

Key Points around CCSD Safe Restart

1. Following the Board vote, we will open on September 8th with a temporary remote option for families at each school. Temporary remote instruction is similar to what we did this Spring with students receiving at home instruction from their home school.
2. Temporary remote instruction will be much more structured than last Spring with a daily schedule for face-to-face classes; teaching of new content and skills; and regular assessments and grades. Daily student attendance will be recorded and reported as required by state regulations.
3. The outstanding question is when will it be safe enough to open for some in-person instruction, which is our goal. On July 29th, the Board approved no more than 25% of students based on the school's capacity returning for in-person instruction, assuming virus levels continue to decline between now and Sept. 8th. We will revisit this bi-weekly; the Board will review data again on August 10 and at least monthly after that.
4. In order to complete our planning for the start of the new school year, we need the following information for each school:
 - a. Which families want their children to receive in-person instruction
 - b. Which families want their children to receive in-person instruction at some point this year but wish to start the year in "temporary remote mode" until Covid-19 rates in our area are lower.
 - c. Which teachers are comfortable teaching small numbers of students in person with appropriate safety measures under current conditions.
5. We are gathering that information this week via the Parent Enrollment Options Form distributed to families on July 29th, and a Teacher Intent Form is also being distributed this week.
6. Once a school has their information, they can determine how many teachers will teach in person and match them up with families who prefer in person.
 - a. If more families prefer in person than we have available teachers, we will prioritize families based on objective criteria based on need.
 - b. If we have enough teachers willing to teach and families comfortable with in person instruction, we will offer in person instruction up to 25% of the school capacity. This amount may increase based on the Board's periodic review of the virus levels.
7. Given that we need to offer a temporary remote option, schools should plan to offer this at least through the first 9 weeks/first quarter; or high schools may offer for a full semester. Over the Fall, our hope is the viral level will continue to decline so that we can serve more students in person.
8. But, we don't want any family to have to go back in-person if they are not ready - so the best option is that we are able to offer some in person and some temporary remote until the end of the first quarter (or, if necessary, a semester for high school). At that time, parents can opt into Virtual Academy if they remain concerned about in-person instruction for their child OR go to the in-person option at their school based on the safe building capacity.

9. If the Covid-19 infection rates do not decrease sufficiently, the next point where we would step back on temporary remote would be the end of the semester.
10. As we have shared previously, we are currently having MUSC review our safety protocols while we are determining safe capacity in all schools. Parents will know whether their school could, when it is safe to do so, achieve 100% attendance based on projected enrollment or would be designated as an AA/BB school by August 7th.
11. We will ask parents to make a final decision after they have all the information, e.g., they know their school's schedule and have had a chance to review safety guidelines that will be in place. We are aiming to require parents to finalize their decision by August 14th.

How do I respond to parents about all this?

First, it is important to note that this information is based on our understanding of local, state, and federal requirements as of July 31, 2020.

So, I am a parent and I want my child to return to school five days a week, how do I complete that survey?

- **Please indicate that you want in-person instruction and answer NO on the AA/BB question.**
Yet, it is important to note:
 - We may NOT be able to accommodate your desire for five days/week beginning on September 8th as we need enough teachers who are willing to teach in person in small groups.
 - As of July 30th, we can NOT exceed 25% of the school building capacity with any in person option.
 - We may NOT be able to accommodate all students in your child's school building safely with necessary social-distancing procedures so some schools will only be able to open (when it is safe to do so) with an AA/BB schedule. We will publish this list by August 7th.
- Yet, we know your preference and as principals determine how many students will be able to come back - your child will be considered in that group. When making these decisions about which students to prioritize, the principal will use objective criteria based on need.
- If we can NOT offer your child five days/week, we will offer temporary remote instruction by your child's school faculty.
- As the virus levels get lower in our community, we will aim to bring more students back for in person instruction.
- If it is most important to you that your child have a five day/week option beginning on September 8th, you may need to look for school options outside of CCSD at this time.

So, I am a parent and don't think it is safe for my child to return to school right now, but I want my child to be taught at their school by their teachers. I am open to in-person at some point this year if I think it is safe.

- **Please indicate that you want in-person instruction, and then check the temporary remote option.**
- The principal will expect your child to enroll in their school - and will schedule your child into temporary remote instruction.
- Temporary remote instruction will be more structured than what we offered in the Spring with scheduled times for your child's teacher to directly instruct students. More specifics on the instructional program will come from the school site.
- We want to make sure that teachers have reasonable workloads so that they are able to well-serve your children. Thus, we are NOT expecting teachers to teach in-person and virtually simultaneously. Given this, our school leadership teams will need to deploy teachers to teach in particular settings. Thus, it is likely that your child may work with more than one teacher over the course of this year. We ask for your flexibility and understanding as we will likely need to have teachers transition from temporary remote to in-person. We know how important it is for teachers to build meaningful relationships with their students - and will continue to prioritize stable teams of teachers working with a defined group of students.
- We will offer temporary remote instruction at least through the first quarter for elementary and middle schools, and likely through the first semester for high schools.
 - If at the end of that point, the virus levels are low enough as determined by MUSC and DHEC guidelines - schools will open five days/week for in-person instruction or AA/BB schedule depending on the safe building capacity of that school.
 - If a parent remains uncomfortable, they can transfer their child to Virtual Academy.
 - If the virus levels don't decline sufficiently, we will continue to offer temporary remote instruction.

So, I am a parent and I don't want my child to return to in-person instruction at all this year. I know virtual instruction is best for my child and my family.

- **Please indicate that you want Virtual Academy.**
- If it turns out that Virtual Academy is not a good fit for you and your family, your child can transfer at the end of the quarter for elementary and middle school or the end of the semester for high school.
- You will retain your position in a choice school. This includes CD students accepted into a CCSD Montessori school.
- If you are a charter school parent, please check with your charter school principal to confirm whether your position will be held if you opt to participate in the Virtual Academy.

So, I am a parent and I don't want my child to return to in-person instruction at all this year but I want my child to have their teachers from their school doing the instruction.

- **I am sorry that is not an option. Your best alternative is to indicate you want Virtual Academy.**
- We want to offer parents some choice but we also are aiming to return to in-person instruction for as many students as possible safely. Given that aim, we want our teachers to focus on slowly (as is safe) moving to increased numbers of students served in-person.
- The Virtual Academy team has hired certified teachers - many of whom are experienced CCSD teachers - to specifically teach in the Virtual Academy.

When do I need to make this decision, if I complete the Intent Form by August 3rd, am I locked into that option? I need more information but don't want to miss the deadline for Virtual Academy.

- No. The August 3rd date gives the district a better sense of where parent preference may be. And, it allows us to see where our teachers are about teaching in-person to small groups of students.
- We know parents want to review the MUSC Playbook and want to know if their school has the capacity to serve all students in person when it is safe to do so, OR if it will need to open with an AA/BB schedule, which will be shared on or before August 7th.
- We will need all parents to commit to their choice by August 14th.

My child is enrolled in Child Development (CD), how are we planning for our youngest students?

All CCSD Early Learning programs will begin a week after the first day for Kindergarten through 12th grade students. This delayed start allows principals and teachers time to teach older students the new health and safety procedures while supporting the transition of young children. We are anticipating the first day of CD is September 14th. We will open in person or temporary remote for all qualified CD students. Classroom enrollment will be smaller due to social-distancing guidelines.

Is there a Virtual Academy CD option?

No. We will offer a temporary remote option if we can NOT open in-person immediately. But, there is NOT a year-long Virtual Academy option for our youngest students.

Yet, digital and tangible resources will be shared with families to help them work with their younger children and increase their readiness for Kindergarten.

Additionally, the Office of Exceptional Children is reaching out to families of preschool students with an IEP or 504 Accommodations Plan to make arrangements for those children to continue to receive services. Services may be provided virtually.

My child has been identified as Gifted and Talented (GT) - how will those services be provided?

Students will continue to receive services at schools in the in-person and temporary remote options. Currently, students are served in the district adopted, and state approved pull-out model. However, we are planning for an in-class support model with virtual supplements given students will not be moving as much during the school day.

If this is the case, the GT teacher will collaborate with the core teacher to ensure that GT students are engaged in a rigorous and challenging curriculum through a combination of strategies which could include: co-teaching, small group leveled instruction, on-going projects, and individualized intervention as needed. This in-class support model will be supplemented through access to a virtual enrichment classroom where GT teachers will provide students with extended and engaging activities both connected to and beyond the regular classroom instruction. When possible, we will transition back to the pull-out model.

For the Virtual Academy, we don't know the number of GT students choosing this option. It is possible that we have sufficient students to group GT students together within a course or courses. If not, we will assign a GT endorsed/department teacher to each GT identified student in the Virtual Academy to provide additional support and virtual supplements. We will be able to provide more clarity when final enrollment numbers are received for the CCSD Virtual Academy.