe to do so (CCSD will offer a temporary remote option as well as an in-person option for some students if parents, teachers, medical experts concur, and Covid-19 rates continue to fall).
  - Blended learning models will be considered an in-person option (Example: AA/BB days)

- **Timeframe** - For the temporary remote option, develop a timeframe for working toward in-person instruction (CCSD proposes revisiting metrics twice a month, giving parents 20-day notice of any change, and working with families who need additional transition time.)

- **Parent Choice: #2: A virtual option for all students**
  - Districts may deliver their own virtual program or other option. 9- or 18-week commitment
  - Any virtual model *must include an initial in-person contact with students*. Intermittent in-person contact with students is also strongly encouraged (may be required).

- **High-quality instruction**: Establish how high quality instruction will be provided, regardless of instructional mode, and demonstrate how a broad range of student services will be provided. Must meet all state and federal requirements.

**5 Additional Days, 4K-8** We must provide 5 LEAP days, 4K-8. If teachers work, they are paid. If they do not work, they are not paid for these 5 days (Learn, Evaluate, Analyze, Prepare)  **(CCSD proposes Aug-31-Sept. 4 as LEAP Days)**
Feedback Regarding the Plan

- **Metrics** - Indicate criteria as well as plan and frequency of monitoring.
- **Options** - When the enrollment form is released, include a description of each option and information about the health/safety protocols that will be in place.
- **Communication** - Increase communication, particularly to teachers and parents from the school. Release a video showing what a school day will be like (virtual tour).
- **Continuity** - If possible, have same teacher serve as temporary remote and in-class teacher.
- **Calendar** - As soon as possible, involve teacher and parent representatives in revising the school calendar.
- **Small groups** - To the extent possible, serve students in small cohort groups, “pods,” reducing movement of students throughout the building.
- **Substitutes** - Increase number; train subs in both classroom protocols and online instruction.
- **Schedule assignments** - As soon as possible teachers want more details regarding student class assignments, scheduling, other expectations. Include teacher representatives when brainstorming options and making these determinations (especially at the school level).
- **Susceptibility** - Assurance that we will shield those who are most susceptible to COVID-19.
- **Restart Mode** - Some parents feel strongly it is safe for schools to reopen in person 9/8. Many do not.
- **Protect Students AND Employees** - Take all recommended precautions to protect those who return to school/workplace.
DHEC bases their metrics on:

- Incidence rate per 100,000
- Trend in incident rates
- Percent testing positive

DHEC database is updated weekly.

As of July 17, Charleston was rated HIGH on all measures based on DHEC’s guidelines. Infection rates have been declining in our area.
Charleston County Cases, June - July

New Charleston County Cases (June 1-present)

- New Charleston County Cases
- New Chas City Cases (14-Day Avg)

Number of Cases

Students Are The Heart of Our Work

Charleston County School District
Charleston County 14-day Trend

New Charleston County Cases (Past 14 Days)

- New Charleston County Cases
- New Chas Cty Cases (14-Day Avg)

Number of Cases

- July 13, 2020
- July 14, 2020
- July 15, 2020
- July 16, 2020
- July 17, 2020
- July 18, 2020
- July 19, 2020
- July 20, 2020
- July 21, 2020
- July 22, 2020
- July 23, 2020
- July 24, 2020
- July 25, 2020
- July 26, 2020
Community’s Role*

• The single most important thing we can do to keep our schools safe has less to do with what happens in schools than it does about how well everyone controls coronavirus spread throughout the community.

• Adhere to the three W’s:
  • Wear a mask
  • Wash your hands
  • Watch your distance

• Provide adequate testing, effective isolation, complete contact tracing, and supportive quarantine measures.

• “In places where the virus is spreading explosively, it may be difficult or impossible to have in-person schooling. But in most school districts most of the time, schools should look to reopen by following basic safety measures.”

*Thomas Frieden, Former director, CDC; Margaret Spellings, former US Secretary of Education under President George W. Bush; Arne Duncan, former US Secretary of Education under President Barak Obama. The Atlantic, July 9, 2020, “These Basic 8 Steps will Let Us Reopen Schools.”
How CCSD Proposes to Start

1. Our goal is to serve as many students as we can in person as soon as possible.

2. Medical experts will advise regarding how many students we can serve in-person at any given time. Range is from 0% to 100%.

2. If we can start a SMALL number of students in-person safely Sept. 8, we will. For the most part, we anticipate opening in two modes: Temporary Remote and Virtual Academy. We will offer in-person if possible. We will monitor 2-week data and bring information to the Board monthly.

3. Parents will choose an option: in-person (with choice of temporary remote start) or virtual. Included with the enrollment preference form will be information about health/safety precautions in place and a description of each option.

4. We will contact all teachers to determine their intents and needs.
Next Steps - Timeline

Since July 24 - Met with Task Force, teachers, principals, the Legislative Delegation.

July 27 - Board approves a Safe Restart Plan. State approval must also occur.

July 28-Aug 4 - Determine parents’ enrollment choice and teacher preferences.

Aug 4-10 - Analyze enrollment results: Attempt to match parent requests, teacher preferences.

August 11-17 - Teacher Professional Development and Work Days

August 19 - Deadline for notifying parents of any changes that may need to be made based on conditions at the time.

August 18-28 -

- Complete student-teacher groupings for temporary remote, Virtual Academy, and any in-person instruction we are cleared to offer;
- Assist families with digital devices and virtual programs; determine support needed;
- Determine date for in-person meetings with high school students;
- Arrange to meet each student in-person before beginning virtual classes. Include a parent.

August 31-Sept 4 - Invite 4K-8 students and a parent into school in small groups to meet their teacher, assess needs, review how to use devices, etc.

Sept 8 - First day of school (Horry, Georgetown, Dorchester, 2 & 4, Colleton, Beaufort, [Berkeley] Counties all proposing to start school September 8).
Recommendation

Approve the Safe Restart Plan as presented. CCSD will offer two options:

a) In-person school that will begin Sept. 8 with actual in-person instruction (subject to sustained downward reduction in Covid-19 rates) or temporary stay-at-home remote instruction if parents prefer to start the school year in remote mode;

b) The K-12 Virtual Academy, which entails a 9-week commitment for K-8 students and a semester commitment for high school students.

Both temporary and virtual remote instruction will include intermittent in-person check-ins with students by teachers.

In-person student presence at school may occur for parents and teachers who are comfortable with this option, (not expected to exceed 20-25% of normal school capacity) as determined by each school's current medical metrics and logistical considerations.

Charleston County must see a downward trend in COVID-19 rates over a 14-day period before the Board will consider changing the operating mode. Data will be reviewed every two weeks by staff; monthly by Board. Data will be reported to the Board on August 10.