



# KLSD Return to School Plans 2021-22

AUGUST 19, 2021

# Goals for 2021-22 School Year

- ▶ All students, in-person, every day
  - ▶ We may start the year with staggered start/end school times as we had last year. We will watch traffic patterns and bus-ridership and if we can return to regular start/end times, we will do so ASAP.
  - ▶ Maintain safety with layered mitigation strategies based on current guidance
- ▶ In-person learning experiences and other in-person school activities that 1) foster student engagement and 2) promote the health and well-being of all students

# Tonight's agenda:

- ▶ What follows is current KLSD administrative thinking and recommendations based on internal stakeholder input, along with study of current guidance.
- ▶ **The following slides are NOT final decisions.**
- ▶ Last year, when the Governor's office, NYSDOH, and NYSED all shared guidance and required school districts to submit re-opening plans to the State, it was not necessary for local BOE's to approve those plans. This year, in the absence of State mandates, it is recommended that local BOE's approve opening plans by resolution.
- ▶ Following tonight's discussion and appropriate community input, it is recommended that the BOE adopt plans at our meeting on 9/2.

# Guidance Timeline:

- ▶ August 5 – NYSDOH announced that school districts are reestablished as the controlling entity for schools. Recommended following CDC guidance.
- ▶ August 5 – NYSED called on NYSDOH to fulfill its responsibility and provide guidance
- ▶ August 5 – CDC updated its guidance – “Safely returning to in-person instruction in the fall 2021 is a priority.”
- ▶ August 12 – NYSED issued its own guidance, consistent with CDC
- ▶ August 19 – Anticipating guidance from Westchester County DOH



# Current CDC Guidance

- ▶ Promote vaccination
- ▶ Consistent and correct mask use
- ▶ Physical distancing (at least 3 ft. in most cases)
- ▶ Screening testing
- ▶ Ventilation
- ▶ Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
- ▶ Staying home when sick and getting tested
- ▶ Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine
- ▶ Cleaning and disinfection

# KLSD Recommendations

# Remote Learning

- ▶ To meet the goal of having all students in-person, remote learning will not be a standard, year-long option.
- ▶ If, at any time, it becomes necessary to close schools and transition back to remote learning for all, KLSD is prepared.
- ▶ Medically fragile students – Will be evaluated on an individual, case by case basis. Families should reach out to their school principal if they believe their child may be unable to attend school.
- ▶ Learning for students if/when quarantined to be discussed later in presentation

# Quarantine/Isolation

## CDC Guidance:

- ▶ Except in certain circumstances, people who have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 should quarantine. However, the following people with recent exposure may NOT need to quarantine:
  - ▶ People who have been fully vaccinated
  - ▶ People who were previously diagnosed with COVID-19 within the last three months
- ▶ **Exception:** In the **K–12 indoor classroom** setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time.
  - ▶ This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.



# Masks

- ▶ To promote every possibility of full-time in-person attendance, and to avoid unnecessary quarantining:
  - ▶ Masks will be required for all students and staff when indoors and on school buses – exceptions for eating and drinking. Breaks will be provided
  - ▶ Masks will be optional outdoors

# Distancing

- ▶ CDC and NYSED recommend at least 3 feet of physical distance between students in classrooms – KLSD believes it can meet that recommendation
- ▶ 6 feet is recommended between students and staff – KLSD will meet as possible
- ▶ Physical distancing is no longer required on school buses
- ▶ Though not required, KLSD will make every effort to increase the distance at lunch and at other times when masks must be removed.
- ▶ Language about increased distance (6 feet) for certain activities such as music and PE has been removed from the guidance. KLSD will make every effort to increase the distance during such activities but not at the expense of the activity.

# Daily Screeners

- ▶ CDC and NYSED no longer recommend daily health questionnaires.
- ▶ Students and staff will be reminded on a regular basis to stay home if sick and/or if exhibiting certain symptoms, to get tested when appropriate, and to stay home following contact with a COVID positive individual.
- ▶ Parents will be encouraged to check their children daily for COVID-19 symptoms.
- ▶ Completion of a daily screener, however, will not be a requirement of daily attendance

# Regular Testing

- ▶ All school districts in Westchester County were recently offered the opportunity to partner with a regional vendor who will provide regular COVID-19 testing of all students and staff. To date, we know the following:
  - ▶ A first test for all students and staff during the first week of school (or prior to if it can be arranged).
  - ▶ Weekly testing thereafter of 20% of students and staff, through the winter break
  - ▶ All individuals must consent to be tested (testing cannot be mandated)
  - ▶ Tests will be saliva-based PCR tests (not a nasal swab)
  - ▶ Still being determined whether tests will be conducted in school or at home
  - ▶ KLSD is exploring this opportunity



# Vaccinations

- ▶ School districts do not currently have the authority to require COVID-19 vaccinations for students or staff.
- ▶ School districts do, however, have the right to ask for voluntary submission of vaccine information from both students and staff. That information would be treated in the same confidential manner as any other health information collected.
- ▶ Collecting such information will help the District know which other mitigation strategies may or may not be necessary, may inform decisions about the offering of certain programs/activities, and will inform decisions about quarantine status. KLSD plans to ask for this information.
- ▶ Both CDC and NYSED recommend that school districts promote vaccination to support full in-person schooling

# Contact Tracing

- ▶ KLSD will continue to collaborate with local and state health departments to report COVID positive cases as necessary and to contact trace in order to maintain the health and safety of all students and staff.
- ▶ In light of revised definitions of close contacts and new guidelines for quarantining, at this time, we expect significantly less need for quarantine in the coming school year.
- ▶ Seating charts will be maintained on buses, in classrooms and cafeterias – to facilitate contact tracing and further limit need to quarantine.

# Learning When Isolated/Quarantined

- ▶ KLSD takes seriously its commitment to continue providing meaningful educational experiences for students who are required to isolate/quarantine either because they are COVID positive or due to contact with a COVID positive individual.
- ▶ The challenge is how best to provide this experience while not negatively impacting all those students who remain in-person at school. We anticipate significantly smaller numbers of quarantined students this year.
- ▶ Currently studying options:
  - ▶ Assignments and lessons posted online
  - ▶ Additional staff to support students who are home
  - ▶ Conference time with classroom teacher
  - ▶ Zoom, in particular circumstances

# Extracurricular activities

- ▶ Our goal is to provide in-person experiences that engage and support as many students as possible.
- ▶ Details about sports, after school music and theater programs, etc., still being determined based on recent guidance.



# Visitors

- ▶ CDC continues to recommend that schools limit non-essential visitors
- ▶ Mindful of the particular importance of certain in-school opportunities (i.e. kindergarten orientation), KLSD is going to allow individuals and small groups to visit when there is clear benefit from being together in-person. When possible, such visits may be scheduled outdoors.
- ▶ We are exploring options for larger group activities after school.
- ▶ KLSD administrators will collaborate with PTO's and other school-based community groups to make decisions that best serve our school community.

# Other mitigation strategies:

- ▶ Handwashing and respiratory etiquette will continue to be fostered and encouraged.
- ▶ Cleaning and disinfecting will occur at least once a day (more is now known about the very limited transmission of the virus across surfaces)
- ▶ All ventilation continues to be monitored and serviced so that it is working to its highest specification as designed
- ▶ Appropriate PPE will continue to be available to all students and staff

# Community Input

Response  
requested  
before Tuesday,  
August 24<sup>th</sup>.

[HTTPS://FORMS.OFFICE  
.COM/R/JD3UVYTYFJ](https://forms.office.com/r/JD3UVYTYFJ)

THIS LINK WILL BE  
EMAILED TO ALL  
COMMUNITY  
MEMBERS ON FRIDAY,  
AUGUST 20<sup>TH</sup>.



Thank You & Questions?