

DATE	NAME	COMMENT
5/21/2020	Wendy Turner	<p>I wanted to share some ideas around SEL and school reopening.</p> <p>1. Concern: This article is top of mind and weighing heavily on me right now: https://www.lessonsforSEL.com/post/why-every-school-must-have-a-social-emotional-learning-plan-prior-to-reopening?fbclid=IwAR3QFw0ValujUEpZZ9IZyzyKR_cpF5eTpc7UGLI8vIHTxLxQ_HArZ68jCXQ I recently shared this article on my Teacher of the Year Facebook page and it was shared over 300 times, that alone tells how much this is resonating with people.</p> <p>2. Idea: The first month of school should focus on SEL entirely, no academics.</p> <p>3. Idea: Thereafter the first hour of each day should focus on SEL entirely, no academics.</p> <p>4. Question: How we will ensure equity of SEL support for ALL students given different competency levels of teachers, interest and curiosity levels of educators and variance in district development and implementation of trauma informed supports and SEL curriculum? Please let me know if there is any way I can be of service or help in this process of determining the path forward for school reopening in Delaware. Kindest regards,</p>
5/21/2020	Jason P. Casper	<p>Good evening, One of the many issues we are facing in Delaware as a result of the school closures is the backlog of students from the 2019-2020 school year who completed the classroom portion of Driver Education but did not complete the actual driving portion of the course.</p> <p>As a certified driver education teacher in the State of Delaware, as an active member of both the DDSEA and the ADTSEA, I would recommend having a Driver Education teacher on your panel.</p> <p>Due to state laws Driver Education is offered to all students who reside in Delaware, regardless of where they attend school. This includes home-schooled students, as well as private and public school students. We need to come up with ways in which we can provide this service to our sophomores in Delaware and incorporate best practices for the behind the wheel experience. For this reason, I would propose a mandate of wiping down the interior of the vehicle after each student's lesson, as well as making certain that the students are provided with the most current instruction as we cannot lower the standard for making them the safest drivers that we possibly can.</p> <p>If you wish, I would gladly offer some advice as it has been shared with me by ADTSEA. My contact information is below. I am using my gmail account, as I currently teach in Christina, but due to the financial crisis of the district, my contract with them ends soon. Until I secure a more permanent position, I would suggest using my Jason.P.Casper@gmail.com account. Thank you and stay safe,</p>
5/21/2020	Cathy Osberg Codding	<p>I don't want schools reopened this coming fall. My grand babies aren't expendable nor your testing requisites for whether or not they will become ill and potentially die. Figure out online schooling and how parents can be properly supported. I also don't believe it's emotionally healthy for children to see their teachers wearing masks and being told to socially distance from each other. Respectfully,</p>

5/21/2020	Shannon Mihalyi	<p>As a kindergarten teacher and a parent of both a 3rd grader and HS age student I feel as though students should return to school with either a half day schedule or a block type schedule to help reduce the amount of people in the building and allow for disinfecting of buildings. This would also decrease the amount of students on school buses.</p> <p>For example half of the students would attend on Monday and Tuesday the other half would attend on Thursday and Friday allowing Wednesdays to be held as a disinfecting day and allow virtual teaching on this day.</p> <p>I also feel as though hand sanitizer should be post at all the entrances to the building as well as classroom throughout.</p>
5/21/2020	Liz Donaway	<p>ASK parents if they want to transport their children to and from school. Many may now want to, to avoid contact issues on busses. This may assist with some of the transportation issues and result in less children needing bus transportation.</p>
5/21/2020	Jason Hill	<p>Open immediately, do not follow the democrats plan to KILL THE ECONOMY, our kids can't afford to fall behind. In the 70's our schools were rated #1 in the world, now the FEDS got involved we are not even in the top ten, FACT!</p>
5/21/2020	Virginia Cooper	<p>As a parent with a chronic health condition that has children attending school in Delaware (Ceaser Rodney District). I would like to see a Year-Round school year adopted. Some of the positive effects of a year round school year is that it stems summer learning loss. It also helps working parents manage schedules. Recovering from this pandemic economically will be a task for many families. Our kids have taken a hit in their learning. I think the pros from year round learning (there are many more than I have listed) can help our children get back on track.</p>
5/21/2020	Kevin Brackney	<p>I think half of an individual classroom physically attend school on Monday and Thursday. Then the other half of the individual classroom physically attend class on Tuesday and Friday. Wednesday would be a deep clean day. The days which the students don't physically attend school would be virtual school days. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p>
5/21/2020	Allison R. Kahn	<p>Hello, I am a parent of a Kindergartener at McIlvaine Early Childhood Center (CR District), and she enters first grade this fall at W.B. Simpson Elementary. She is enrolled in the Chinese Immersion program. First, I want to say how disappointed I am that I was unable to join the "Reopening Schools Working Groups" meeting today (May 21) at 2 p.m. Every time I tried to enter, it kicked me out. I wish there was more transparency with these meetings. GoTo Meeting was not the best platform for this size audience. I do have a suggestion for the reopening of schools this Fall 2020. That is why I wanted to attend the meeting virtually today. My suggestion comes from speaking with a physician who is caring for COVID-19 patients in Bayhealth Hospital, Kent Campus. I can put you in contact with the physician if you want further clarification from him or myself. Our proposal: Open schools in early August 2020. Have class run until Christmas. Even consider doing school 6 days a week Monday through Saturday if possible. The reason to power through to this point is that December/January is when flu season hits its peak. We need to prepare for a possible month or two-month long closing during the mid-winter point for flu and a COVID resurgence. Smaller class sizes are a great idea. However, I know logistically half-day classes are not feasible. That's why the physician and I came up with this possible solution. We need to basically power through for as long as we can until we hit a stopping point at flu season. The remote learning is only a Band Aid. We need an actual solution. That solution lies in longer days and longer weeks that start earlier in August and run for shorter periods. We need to consider taking a mid-winter break. Please let me know you read this email and are considering the proposal. The physician and I are happy to speak with whoever necessary to help with the situation. Thank you,</p>

5/21/2020	Barbara Dolt	Hello! I would ask that you please consider year-round school scheduling. There are many benefits to year round school, including reduced stress on students (by frequent breaks), reduced "summer slide" and most importantly, lowering capacity at any given time in the buildings. That lowered capacity is very much needed under Covid-19 guidelines for the health and safety of our citizens! The very long 12-week summer break could be used to have another "track" or two of students attending school while another track was on break. Why leave buildings sitting empty for months at a time? Many school districts all over the country already happily do this. I see it as an all around beneficial plan. Thank you for listening.
5/21/2020	Cindy Meisinger	Thank you so much for reaching out to the parents and the community for ideas on how to proceed with school. I was recently introduced to the idea of year round school using the track system. I personally feel this a brilliant idea. Not only does it reduce the amount of children in the buildings at any given time, allowing to more easily social distance and smaller classroom sizes, but it also gives children more frequent smaller breaks than one very long summer break. This would be a wonderful way for kids to get back to a "normal" way of school. I worry very much about some of the proposals I've seen from other states. My son has ODD, ADHD and anxiety. Routine is very crucial for him. With some of the proposed plans they are very sporadic and offer no consistency day to day. https://www.nayre.org/PDFs/Multi_Track_Calendars.pdf
5/21/2020	Desiree Henshaw	Good afternoon, I was given your email to send in this suggestion for the fall school session. Multi year track traditional school is used in many areas of the country to increase attendance. It can also be used to decrease the attendance in the building by 33%. This could help with the need to space students out. Here is a great piece on it. https://www.nayre.org/PDFs/Multi_Track_Calendars.pdf Thank you for your time!
5/21/2020	Shannon Schmidt	I am writing to express my concern over the reopening of schools in the fall. My son is special needs and will be entering kindergarten next year. He's in the special education program at CR. He receives speech and OT services. He also has many accommodations in his IEP. He needs to be in school 5 days a week. Zoom does not work for him. It does not hold his attention no matter how hard we try. His sessions currently are only 20 minutes. Also, masks just will not work for children. I will have a 5 year old with sensory issues and a 7 year old typical child. Neither can wear a mask all day. As horrible as it is, my typical child could continue to learn remotely. My son cannot. We have been very understanding that IEPs have been completely ignored. There was no way to plan for this. His school has tried to help but he is regressing so much. Your committee does actually have time to prepare for the fall, please don't let the special needs children in Delaware fall even further behind. They need to be the priority. They need to be in school every day. Also, please give teachers and parents ample time when you announce your decision. Many parents, myself included, may homeschool our children as a result of your decision. We need time to plan. That would be the absolute last resort for us. We love our schools, especially for my son. We hope we do not have to do that. Thank you for your time.

5/21/2020	Kimberly Johnson-Muffley	<p>First and foremost, thank you all for being proactive in your efforts to keep students safe when school reopens. I realize that you must receive monumental pressure on a daily basis from parents that want schools open ASAP. It seems to me that far too many residents have downplayed the severity of The Covid pandemic. Unfortunately, my sense is that even younger age groups are not taking this seriously enough. With that being said, as a family, we have been locked down since the pandemic started. We have taken every recommendation seriously and very much disagree with the individuals that have downplayed the severity. Our teenage son has asthma - it is imperative to us that we keep him safe. We are also believers in doing our part to keep EVERYONE safe. Our feelings on the reopening of schools this fall are very mixed. Yes, kids of all ages need their friends and the structured environment of school to help prepare them for college. But, as a very concerned parent, I worry due to how many kids have underlying conditions. Much like elementary school and middle school, the high school atmosphere has its own challenges to consider. Will teens truly take this seriously and obey the regulations that are set? If not, it puts all students at risk. We ask that you keep in mind while moving forward that an option be included for families that do not feel immediately comfortable sending their kids back, such as, allowing students with underlying conditions to continue virtually with the school district. In such chaotic times, it would be a very sad decision to have to pull students out of the district and opt to homeschool, particularly until a vaccine is proven safe and effective. We love the CHHS school district and very much want our son to continue his education there. But, as with anyone with an underlying condition, extra protection must be an option. Please consider all aspects while determining how to safely open. And I fully admit that I am on the fence with how to handle school reopening. Our son is everything to us, and the asthma aspect is very frightening. Thank you for your time, and know that we appreciate all of your efforts. Looking forward to the virtual meeting today.</p>
5/22/2020	Taryn Dalmasso	<p>First I'd like to say that I'm so happy there is a task force looking at this. I think it's very important that we get our kids back to school. Not just for the kids but also for the parents who need to get back to work as well. I know people will be concerned about having large groups together. One way to mitigate that is to split the kids into two groups and have kids go back part time. Examples are half in the morning and half in the afternoon. Or a rotating M/W/F one week and Tu/Th the following (the other half would go Tu/Th and M/W/F). I don't think masks would be a good idea as we don't know what long term mask wearing does for children. And they'll likely end up touching their face more while wearing a mask.</p>
5/22/2020	Lisa Haines	<p>I think multi track/year round school should be an option. Though I think there issues to be considered(families with multiple children, working 2 parent families, ELL, ETC) the benefits could outweigh the issues. We would have less retention issues. Students are more likely to thrive in this environment. I hope this is considered into your plans for the fall</p>
5/22/2020	Rohina Niamat	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am hoping someone is really reading my email. I recently saw the news of the meetings taking place about reopening schools in the fall. I have a 10 year old and as a parents I am very concerned and scared to send my child to school knowing that the virus will be still around. I understand some people are very eager to start everything back to normal.</p> <p>My idea is if you could possibly have schools online learning and in person classes. Parents who choose not to send their kids to school can choose online classes instead. This is also good for kids with underlying conditions. The parents should have the option of either sending their kids to in person school or choose to have them stay at home and do online classes.</p> <p>Your help in this matter means a lot to us.</p>

5/22/2020	Melissa Davenport	<p>Hello, I am the mother of three children -- ages 13, 11, and 8. I am writing on behalf of them with a few concerns. Please reopen schools in the fall. Online learning is leaving behind so many children, not just in learning but also development, socially, and opportunities. Many do not learn well online and have trouble staying on task. It can be difficult on parents with multiple children to have enough technology to get them connected and time to help all of them. This doesn't even mention those with learning disabilities that are being completely left out of the much-needed accommodations. As the weeks of online learning have drug on, attendance is falling. My daughter reports that as few as 7 students attend her Spanish class and a neighbor said that 4 students, including her daughter, were online for math class. If this continues in the fall, these children are going to be so far behind. We are failing a generation of children. Further, I'm concerned about the mental health of children. My 13-year-old daughter misses her friends and teachers so much and feels really sad and down. She is fortunate to have parents who are willing and able to chat with her about what is happening, but not all children have the support that they need. Many of my friends are also working parents (as am I) and trying to balance school and work and regular life needs... it's just so much. Too much. I recognize that Covid is serious, but there must be some creative ways for them to go to school. My 11-year-old just went through the difficult process of school choice and is able to go to her first-choice school... or maybe not. Starting middle school or high school online would be incredibly difficult and would make creating a school community almost impossible. Let's not forget mental health for the parents, as well. Not a day goes by that I don't hear from at least one other mom friend that they are stressed, anxious, and completely overwhelmed. The idea of more online school or a hybrid model gives them a stomach ache and leaves them feeling lost. Many friends have admitted to feeling depressed and a rise and hopelessness. We love our children and feel abandoned by a system that is supposed to help support us in the raising of our children into good adults. It's hard to hear the helplessness and sadness in my friends' voices, knowing that they are unable to give their children what they need educationally and socially. In regards to school, I'm concerned that the cure of closing is far worse than the virus. Missed learning, isolation, depression, interrupted work for parents. Many parents rely on school for childcare. If schools are opened at anything other than 100%, parents will still have to find childcare for their children. If the children are in daycares or similar... how is this different than being in school? Parents are already stressed and the economy is suffering. We cannot expect people to perform well when also trying to figure out when their child is to be in school and scrambling for childcare. This might seem like small concerns, but with jobs already being slashed and companies closing, it is imperative that we get the economy healthy again. Those that are distracted by finding childcare are at risk of being the first laid off. Those unable to go to work because lack of adequate childcare will find themselves added to the growing number of unemployed. I recognize that the virus is deadly to some. But poverty kills as well. How do we choose which populations to protect? Lastly, for many children school is a place of safety. Sadly, sometimes the only place of safety. We are failing children when we mandate them to be locked away with their abusers. I have linked several articles about this atrocity below. They can speak to this issue far better than I. We were told we were flattening the curve and giving our hospitals a chance to not be overwhelmed. We have done this. Do not move the goalposts. Do not keep heaping on time and staying closed until there's a vaccine. This is interminable and detrimental to so many. Even my friends who are doctors in hospitals are saying that keeping schools closed in the fall is too much. Please let me be able to tell my children that their government has heard their cries.</p>
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5/22/2020

Jennifer Spinks

It is critical to get Delaware's students physically back to school in September. Removing students from schools this past March has resulted in devastating consequences of epic proportions. Not only have students lost weeks of academic progress (we all know that remote learning isn't working for many students due to lack of technology, lack of support at home, etc) but more importantly, children's social and emotional well-being has been irreparably damaged. Many children in the state have been hurled into a state of pandemonium as they have been quarantined at home with parents whose lives have also been turned upside down. Some are being neglected/abused, some are going without basic needs being met, and we all know that learning is not a priority for a child when basic needs are not being met. Children desperately need the face to face interaction with their teachers as well as the social interaction with their peers and soon. The public health data has been clear that children are not a susceptible population. The elderly in nursing homes have accounted for some 60% of the deaths in Delaware so please do not create or implement policies as if children have been a vulnerable population when in reality they have not. As an administrator of an Early Learning center in the state of Delaware who has been consistently operating over the last 8-10 weeks through the pandemic, I can tell you it IS possible for children to be in a group learning environment with their teachers and peers successfully. With certain health/safety protocols in place, we have not experienced any cases of COVID-19 in our center by students or staff. This age group (infant through preschool) does not understand or typically practice "social distancing," yet they are all healthy and thriving (and so are my teachers and staff members). The following can be considered in order for K-12 students to return to school safely in September: 1-Reduce class sizes by having groups of children report on opposite days (The amount of in-person instructional hours currently required by Delaware students may have to be reduced in order for this option to be considered.) 2-Reduce class sizes by having groups of children report for opposite half days. (For example, half of a class could report 7:30am-11:30pm while the opposite half of the class could report 11:30am-3:30pm). As with item #1 above, required annual instructional hours required by the state would have to be reduced or could be satisfied by students doing remote learning during the half of the day they are not physically present in school. 3-Allow students with compromised immune systems to continue with a remote learning option (while allowing healthy students and staff to report physically to school). 4-Student temperatures can be taken upon arrival (as well as asking "Do you feel sick with a sore throat, cough, etc). 5-Hand sanitizer can be in place at the doorway of each classroom for students to use upon entering and exiting. 6-Teachers/Staff Members may choose to wear facial coverings if they choose (or if they consider themselves older or have an underlying health condition). 7-Students may choose to wear facial coverings if he/she desires (but please don't mandate this as it does tend to restrict breathing and cause great anxiety). 8-Materials/Belongings can be stored and assigned specifically to individual students so the sharing of materials/supplies would not take place. 9-Schools could enter an agreement with a company such as Orkin who now does "Vita-Cleans" in school classrooms which is a safe, mist type treatment to all surfaces that kills pathogens including COVID-19. This could be done after hours every 2 weeks (or as deemed necessary). 10-Desks could be placed 6 feet apart. 11-Students could be transported by their parents to/from school. If that's not possible, students can utilize transportation on school buses but be 1 per seat (there would be reduced numbers of children using buses because other families would be choosing to transport their own children). 12-Extended school year (year round school) might have to be considered if option #1 or #2 is considered in order to get in required instructional hours. While these are just some ideas to help students be able to physically return to school in the fall, I hope they will help generate additional ideas that can be considered. As the mother of a high school senior who has always played sports, I can also tell you that student athletes also need to be able to return to physical activities such as these as a healthy release of anxiety and energy as well as to have a chance to compete, improve their game, and prepare to play at the college level. Finally, as a Mom and educator, my son's senior year with homecoming, prom, sports, and graduation are things we have waited for all of his life. Please do not deprive him and others of this momentous school year. There are ways for students to return to school safely. Please explore these options and ideas to return some normalcy to the lives of Delaware children (and parents...who by the way have experienced a financial hit by having to pay for child care for their school age child for 3 and a half extra months due to students not being allowed to return to school). Please do not use a "one size fits all" policy for all schools in Delaware. Those of us in education know that best practice is always to individualize instruction based on the needs of students. Therefore, policies for elementary schools may not be best for high schools just as policies for a district in Wilmington may not be best for a district in Sussex. Please do not simply say "NO students can physically return to school in the fall." Instead consider that most students could return in some fashion with certain protocols in place. Thank you for your time and for the important work you're doing to bring children back to school in the fall.

5/22/2020	Jennifer O'Neill	<p>Hello work group members, My name is Jennifer O'Neill and I am an elementary school librarian in the Red Clay Consolidated School District. Thank you for serving on the work groups dedicated to creating a plan for the reopening of schools in the fall. I wanted to voice two major concerns that I think a lot of people (both educators and non-educators) have about possible reopening plans. The first concern I have is regarding a plan that would involve an alternating day schedule for students (i.e. half the students attend two days a week, the other half attend the other three days of the week). I do not see how this would be possible - on the students' "off" days, who will be watching them? Hopefully, by the fall, most parents will be back to work in a somewhat normal capacity. Not as many people will be working from home (if they even could work from home in the first place) and if students are home they would be unattended. This is a MAJOR concern for parents of elementary age children. The second concern I have is from an educator's perspective. If an alternating day schedule was put in place and teachers are still required to attend school every day, who is going to watch their OWN children on the days they don't have school? Will childcare be available for educators in this situation, which would be many I am assuming? This is also a HUGE concern. Thank you for reading my email and I hope you will take these concerns into consideration when creating a safe plan for the fall.</p>
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5/22/2020

Corrine
Sexton

Below are the thoughts/questions/concerns which I have surrounding school opening:
A. What will be done to keep faculty and staff safe? 1. daily temperature checks 2. wearing masks 3. social distancing between faculty
B. Below are four scenarios which I can imagine at this point, and questions for each:
Scenario #1: Everybody comes back at beginning of 2021 school year
Thinking of hall changes, how a school maintain social distancing during that time? There are students all over the place in close proximity at those times. What about the cafeteria schedule? How will social distancing be maintained? Will ill students be screened prior to entry? Will staff be screened prior to entry? How would classrooms be cleaned? When? Daily? Every two hours? How would that process be blended in with the educational process? What if teachers are in the age bracket and health conditions that multiply exposure risks? What if teacher has a husband/wife/partner who is in high-risk category? What do these teachers do? Do they work from home or in an isolated classroom?
Scenario 2: Will there be a morning and afternoon session, where a portion of the staff and faculty and students come in to school building? Cafeteria, buses, and hall changes - same questions as above. How would students receive lunch? Sack lunches adjusted for allergies? Will students be screened prior to entry? Will staff be screened prior to entry? How would classrooms be cleaned? When? Daily? Every two hours? How would that process be blended in with the educational process? What if teachers are in the age bracket and health conditions that multiply exposure risks? What if teacher has a husband/wife/partner who is in high-risk category? What do these teachers do? Do they work from home or in an isolated classroom?
Scenario 3: Will school remain closed during the entire 2021 academic year or a portion thereof? What determines that it is safe for students/faculty/staff to re-enter and resume normal instruction? How will instruction be accomplished? Working from home as now? No cafeteria, bus, hall questions if this scenario is the one DHS implements. What if teachers are in the age bracket and health conditions that multiply exposure risks? What if teacher has a husband/wife/partner who is in high-risk category? What do these teachers do? Do they work from home or in an isolated classroom?
Scenario 4: Will school reopen to faculty/staff, either for a limited time or for all year? Will Zoom instruction continue from the classroom? Not all students have access to Internet, this is true. However, most students have a cell phone. Could these arranged to provide access? What would the IT departments need to do to accomplish this? Would Internet providers continue to provide free/additional data for students and teachers? Who would be responsible for arranging this? No cafeteria, bus, hall questions if this scenario is the one implemented. What if teachers are in the age bracket and health conditions that multiply exposure risks? What if teacher has a husband/wife/partner who is in high-risk category? What do these teachers do? Do they work from home or in an isolated classroom? These are the questions which I have relating to the reopening process. Thank you for your attention to these questions. Respectfully submitted

5/22/2020	Teisha Fooks	<p>I know you are probably being bombarded with calls and emails regarding the task force in charge of deciding what is best in regards to opening up schools in the fall. I know you want to do what is best for all children. I have 2 children who will be attending Cooke Elementary (Hockessin) in the fall. I have a rising 4th grader (Wyatt) and a rising kindergartner (Oliver). Oliver has a rare auto immune disorder and is on immunosuppressants. He also has been admitted to the hospital 3 times this past year for respiratory distress, 2 of the 3 times it happened, he was at school. Oliver is considered high risk. He will likely suffer extreme complications if he were to be exposed to Covid19. Oliver's 2 specialist have said he might die from it. This is terrifying as a parent to hear. Most of the children who contract Covid 19 will have mild symptoms and will likely be fine. But this is not the case for all children or family's in the district. Wyatt would likely be fine, but if he brought it home and have it to his brother, Oliver would not be fine. There are many kids in the district who are at "high risk". Please don't forget about them. Please consider family's like mine when you consider your plans to reopen the district. Maybe let family's decide if they want to remote learn or learn in person? I know there are programs out there for homebound services, however only Oliver would qualify and Wyatt could still bring home something. Please have the schools follow the CDC recommendations about taking temperatures when students get to school and have students remain 6 feet apart. I know logistically this would be extremely difficult but please consider it. Maybe to help make the space for the distancing, 1/2 of the class can go to school for 2 days and the other 1/2 of the school can go another 2 days. In the days they are not at school physically, perhaps they could have online or remote learning. Being at home all of the time its very difficult. We have not left our house or yard for anything. The kids miss their friends but they understand why it has to be this way. I would love to talk with you if you have and questions. Thank you for taking the time to read this.</p>
5/22/2020	Wanda Williams	<p>I think the state should remember that kindergarten used to be half day. My idea is to reopen kindergarten, having A days and B days; bring in half the students on A days for 2 1/2 hours in the morning and half the students in the afternoon for 2 1/2 hours; until we can return full time, full capacity Thank you,</p>
5/22/2020	Jeannine Deckers	<p>To Whom It May Concern,</p> <p>If students have to engage in remote learning this fall, would it be possible if teachers could teach remotely from their school buildings, inside their classrooms? Social distancing would still be maintained, however, this would allow for teachers to effectively teach in an appropriate environment with all of their materials available to them.</p> <p>In this model, teachers would be by themselves in the classroom and would be required to wear masks if they need to leave their rooms for any reason.</p> <p>This is just an idea that my colleagues and I have discussed during these past few months.</p> <p>Thank you for giving me an opportunity to share my thoughts with you.</p>
5/22/2020	Jennifer Baczewski	<p>Schools should remain closed or partially closed in the fall. Students should be able to access educational content via the Internet.</p> <p>It isn't possible to social distance in a classroom. Even if theoretically you can space out 30 students, the reality of that is unlikely. It is difficult without social distancing to seat kids so they can see the board, so there is space for demonstrations & activities, so there is room for the desks & file cabinets. Not all classrooms have the same furnishings.</p> <p>Kids & teachers don't have time between classes to wash their hands. Schools are dirty places. Nothing gets scrubbed clean - ever.</p>

5/23/2020	Leigh Raymer	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>I am writing in regards to opening schools this fall. I believe that we have to watch the numbers of Covid-19 first to insure opening schools is even possible. I read the article today about Indian River's Superintendent pressing for schools to open, but there has to be a protocol. I have a five year old starting kindergarten this fall on an IEP. I think social distancing, as well as wearing a face mask to school (all day) will be much harder to understand than class on Zoom.</p> <p>Zoom is a hard concept but not far from FaceTime and he has been progressing well with his speech therapy through Zoom.</p> <p>I am also a paraprofessional in the Smyrna School District. I miss our kids terribly but fear congregating 600 children in a building during flu/cold season & now Covid-19. Thinking 600 kids means we are in contact with at least 600 families if not more everyday. If numbers are not on a steep decline in September this is a scary predicament for myself & my child.</p> <p>Do I have any ideas? I heard one that sounded interesting but I'm not sure all of the perimeters that the state is willing and able to work within. The idea was allowing middle & high school to continue online for now and use all the buildings to house elementary in smaller settings. This would mean lunch in the room, creative recess access & limited movement throughout the school.</p> <p>I am very confident you will handle this amazingly and keep everyone's best interest in mind. I felt the need to express my concern because I may regret not having said anything at all.</p> <p>Stay safe,</p>
5/25/2020	Kimberly Johnson-Muffley	<p>Hello,</p> <p>Following is a list from the school District that I attended growing up in New Jersey. I hope that somebody reads this because it has 91 things to consider before school districts should open. This may be extremely vital to the school task force that you have set up. I am hearing more and more friends say that they will make the decision to homeschool if need be. As a very concerned parent, I hope that DE considers all of these points as well. Sent an email last week with some additional things to consider but I have no idea if anyone is even reading the emails.</p> <p>https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bTONFDDBEiOpxnWtbBbUN7cDSwrTj_dRK/view?fbclid=IwAR3JD-AFI7whMG7mwLsRRnQa1CQNY5JRNf-H_KwS45ve9U7bAj4ijfzTogA</p>
5/26/2020	Margaret Heffernan	<p>Hi,</p> <p>I am a special education teacher at Bush Early Education Center in Brandywine School District. I have two comments/questions regarding school reopening.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please take into consideration our littlest learners, and those with special needs. Some restrictions will be difficult for preschool students/teachers to follow, such as wearing mask, staying six feet away from each other, practicing good personal hygiene, etc. 2. All of my students are currently eligible to receive summer school services (either ESY or 12 month programming). I am also scheduled to work summer school. Please have summer school services in mind (we were scheduled to start at the end of June). <p>Thank you very much for your efforts to get everything ready for our students and staff!</p>

5/26/2020

Beth
Kopicki,
M.Ed.

Dear Committee,

Our students have been traumatized, a whole country worth of schoolchildren whose lives have been severely disrupted. Some may need to relearn social and school skills. Others may have bigger emotional needs. Nothing will be served, in my opinion, by rushing to reopen and then having to close again due to pandemic problems. Take it slow and easy. Be thoughtful.

Some ideas:

-work on an every other or every third day schedule to have fewer students in the buildings.

-pick a few critical needs target groups and start with them in school while others continue remotely.

-PLEASE, above all, when planning for next year consider trauma informed practices for all.

-let go of the old....too much testing, curriculum pacing, excessive meetings. Instead, focus on the needs of students and staff. We are moving forward, not going back to "normal". There is no normal, and this pandemic has exposed many cracks in the old way of doing things. This is a golden opportunity to reinvent public education in Delaware. Get creative, be compassionate and run with it! You have an excellent cast of characters in your school personnel. They did an amazing job over these past months.

I am a retired teacher with special education K-12, elementary and ESL certifications. I am highly qualified in several other subject areas, and have been trained in trauma informed practices. Please let me know if I can help in any way. Bless you all in this hard, hard IMPORTANT work you are doing. Stay safe and sane!

All best wishes,

5/27/2020

Mrs.
Kimberly
Heeman,
M.Ed.

Good afternoon,

I work as a special education coordinator education and I am a mom to two boys in elementary school.

I have lots of concerns about my boys going back to school and have concerns for myself as well as I work in a large building in Wilmington that hosts two schools as well as other offices. Personally, I have high blood pressure and asthma. I am most concerned about my mom who has an autoimmune disorder and getting it from being exposed to us. I will keep my concerns brief as I expect you will have lots of these to read.

1-How will social distancing work in small sized classrooms?

2- Are you going to pay custodians overtime for all the extra cleaning they are going to have to do?

3-How can you expect kids to wear masks most of the day?

4-In addition to learning you will have to teach hygiene and make sure it's enforced

5-What if someone in your school gets it? Will you have online plans ready if school has to close down?

6- What will happen to school personnel 65 years or older with pre existing conditions?

7- How will teachers be kept safe? What about copy rooms and meetings that need to happen?

8- How will you prevent students from interacting with each other?

9- If you have a staggered school day, how will you schedule parents with kids in multiple grade levels when they have to work too?

10- What about families who refuse to send kids to school without a vaccine?

5/27/2020	Gloria L. Ho, LCSW	<p>Hello, I am a School Social Worker in Cape Henlopen School District and would like my comments shared with the Health and Wellness Committee to take in consideration as they plan for school re-entry.</p> <p>We need to look at efforts to support tele-mental health for all children who need it upon re-entering. In order for school social workers, psychologist, and counselors to continue to provide mental health support we need more training in providing services remotely.</p> <p>The pandemic has really emphasized the inequities in our student population. There needs to be greater coordination with clinical and community based services to ensure mental health care is provided for all children regardless of income and ability to afford co-pays. Right now temporarily, major insurance providers are waiving co-pays for mental health sessions, but this needs to continue during re-entry phase to support our children and families and pushed at the state level.</p> <p>We also need to address gaps in service delivery for students who are undocumented and students whose parents make just above the line to qualify for Medicaid but can't afford private insurance coverage.</p> <p>Thank you so much for sharing and I appreciate all the committee is doing.</p>
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5/27/2020	Brandon Bushong	<p>Delaware schools should reopen on time, 5 days per week with zero restrictions.</p> <p>Consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nationwide, there are twelve total COVID-19 deaths aged 14 and under. • In Delaware, there are 0 COVID-19 deaths aged 17 or under. • Last week, the CDC reported transmission through surfaces is less of a threat than originally thought. From their website: "It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes. This is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads..." <p>Other countries are also leading the way on research of transmission.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Switzerland, the health ministry's infectious diseases chief Daniel Koch said scientists had concluded that young children do not transmit the virus. (https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-52470838) • Sweden kept schools open for students under the age of 16. To quote Sweden's chief epidemiologist "there is very little evidence that it spreads from children to adults." (https://www.dispatch.com/opinion/20200519/swedish-model-holds-coronavirus-lessons-for-america) • In Germany, four medical associations have called for the immediate and complete opening of kindergartens and schools. In their statement, the German Society for Hospital Hygiene, the German Society for Pediatric Infectiology, the German Academy for Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine and the Professional Association of Pediatricians in Germany say: "Day care centers, kindergartens and primary schools should be reopened as soon as possible", and "unrestricted". On the controversial question of how contagious children are, the authors write: "Numerous findings speak against an increased risk of infection from children." Various studies and evaluations "provide an increasingly conclusive picture that children in the current Covid 19 pandemic, in contrast to the role in the transmission of influenza, do not play an outstanding role in the dynamics of spread." (https://www.spiegel.de/panorama/bildung/corona-krise-mediziner-fordern-komplette-schul-und-kita-oeffnung-a-4d1a0336-680d-4259-818e-7a263732f811-amp?__twitter_impression=true) <p>COVID-19 is NOT like the Flu when it comes to children. If it were, the past 3 months 1000 children & 200 infants would have died due to the coronavirus.</p> <p>Additionally, any consideration to stagger school days for kids is a absolute disaster that has zero scientific evidence to support it. Staggering school days, limiting recess & keeping children in the same classroom all day is not "following the science," it's simply following a blind philosophy of group-think & fear. Anxiety & suicide rates among youth has skyrocketed the past 3 months and any decision to continue such a disastrous policy to not return to 100% normal will only continue to increase this mental health crisis. Furthermore, the strain on families to manage a staggered schedule is literally impossible to fathom. How would a family be able to reasonably manage full time employment? How are families expected to function?</p> <p>We have learned a lot about COVID-19 over the past 75 days. My expectation is the Dept. of Education will follow the current data and not the hysteria from February & March.</p>
5/27/2020	Kimberly Kosa	<p>Hello There,</p> <p>My main concern is I am hearing about other states reopening plans. Some schools have already decided to only have certain students go back on certain days and not on all days. Three days of online 2 days in school and the next week vice versa. I have two children in different grades. When I have to go back to work on the off days who will stay with my children and make sure they are participating in online learning? They are too old for day care and this is another added expense. If I have to come home from work and teach and make dinner them from 5:30 on they will be up all night . Whatever plan that is the choice it has to work for all family types.</p>

5/27/2020

Edris
Harrell,
Ph.D.

To the reopening teams:

The educational community is very dismayed by the lack of representation on the three work groups. Only one school counselor and one school nurse are represented, and no school psychologists. I would have also liked to see more staff who represent those of us who work with preschool students.

As a school psychologist, I have many concerns/issues that the teams need to address:

- September 30th count will seriously disadvantage our preschool programs. We have not been able to conduct many evaluations of preschool children, and we will not be able to get them all done before Sept 30th. This will then mean that we will not have the amount of staff hired to service all of those children by the time we do get them into special education services/school. The funding cutoff date should be moved or waived for that age group at the very least.
- Working with preschool children is very different than working with school age children. Social distancing is much more difficult to do.
- Assessing preschool children is also very different than assessing school age children. I cannot wear a mask without possibly seriously compromising the validity of our assessments because the children will feel uncomfortable with an adult in a mask. Standards for assessments need to be considered.
- We have many staff whose offices are in shared spaces. For example, about a dozen occupational and physical therapists share a basement room in my school, where they write reports and plan their therapy sessions. Professional staff who are not necessarily based in a classroom should be allowed to work from home when they are not having to work directly with students.
- IEP & staff meetings are also high-risk situations, where we are all seated in a conference room. We again should be allowed to participate in these meetings via Zoom, whether from our office or from our home. Electronic signatures should continue to be allowed.
- When families and children come into our schools for assessments, will there be a screening or testing before they arrive?
- Will the state provide us with more resources to clean our materials on a regular basis? Every time I finish an assessment I will need to thoroughly clean my test materials and toys.

Those are all of the issues that I can think of right now! :)

5/27/2020	Jay Hasek	<p>Hello,</p> <p>My name is Jay Hasek. I am the center director of Mathnasium located in Wilmington in the Brandywine School District. COVID-19 has affected our community greatly, and perhaps we could help with the increasing load on our education system. My question is:</p> <p>Is the DDOE open to working with private education businesses to help share the load of the increasing demands on our school system or support any gaps that may have been created as a result of closings?</p> <p>We are an approved vendor already, as we have worked with some students in the Brandywine School District in the past. We have also tutored students in lieu of summer school for credit. We would be happy to discuss any options if the department thinks we could be of service as we would like to be part of the solution in overcoming the stresses on education that lie ahead of us. Sincerely,</p>
5/27/2020	Wendy Strauss	<p>To Whom It May Concern,</p> <p>Being GACEC does not have a seat at the table we wanted to make sure some of our concerns are heard at this time and discussed during the planning stages. We understand this is really a multi faceted is due and we will try to focus on our constituents for the most part. I know we have many questions or concerns but I will send just a few at this time.</p> <p>Once you start meeting, I would you ask that you discuss issues that impact all students but particularly students with disabilities. How will the districts handle the busing situation, especially for those individuals that are in wheelchairs and will need their chairs to be tied down. What precautions will be in place?</p> <p>Also, if recommendations are broad for school reopening and there is a school within a district that works with students that could be considered medically fragile, what will the recommendations look for "our students" or the special schools(for example Charlton, Leach and Ennis etc.)</p> <p>When reopening, the districts need to be ready to handle all the anxiety that will go along with that. Our typical students will be anxious but more importantly will be the angst of our students with disabilities. We already do not have enough counselors that are trained to council individuals on the spectrum. Having said that, we need to be mindful of the parents of our children with disabilities because they too are going to be anxious. Also, the teachers are most likely going to have high anxiety for many reasons. How are we as a state going to deal with the mental health issues that are going up go hand in hand with reopening the schools.</p> <p>As questions, concerns, suggestions or solutions come by way I will be sending them to you.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to being on the virtual meetings. Hope you and your families are staying safe and healthy. Best regards,</p>

5/27/2020	Deanna Bilecki	<p>I currently teach 1st G in Red Clay.</p> <p>In order for All students to be served across the state, it would be wise for every school district to have a distance learning plan in place anytime that could cause school closings for an extended period of time.</p> <p>-It would be wise to be proactive rather than reactive for all school districts to have a plan ready to serve students that are sick, quarantined or families that aren't ready to send their child to school included.</p> <p>This directive, support and guidance should come from DOE, including any funds that may be necessary to make this come to fruition. Please feel free to contact me further regarding comments. Regards,</p>
5/27/2020	Mary L. Grimes	<p>Thank You for allowing public suggestions to this very difficult transition.</p> <p>We all have different views, needs and expectations for how the 20-21 school year should unfold.</p> <p>My position is that of a Grandmother with 2 children entering Kindergarten, 1 in elementary school, 2 in middle school and 1 in High School (a sophomore).</p> <p>Schools have always prided themselves in being a safe haven for children of all religions, nationalities and economic status. This should be no different. It is imperative that all children feel safe with the decisions made by the adults that stand behind them.</p> <p>Since the close of our schools in March All of my Grandchildren have struggled with the online learning. Lack of one on one interaction with their teachers, lack of camaraderie, extra curricular activities, Student Council, Young Business Persons, sports, arts, music and more. Of course this can easily be attributed to the change itself, the lack of normalcy etc. Leading me to my suggestion.</p> <p>This must send our children into a more normal existence with limitations of course provided the threat of infection remains great.</p> <p>Kindergartners, elementary, middle schools and high schools alike must not be asked to wear a mask. These children are the least likely to succumb to this virus. It is far to important to social development for them not to experience the kindness of facial expressions. The nurturing feel of a loving smile. And, certainly when needed the stern look.</p> <p>Make class sizes smaller. Hire additional teachers. This is where stimulus dollars belong. To our Future!!!</p> <p>Of course for a plan B i would suggest split shift by homerooms. Monday - Tuesday Wednesday week 1 "A" through "L" attend school with Thursday and Friday online. "M" through "Z" attend school Thursday, Friday and Monday, online Tuesday and Wednesday and so on. This would limit the number of children in school at one time. However, it does create problems for working parents, with child care etc.</p> <p>I have heard rumors of not changing classes, same teacher all day, no lunch no recess etc. This type of action could cause more psychological damage in these children then we will know for many many years. They deserve better.</p> <p>This is very difficult for all of us. We are in it together. I hope we will all come out of it together ON TOP. Respectfully Submitted</p>

5/27/2020	I. Sutton	<p>Good morning. Here are some concerns that I have. COVID-19 hasn't been contained. Even if numbers in Delaware are lower than neighbors in Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and New York, if you open up the building for all students, teachers and staff, infection will go up. Why? Because in order to get numbers to go down and/or fall-off, the CDC has already released information that large groups cannot gather. Why can't large groups gather? Because student A could go to a highly infected state to visit grandparent A on Saturday and grandparent A could be asymptomatic, and started showing some symptoms, such as not being able to smell or taste, but may think it's a side-effect of medication. Student A maybe considered a carrier, where they are exposed, but may come back positive on Monday morning to the school building, but within 7 days become negative. Within a week, how many students and staff would student A have been in contact with if the building is open? Hundreds depending on the building count.</p> <p>Remote learning needs to continue until a vaccine is available for students and staff to have access to. That date was January 2021. I think to give all students and staff the chance to get proper medication or a vaccine, students shouldn't be able to enter the building until February or March 2021. Remote learning needs to be tweaked, to where, students who have access to educational where teachers can see login info, should be utilized more or if packets are given out, then, parents can drop off completed packets to a drop box in front of or in the lobby area of each building. There could be a cut off for packets and the grading day could be pushed out by a few weeks, because then any risk of contamination would be obsolete by then. If parents don't have the Internet or it's acting up, there could be a phone number via conference call for students and parents to meet, where the teacher could go over information, concerns, etc. Comcast Essentials info still should be given to any parent in need of free Internet without service. Several companies have stepped up to provide free hot spots for the Internet too.</p> <p>If there are 20 kids or 22 kids in one class and two adults, how can you have desks six feet apart or practice social distancing? How can kids with asthma safely wear masks in a building all day, and then there may be a kid or several kids with compromised immune systems? How do we protect them, if another kid or staff member, just visited Missouri or California where the infection rates are sky rocketing?</p> <p>If parents need childcare because they are considered essential, then emergency childcare needs to be set up through the State at specific sites that agree to open. School kids and kids not school aged, could attend if the parents job is open. Have the parent bring a letter and let the centers get the supplies they need thru donations, or Go Fund Me, or grants from the government.</p> <p>When the building does open in 2021, classroom Paras may have to be brought back, i.e. Paras assigned to a whole class (within still having the one child, two or more that a Para is assigned to work with). Classes with big numbers need to be split. There needs to a CNA working with each Nurse in the building, buildings with over 400 students, need 2 Nurses and a Nurse Intern or CNA working on site with the Nurses. Hallway monitors need to be brought back, to make sure when kids come out the bathroom that they washed their hands. (Hand sanitizer will not work for kids with atopic dermatitis or eczema, so aloe sanitizing hand wipes without alcohol is a great option).</p> <p>There needs to be donations for bleach/Clorox wipes, paper towels, aloe wipes, sanitizer from the community because we don't know a parent's financial situation. Hopefully these suggestions help. I am awaiting the day when the COVID-19 pandemic is over.</p>
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5/27/2020	Dr. Cheri Zatzko-Coseglia	<p>Two Questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If you know that your child is living with at risk people will they allow remote learning to continue until a cure or treatment is available and still get the credit from the Delaware Department of Education/their School District? 2. If you do a hybrid form of learning with remote learning for didactic classes will you have an alternating schedule for the performance portion or laboratory classes available for the students on alternating days? <p>Thank you very much,</p>
5/28/2020	Ruth Lavelle	<p>As the group considers reopening plans, please consider the impact on students in vocational-based 18-21 year old entitlement programs under IDEA whose work-based learning happens largely in the community and not within the walls of traditional school buildings. School building restrictions/closures should not drive their delivery of service if/when those community-based employment settings are open.</p> <p>If teachers/staff are delivering services remotely during building closures; allow them to pivot that delivery into community-based employment settings as those settings safely open. Alternatively, consider contracting with DDDS/DVR service providers to meet those students' work-based learning needs in the interim.</p> <p>Finally, given the pause in the ability to meet the needs of many students with special needs, please also pause the ticking entitlement clock on the delivery of FAPE (free and appropriate public education). The COVID-closure impact on all students is significant but it is exponential on those with special needs. Extend entitlement a year (or extent of closure) to compensate for lost instruction and remediation. Federal CARES Act funding can support. Thank you,</p>
5/28/2020	Brandon Bushong	<p>Schools in Delaware were open until Friday, March 13th.</p> <p>COVID-19 testing across the country has clearly proven the virus arrived in the United States sometime in December 2019 / January 2020.</p> <p>Per the WHO, the outbreak was declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on January 30, 2020.</p> <p>This means we had kids in full classrooms for at least 2 months with zero outbreaks.</p> <p>There is no reason to dramatically change the structure of our schools in the fall. Schools should open in September and operate exactly the way they did in January & February.</p>

5/28/2020	Anthony G. Urti, MA, JD	<p>Good morning,</p> <p>These working group meetings seem to aimed at only public/charter schools despite the state's significant private school presence.</p> <p>It is exceedingly unhelpful to keep private schools in the dark about the “how” of returning to school in the fall. Gov. Carney, do not forget about the private and independent schools that account for the education of tens of thousands of K-12 Delaware students. Do not fail or neglect to see the need for specific guidance and common-sense – but as minimally restrictive as possible in the legitimate interest of public health – parameters so that we can plan to have our students back in our classrooms and hallways come August or September. If specifically tailored parameters are set forth, I’ve little doubt that we will creatively and speedily be back up and running with some semblance of pre-COVID-19 normalcy.</p> <p>Grace and Peace,</p>
5/28/2020	Ryan Altenbaugh	<p>As a father of three children, I understand how important education is to developing minds, providing a regular routine, and building social skills. The CDC and multiple health organizations have verified that children are the least affected by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, possibly less than the seasonal flu. Therefore, it is no reason not to open schools as long as there is a reasonable policy for reducing the spread of germs that doesn't impact learning or socializing.</p> <p>Our schools are more than capable of teaching good hygiene and regularly disinfecting surfaces, as they have done every flu season for decades. It should be a rare occasion that an entire school needs to shut down for longer than a week, and only if a critical amount of students and teachers are at home sick.</p> <p>Thank you, I think we can be safe and still provide world class education to build our future as a community. Very Respectfully,</p>

5/28/2020	Shirin Skovronski	<p>The article below makes some very good points about why we need more counseling services now that Covid 19 has hit this country. The best point made in the article is that we are already understaffed in counseling departments, with only enough staffing for academic counseling needs, so we are always overwhelmed by the amount of work we have due to having to also serve mental health needs. With current funding, I don't see districts adding counselors. It is up to the State to decide to fund us and require a certain number of counselors per school.</p> <p>thanks,</p> <p>Shirin</p> <p>https://www.lessonsforSEL.com/post/why-every-school-must-have-a-social-emotional-learning-plan-prior-to-reopening</p>
5/28/2020	Ms. Tamara Walker	<p>Good morning,</p> <p>Thank you for holding the working groups. Here a couple of questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Will students be tested for COVID-19 before returning back to school? 2. Will staff be tested for COVID-19 before returning back to school? 3. Will daily temperatures be taken for anyone who enters the building (students, teacher, staff, parents, etc.)? 4. What happens to the school when a person is tested positive with COVID-19 after school is opened in progress? <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>
5/28/2020	Wendy Giris	<p>I have a few questions:</p> <p>How do you keep elementary school students socially distant when taking into account the size of classrooms, the number of kids in a classroom, and the lack of extra room in some schools?</p> <p>Will teachers be responsible for sanitizing classroom bathrooms after each student or sanitizing the classroom after lunch?</p> <p>Will all be required to wear masks to reduce the chance of spread?</p> <p>What considerations will be made for teachers who are 60+ or have compromised immune systems?</p> <p>What consideration will be made for children with compromised immune systems? Thank you,</p>

5/28/2020	Wendy Giris	<p>I do have one more question,</p> <p>How will transportation work? Students don't stay in their bus seats now, and there are 2-3 in a seat. How will you socially distance them? Will parents be required to drive students to school instead?</p>
5/28/2020	Bridget Palmer	<p>Please consider an elective remote learning option for immune compromised children (such as Type 1 diabetics) as well as for siblings in the same household until an effective treatment plan is identified or a vaccine is available.</p> <p>I'm available to discuss at your convenience.</p>
5/28/2020	Bernadette Iulucci	<p>Thank you for setting up such important committees!</p> <p>I work with Deaf/HH students and adults and we all would appreciate a platform that is accessible....webex is not the best place for captioning or interpreting. Zoom is much better. Also...clear masks are concerns for students who lip read. And, the Deaf School has many fragile students with multiple health concerns.</p> <p>Please let me know how I can help support these groups with ideas to support our deaf/hh population. Thank you,</p>
5/28/2020	Kimberly Barbato	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I am concerned about whether or not the product of these workgroups will be mandatory or will just be guidelines. 2. Please take into consideration that there are many teachers who teach in one district and have their own children attending another district. Teachers should not have to choose between their job (which puts food on the table) and their children. If each district is allowed to make vastly different plans, then teachers can be put in a very difficult situation.
5/28/2020	Vanessa Stansbury	<p>If schools re-open however a family feels uncomfortable about the safety of their children or family members who have compromised immune systems, will there be an alternative option for education for those families. Will documentation be required?</p> <p>If schools reopen however a family does not agree (whether or not they have families members will compromised immune system) are there provisions made for them.</p>

5/28/2020	Mr. Maxwell Dabby	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am a music teacher @ POLYTECH High School. Please consider nominating a music/arts specialist that can help guide school districts in conducting music classes(specifically ensemble classes, choir, band, orchestra) so that students can still participate without risking their health.</p> <p>If these working groups can come up with safe guidelines for school districts to follow, it will greatly help music teachers so that we do not have to advocate for our students by ourselves.</p> <p>Consider choosing a member of the Delaware Music Educator's Association to represent music teachers in the state. We are worried about conducting our musical enrichment throughout this pandemic. Students rely on these ensemble classes for their mental and emotional health as it is a perfect creative outlet and an opportunity for students to develop positive relationships.</p>
5/28/2020	Dr. Lauren E. Conrad	<p>Good Afternoon,</p> <p>How do we ensure the support and advocacy for Non-Traditional classrooms such as Gym, Instrumental Music, Choral Music, Art, Theater? Typically these classes are large in size and hold many students who desperately want to be there. It is critical that these classes have a voice and are not lost in this process.</p>
5/28/2020	Amanda Backof M.S. CCC-SLP	<p>As a speech pathologist with severe asthma, I asking that you please consider teachers' health as well as students when making your decision to reopen. Working with students with autism, I am acutely aware of the fact that our students do not maintain personal space and can become severely dysregulated without movement breaks. Following the cdc guidelines will not work for them.</p> <p>Based on the following research, teachers and staff will need appropriate PPE. We will not be able to purchase these items on our own as we do with other school supplies.</p> <p>Thank you in advance for your dedication and careful planning to get us back into our schools!</p> <p>https://science.sciencemag.org/content/early/2020/05/27/science.abc6197</p> <p>Reducing transmission of SARS-CoV-2 Science Airborne transmission was determined to play a role during the SARS outbreak in 2003 (1, 4).However, many countries have not yet acknowledged airborne transmission as a possible pathway for SARS-CoV-2 ().Recent studies have shown that in addition to droplets, SARS-CoV-2 may also be transmitted through aerosols. science.sciencemag.org</p>

5/28/2020	Woody Woodruff	<p>Dear reopening committee, Please explain how a school can reopen, serve the needs of our community and still keep the students and staff healthy and safe?</p> <p>We are supposed to keep socially distant- 6 feet apart. How do we do this with an average class of 30 plus students in a 400 sq ft room? How do 1000 or more students move through cramped hallways to change classes. How do you encourage hand washing when most classrooms have no sink and many of the sinks that do exist don't work. Who provides materials everyday for students who arrive empty handed. Loaning a pencil or sharing a set of marker is no longer an option under CDC guidelines. How are lunches/study halls/gym/chorus/band going to be handled? Who is cleaning up and sanitizing the classroom after each class? Who is paying for sanitizer and cleanser needed to do this necessary task? How can you require students to wear masks or other protective gear when they won't follow guidelines regarding hats, hoodies and other clothing issues? How do separate students on a bus? Will there be bus monitors enforcing seating guidelines? What happens when they are ignored by the riders? These, and hundreds if not thousands of questions need to be answered before the State DOE and school districts even consider reopening! We are not ready now, nor do I see us being ready in the near future. Please make sure you are opening school, not Pandora's box when we return this fall. Yours in Teaching,</p>
5/28/2020	Dawn Alvord	<p>Hello:</p> <p>I am writing today to voice my concerns. I am a parent of 2 school aged boys within the Brandywine School District. I am also, an older mom with a husband who has heart problems. I am asking kindly that there be a free cyber alternative for parents to choose if they wish. I am aware of Delaware's homeschool laws but am most concerned that an appropriate curriculum be provided for my child. This is offered in neighboring states such as Pennsylvania. I believe the best we can do is give parents the choice to make the right decision for their kids based on their family situation in these times. Finally, no matter what option is offered please base it on actual instruction from teachers as this has been sorely missing from our current remote learning. Thank you for your attention.</p>
5/28/2020	Gwen Clark, RN, BSN	<p>Coming from a special needs school in Kent County (CRSD, John S. Charlton), I am concerned about PPE for nursing, support staff, teachers, paras, etc., our students do not have the capacity to understand as far as cognitive/physical ability of the implications of safety and protection. Please respond.</p> <p>"You cannot educate a child who is not healthy; you cannot keep a child healthy who is not educated." ~Dr. Jocelyn Elders</p>
5/28/2020	Tarnise@aol.com	<p>As a parent of a child who attends a private school, why aren't there any representation from any on this board? I would think in a time like this everyone needs to come together to offer diverse ideas for the safe return to school. Or creative alternatives while we wait it out.</p>

5/28/2020

Sarah Green

1. Students in high poverty schools will be disproportionately set back from school closures. How will DOE ensure that each district spends CARES funding accordingly, with higher needs schools receiving more proportionally than suburban, high performing schools?
2. When will we see data on which students have and which have not been consistently reached during school closures?
3. What extra supports will be available during the school day for those students who were not supported during school closures?
4. Considering the different home environments, levels of access and support that students have been experiencing over an extended time, what strategies are being proposed to help teachers provide more individualized education to every student?
5. Many high poverty schools do not have the same access to gifted and talented resources as suburban schools. Will there be recommendations for gifted and talented services to be available in every school, not to serve only those who pass a certain level of a standardized test, but to serve those students who are excelling compared to their classmates?
6. Why have some schools who already have 1 to 1 devices for students not distributed those devices?
7. Per The Education Trust's recommendations - 5 Things State Leaders Should Do to Ensure Federal Stimulus Funds for Schools Are Used Equitably - how will the working groups respond to these 5 recommendations:
 - Ensure districts distribute funds equitably to schools
 - Ensure schools districts have an equity-centered plan to use funding
 - Use state funding to meet the needs of students who are the most vulnerable
 - Publicly report on - and ensure districts publicly report on - the use of these funds
 - Ensure additional funding is allocated equitably

Thank you all for your time and effort in addressing these issues, which lie so close to my heart having come to know and love the students in my daughter's kindergarten class at Shortlidge Elementary. Most of these students were already at a high risk for not meeting the grade-level reading mark by 3rd grade, and now that I have witnessed the total lack of access based on how few other students participate in our weekly "full class" zoom sessions, I see how incredibly hopeless the situation will be without dramatic efforts to focus on high poverty schools and students. Please please please. Major change is needed for this generation to have a hopeful future. Please do all you can to make it happen!

5/28/2020	Tracy A. Bombara	<p>I listened to the opening meeting of the work groups to make recommendations for reopening schools. I am a Speech-Language Pathologist who works with early childhood students. I have worked with students with special needs from birth through 21 years of age during my career. I want to suggest the following be considered:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. PPE for both students and staff, especially those working with young children and those with hearing impairments/deafness or who depend on facial information, has to allow for view of the entire face including the mouth. This eliminates traditional and home made "masks" as an appropriate form of facial covering for teachers and students. Recommendations need to include face shields. I will not be able to do my job wearing a traditional mask, and my students will not be able to replicate speech tasks with one.2. Young children need to be with other children to effectively learn and practice speech, language and social skills. Class sizes are going to have to be severely reduced to allow for adequate cleaning between groups and to ensure social distancing if there is any degree of community spread. Specific guidelines with definite suggestions for providing age appropriate, hands on activities as well as strategies for disinfecting toys and materials used in those activities, needs to be included, with appropriate allocation of funds, materials and staff supervision to ensure student and staff safety.3. Many students with physical disabilities and/or other developmental disabilities require adult assistance for many activities of daily living including feeding, using the bathroom/being changed, ambulating through the school building and general grooming. The plans should explicitly address these needs and how schools will ensure student and staff safety when they are carried out.4. Not all materials traditionally used in school activities can be easily sanitized (e.g. pages in books, edible reinforcers, tissue boxes, carpets on floors). Will these become "do not use" materials? A list of such materials and substitutions need to be included in recommendations.5. It is anticipated that an increase in level of service for students who receive special education and related services may be necessary due to regression and/or missed opportunity for instruction due to the closing. From what I have heard, it is expected we will provide that when buildings re-open. The time needed to re-assess and determine student needs will be extensive when schools re-open. Then, meetings may need to be held to revise IEPs and service plans. All this will involve TIME, which means students will lose even more services. The reopening plans need to include guidelines for making sure staffing is sufficient to allow for student services as well as re-assessment and meetings.6. If we are unable to return to schools, a more streamlined approach to curriculum and instruction needs to be developed and used more uniformly throughout districts. While I understand this was "uncharted territory," it has basically been a individual teacher lead enterprise for their class. I am suggesting the academics committee look at home materials from Frisco, TX public schools as I have seen an example and they were very well organized and contained all information a parent would need to guide their child through the assignments. A format like they provided families should be our goal statewide.7. If we are unable to return to school, or even if we are preparing in advance in case we have to leave school again, the question of connectivity and equal access to internet and internet strength needs to be addressed from a infrastructure perspective in the State of Delaware. This is not a DOE or individual district issue. Sending people to sit in their cars to access WIFI from school parking lots, Royal Farms parking lots and/or DE Turf should have been a very temporary, but not a long term solution. <p>Please contact me if you would like to discuss any of these suggestions.</p>
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5/28/2020	Dr. Karen Antell	<p>Good afternoon Dr. Haberstroh and the School Reopening Health and Wellness Working Group,</p> <p>I serve as the Medical Director for the School-Based Health Centers that ChristianaCare staffs in 20 Delaware public schools. We serve a large number of students in each school, providing episodic and preventive medical care, mental health services and nutrition services. Our providers complete school and sports physicals, provide counseling and offer vaccines and pediatric care in 18 high schools and 2 elementary schools. We offer reproductive health services in most high schools, including STI testing and treatment and contraception. We see students with acute illness and chronic conditions such as asthma.</p> <p>Many of our patients' families have few resources and rely on the SBHC's for medical and mental health services that they would otherwise be unable to access. We have been able to provide some mental health and medical services via Telehealth, but are very limited by not having access to schools and our records and supplies at each site.</p> <p>I want to ensure that SBHC resources are considered in the reopening plans moving forward. We may be able to provide visits by appointment to students who are attending school remotely so that they don't have a gap in their care. If students do not have access to the school building but staff are allowed to be present, we may be able to provide more telehealth services.</p> <p>Also, I have reviewed reopening plans in other states and note that school nurses may be expected to assess, possibly test, and isolate ill students. Each school is different in staffing and physical location of the school nurse office and the SBHC (some are adjacent and some are in opposite sides or on different floors). But our providers may be able to work with school nurses on a site-by-site basis to assist with creating policies and procedures for these necessary activities.</p> <p>I am available to provide any input or follow up via email at kantell@christianacare.org or phone at 302-723-3132, and I look forward to providing any information that would be helpful, so feel free to reach out to me.</p> <p>Thank you so much for your attention to this important work,</p>
5/28/2020	Stacy J. Emory	<p>I just am a little concerned that I did not hear either the Pre k programs in Delaware and the Special Education programs are not represented. Both of these programs are very different than typical classrooms. I would like to suggest that both of these areas be seriously considered while making a plan if you are not able to get these areas represented in the meeting.</p>
5/28/2020	Lynn Lynch	<p>https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdrive.google.com%2Ffile%2Fd%2F1bTONFDDBEiOpxnWtbBbUN7cDSwrTj_dRK%2Fview%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR3JD-AFI7whMG7mwLsRRnQa1CQNY5JRNf-H_KwS45ve9U7bAj4ijfzTogA%26usp%3Dembed_facebook&data=01%7C01%7Creopeningideas%40doe.k12.de.us%7C32940655bfd549f58afe08d80357e8a3%7C21b6d6867f08438dbdc6bd214d829bd2%7C1&sdata=4DTt8y%2BbQc%2BH7axu5sFLOGMywbd2T4rwRLGNsHlePXM%3D&reserved=0</p>

5/28/2020

Harry
Moffett

As the father of both a teacher and School Administrator, I would like to ask you to consider opening schools fully in the fall.

What these school students have been put through This spring has been criminal.

The total closing harmed every student from K to 12. Many students will be months behind where they were prior to buildings being closed. Students who missed out on their Regular classes, award ceremonies, Extra curricular, spring sports and graduation We're harmed greatly.

Being in the lowest possible level for serious harm itself should be enough to open the schools.

Fall sports should be fully played. Maybe limit or keep closed concession stands. Limit fans to 1/2 capacity??

Others like bus drivers, kitchen staff and teachers could wear masks & gloves. Adapt Shields if they believe they could be infected.

These young people need a normal stable school schedule. Being in the lowest .001 rate of possible harm does not warrant keeping restrictions of any kind in place.

Do not let your fear of the unknown become the deciding factor. The decision to close Schools, just like this year could be made "IF" There is a rise in infectious cases.

Please give our school children a break. The infection rate is low for the age group and even lower for the death rate.

Thank you,

5/28/2020	Dr. Roger Erdvig	<p>To Whom it May Concern,</p> <p>I am glad to see progress in state-level planning for the reopening of schools in the fall of 2020. We must not allow much more time to elapse before we know what to expect in terms of guidelines and suggestions for a healthy and safe return to school.</p> <p>However, I echo the sentiments of my colleague, Dr. Anthony Urti of Delaware Valley Classical School, regarding the need to have specific guidance for private schools. All across the state, private schools quickly pivoted to online learning in March, far outpacing the response time of most public schools. Our systemic agility has enabled our students to continue learning while many other students have suffered significant lost instructional time.</p> <p>This is clear evidence that private schools are uniquely positioned to effectively adapt to rapidly changing circumstances and to continue providing excellent education for our students and families. As such, I appeal to you to include private school leaders in the planning that is being conducted and I strongly urge you to consider the unique needs and strengths of private schools as guidelines are established.</p> <p>We are not public or charter schools, and therefore many of the guidelines crafted for the public/charter school environment will not apply to us.</p> <p>Private schools in Delaware need simple, common-sense, and minimally restrictive guidance for how to protect the health of our community. We serve thousands of tax-paying Delawareans, and they deserve to have their interests well-represented in the plans that will be established for our return to school in the fall.</p>
5/28/2020	Paula Hutton	<p>Good Afternoon,</p> <p>I was truly disappointed in the content of today's meeting. I had already read the lists of members of the committees. I did not need to hear them pat themselves on the back with their credentials.</p> <p>There are so many educators and parents that are underrepresented on this committee who want to give public comment or be a part of the decision making process. We did not log in to hear the goals of the committee and process. Those things, along with the membership, had already been published. We logged on to hear and be a part of the conversation about kids!</p> <p>I am also disgusted to learn that DOE hired an outside agency to oversee and guide the work. That is totally unnecessary! The CDC, WHO, and UNICEF have published guidelines for returning to school safely. There is a wealth of information about WHAT needs to happen. These committees need to do the work of HOW is going to happen in Delaware. Any person with common sense knows that social distancing and extra sanitation is going to require extra personnel in schools and MONEY to make it happen, yet the DOE chose to spend money on Opportunity Labs. Any and all money should be used to directly help students return to the classrooms safely, not pad the pockets of a business whose services are not needed. (Especially after listening to 30 minutes of credentials!)</p> <p>Today's meeting gave me little faith that children or educators will be served well</p>
5/28/2020	The Joking Brothers	<p>What are the definitions of min, min-mod, & significant? What are the numbers?</p>
5/28/2020	house211@aol.com	<p>Break up sending kids back to only a few grades pre day or two days at a time .then the other grades do online then they go into school and the other stay home and do online work .That way not as many kids on bus or in school/classes/ lunch</p>

5/28/2020	Rony Baltazar-Lopez	<p>Secretary Bunting,</p> <p>How will your department ensure that all communication is effectively communicated to different communities? Will you ensure that recommendations and documents will be translated in Spanish, Creole, and Chinese for different families, and that you will use various channels to reach these families across Delaware?</p>
5/28/2020	DASP	<p>To whom it may concern;</p> <p>Delaware Association of School Psychologists PO Box 534 Middletown, DE 19709 DASPonline.org</p> <p>My name is Brittany Zehr and I am the President of the Delaware Association of School Psychologists (DASP). I'm writing to you today, on behalf of DASP, in reference to the COVID-19 School Reopening Working Groups. We, at DASP, understand that this is a particularly challenging time filled with many unknown variables. We understand that decision makers must come together and make the best recommendations possible given these unknowns. We understand that this is not an easy task. DASP offers the following considerations for the working groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● First, DASP is here to help. While we are dismayed that we, as school based mental health professionals, who are uniquely trained in mental health, special education, and school based systems, were not invited to be members of any of the working group, we understand that we have specialized knowledge and skills that others simply do not possess. We invite any committee member to call upon us for information, guidance, clarification, or collaboration. Please feel free to email us, dasponline@gmail.com or call me personally (412-297-3324). ● Second, the National Organization of School Psychologists (NASP) has a plethora of COVID-19 resources related to service delivery, special education, crisis, and mental health for families and educators. These resources offer information related to each working group from a school psychology perspective. ● Third, the pandemic is not occurring in an educational vacuum. Prior to the pandemic, DDOE was planning on implementing updated special education regulations and new regulations related to multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS). The implementation of these two changes was going to require a significant amount of resources. This was prior to the pandemic. As we move forward, it is important that the proposed reopening plans take into consideration on-going initiatives and the resources and bandwidth that they require. Our capacity is limited and we need to make sure plans are in place to either build capacity and/or to make sure our capacity is utilized as efficiently as possible. ● Fourth, academics and equity. We are pleased that this is a separate working group. This is a large complex topic, which will be submitting further public comment on at a later date. In the meantime, we would encourage the committee to, from the beginning, think about underlying issues in equity in education and formulate a plan that not only addresses the short term problems for returning to school, but seeks to proactively address the root causes of inequity in education. ● Fifth, related service providers, such as school psychologists, speech and language pathologists, occupational therapists, and physical therapists occupy specialized niches in the education realm. Practicing in these specialized niches presents unique challenges. Because we are specialized, the unique needs of our professions are often overlooked when plans are developed, even when we are essential components of those plans. For example, in order to conduct a comprehensive psychoeducational assessment, which is necessary for special education eligibility and ensuring appropriate services are provided, school psychologists need to work face to face with students. We also need time to conduct the assessments and write comprehensive, integrated reports.

Given the face to face nature of our work, the pandemic has created a backlog of psychoeducational assessments that need to be conducted. Logistically, it may not be possible for even the most well intentioned school psychologist and/or district to complete all assessments necessary by September 30th, especially given the amount of mental health and behavioral support services we anticipate being called upon to assist with when students and staff return to school. We urge all the working groups to consider the specialized nature of related service providers during discussions and when making recommendations.

- Sixth, we encourage the working groups to take into serious consideration the physical and psychological safety of both students and staff. Because this is another large and complex topic, DASP anticipates providing further comment and guidance documents for the working groups.

In closing, we would like to thank you for your membership in the working groups. We recognize that every individual and organization brings unique knowledge and skills to this challenging endeavor. We, once again, offer our support to you as you work to support the school communities, educators, and students in Delaware.

Sincerely,
Brittany J. Zehr
Brittany J. Zehr, Ed.S, NCSP President
Delaware Association of School Psychologists

5/29/2020	Lori Reed	<p>Reopen the schools this fall. Our children need to be educated by professionals in person. They need social interaction. Not only because they live in a world full of technology, but for their emotional and mental growth. They need sports, arts, lunch, recess, after school activities. They need friends. They need childhood regardless of age.</p> <p>Let them go to school M-F with abbreviated hours so learning can be streamlined and allowing staff to thoroughly clean the school in the evenings. As the virus dies down then we can resume the normal hours of the school day.</p> <p>Families are fully aware that social distancing to the best of our ability and hand washing (sanitizing) will be needed and we have taught our children that during this stay at home time.</p> <p>Regards,</p>
5/29/2020	Cynthia Grygo	<p>I hope everyone is healthy and well.</p> <p>When do you expect Driver's Ed to resume? As with many things, not being able to finish Drivers Ed impacts the ability to get an ID to open checking and savings accounts. Those that turned 16, during Quarantine can't open bank accounts for their paychecks without ID.</p> <p>Thanks for your help!</p>
5/29/2020	Carol Moore	<p>I have concern with regards to providing support to staff and students with asthma as they fall into the higher risk category. What type of guidelines on procedures will be on hand for those persons exhibiting symptoms? Does DOE have any idea if DEMA will be able to step in to offset some of the expenses for schools?</p>
5/29/2020	Amy Cunningham	<p>I am writing regarding the drivers ed classes that were nearly complete prior to Covid. My son just needs to take the final exam and drive with the instructor through Polytech's Adult education because it is not offered at his school. Perhaps the final could be done online, and then just drive with the instructor over the early summer months?</p> <p>My other thought is would anyone consider shortening the duration of time the kids need to drive with their parent from 6 months, but increase the number of supervised hours required.</p> <p>Please feel free to give me a call or email if you want to discuss further.</p>
5/29/2020	Teri B. Lawler, MA, LPCMH	<p>https://casel.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/CASEL_Leveraging-SEL-as-You-Prepare-to-Reopen-and-Renew.pdf</p>

5/29/2020	Maggie Nyzio	<p>Hello,</p> <p>My son, XXXXXX XXXXXXXX will be attending Beacon Middle School as a 6th grader next year. XXXXXX has asthma and due to the medications he's on, he has a weaker immune system than most kids. Just this past year he was sick from November to January with a respiratory virus that developed into double pneumonia and then due to his weakened state, he contracted the flu very quickly upon returning to school.</p> <p>Based on the data i've seen, i'm concerned about his safety and the safety of other children with compromised immune systems if they were to return to the school building prior to a vaccine being developed. As we all know, viruses just seem to plow through schools and for the most part, social distancing is hard when you have so many students in one space at the same time. I urge you to think of XXXXXX and children like XXXXXXXX when making decisions regarding the return to school in the fall. Distance learning has been a literal lifesaver for XXXXXXXX and he's been excelling in it. While we yearn for the days when things can go back to normal and he can play with his friends and attend in person classes without a huge life or death risk, we feel that distance learning is the safest option for higher risk children until there is a vaccine.</p> <p>Thank you for your time,</p>
5/29/2020	Audrey Farrell	<p>I am happy to see that there is a task force to study safely returning to school. I would like to suggest that there is another subcommittee formed to discuss the economic and psychologic impact NOT returning to school will have. I would also recommend a committee to research the number of cases of child abuse reported, neglect reported, etc. in relation to children staying at home. If there is going to be a recommendation to the SOE as well as the Governor on returning to school, it seems to me that ALL information should be made available. If safety is truly the number one goal in all of this, then it would make sense that safety in regards to ALL aspects should be discussed, not simply safety in regards to COVID-19.</p> <p>I understand the difficult decisions that will have to be made, but I implore the task force to not be influenced by media hype and try to "one-up" another state. I ask kindly that the actual physical DATA be analyzed and decisions to be made based on those.</p> <p>I truly appreciate your time.</p> <p>Regards,</p>
5/30/2020	Michael Kenny	<p>As an elementary essential arts teacher I am worried about the numbers of students that are sent to me. I currently have 34-38 students per class. Homerooms are split or even doubled up when sent to us, and social distancing in my classroom will be an issue. Having 38 students we were crowded in my small room making any movement difficult. There is not the physical space to keep students even three feet apart, nevermind six feet. Movement in hallways just to get to our classrooms looks like Grand Central Station at rush hour. We should at the minimum have the same number of students as the homerooms being sent to us and end the practice of doubling up students when sending them to essential arts classes.</p>
5/31/2020	Susan Eveland	<p>I would like to suggest that the State or District provide simple and quick ways to sanitize shared technology equipment such as iPads and desktop computers. Some ideas are UV wand, sanitizing wipes safe for student use. Also almost impossible to practice social distancing in a school setting. We always teach "using your cough catcher" but with elementary students there is a learning curve. Plexiglass partitions may be necessary on student desks and tables. Education has an emphasis on student collaboration and grouping. I think that this educational practice in student learning needs to be considered and addressed.</p> <p>The personnel needed for all students to eat in their classroom with their teacher to minimize exposure to others will be a challenge to teacher contracts for planning periods and lunch times Thank you for your dedication to our students and staff.</p>

5/31/2020

Hilary
Domush

Hi. Thank you for reading this email and thank you for the work you are doing to carefully consider all options when re-opening the schools for the fall.

I have two elementary aged children at Mt Pleasant Elementary School in Wilmington (Brandywine School District). One is in the gifted program and one is still waiting for gifted testing to resume. My kids will be in 3rd grade and entering K. I work full-time, though I am lucky enough that I can work from home, I am not a teacher and very much hope that they can be taught by teachers in the classroom in the fall. My kids do have access to internet and are lucky to have resources that not all kids in their school, district, or state have; but all kids at the elementary level would benefit from some in-person teaching. The benefits to in-person education, especially for the elementary age group seem so great.

I would like to propose block scheduling for elementary school with a schedule of either

1. at school M, W, then online 3 days a week or at school T, Th, then online 3 days a week or
2. at school in either the morning or afternoon with online components in the opposite part of the day. This type of schedule could allow for lunch outside of the school or to be picked up in the case of school provided lunch.

The block scheduling would work best for parents if children in the same household could be on the same schedule. This would allow parents to work and schedule in a way that will approach normal--or a new normal. Additionally, having kids from the same household on the same block-schedule will allow kids who are splitting time between multiple households to travel between their families more easily. And it will allow kids in the same household to be together when they are not in school for their block schedule which affords great benefits and opportunities for learning outside of the classroom. The scheduling of family units will decrease community exposure as you will condense drop-offs, pick-ups, bus rides, and so on.

Thank you for your consideration of this.

Sincerely,

5/31/2020	Jessica Redmond	<p>Comment: If any schooling is to be done remotely, then we MUST insure equity which means that all students have devices and access to FREE internet services for the entire time they are doing remote learning. Many of our poorer students do not have either. Also, even if we go remotely, we need to have at least one day to meet with our students in person to meet them, discuss the plans, and insure they understand what we are expecting them to do.</p> <p>(Also, parents cannot be responsible for paying for Internet after the free period is up! I heard a report that parents in one area got two free months of Internet, but then had to pay \$90 a month for the rest of the year, and that is not fair!)</p> <p>In fact, even if we do not go remotely it would be nice if all students in all Delaware schools could have one-to-one technology to use during the school year! That would go a long way to creating equity in our schools.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>
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