

DATE	NAME	COMMENT
6/12/2020	Hope Moffett	<p>We ask that the state consider the following areas as we prepare for the Fall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities • Capacity varies by building. Will mode of instruction vary by campus or be consistent across district/county/state if some schools can spread out and others cannot? • Need guidance on disposal of any used PPE, what volume of PPE disposal would happen under different scenarios • Technology • Increased replacement costs expected due to device loss and damage (devices and peripherals). How to inventory devices prior to the start of school? • Attendance Policy • Will State attendance policy be changed to allow for optional distance learning for at risk students? This will impact building and materials capacity issues. • How will 9/30 count be handled to make sure districts do not lose eligible funds/units. • Legal Issues • What are the legal and liability implications around these operations decisions? • Staffing • How can schools operate with staffing shortages caused by vulnerable staff and decreased student to staff ratio requirements. • Licensure issues for temporary hires. Are blanket waivers under consideration? • Student Arrival • Screening at school door & pre-boarding on buses. • How to do social distancing in school yard and at bus stops prior to adult supervision? Some bus stops have ~40 students. • Protocol for students who fail screening at bus stops and at school door. What if their parents cannot be contacted? Legal implications of following protocols. • Transportation • Will instructional time requirements be reduced or waived to account for more bus runs and staggered arrival times? • Possible use of mileage reimbursement to encourage parents to transport students. What needs to be done at the state level to allow this option? • Possible increase of walking radius. • Transportation considerations for students in homeless/foster care situations? What is guidance for vans? What about specialized transportation? • 20% of drivers and aides in Christina are 65 or older, how to address staffing shortages? Licensing issues? • DART-possible assist, what could that look like and how would it work? <p>Best,</p>

6/12/2020

John
Wilson

Dear Department of Education,

I just listened for over an hour to Governor Carney's briefing about the state moving to phase 2. The briefing focused primarily on Youth Sports and their ability to begin competitions. I listened in on the DIAA meeting Thursday, and I was under the impression the Governor had to say something about Interscholastic Athletics. There was no mention of High School Athletics. Is DIAA/DOE having any conversations with the Gov. for us to return and train our kids. The website states, "Schools will remain closed thru the end of the current school year." Shouldn't DIAA have some indication of when that is?

Listening to Dr. Rattay's press conference on Friday afternoon, it appears it is ok with her for football players to do conditioning.

The state listed indoor basketball, ice hockey, football, wrestling and rugby as high-risk sports, and continued to ban them from resuming until further guidance is issued at a later date.

"The high-risk sports, we just haven't figured out yet," Rattay said. "... They need a lot more thought. We'll be working with others to put attention to these sports in the not too distant future. "But at this point, individuals in these high-risk sports can certainly do conditioning. They can do practices, but they need to maintain social distancing at all times." One would think she is describing high school football.

It seems totally unfair that these baseball leagues, basketball leagues, and others can begin competitions next week, but we can't do anything. The baseball league that Trip Keister is forming stated in Del. Online that certain schools like Caravel and St. Mark's will be used. This makes no sense!

We are just asking to train our kids (outside). We are not asking for competitions or scrimmages, we just need some clarification on when we can return, and we would appreciate DIAA/DOE assisting us with this clarification for us to be able to be with our kids.

I hope DIAA doesn't wait until the next board meeting to get clarification. I would anticipate the board calling for an Emergency Meeting since this board met one day before Governor Carney's briefing, or get some idea in this meeting.

6/12/2020	Scott Rowe	<p>It's clear from reading the news accounts of the working groups' work that no one has a clue as to how this will all work. It is equally clear from the utter lack of leadership from the Governor and Secretary Bunting that no one at the state will be making any statewide decisions about reopening lest they get criticized by someone - so the 19 districts and plethora of charter schools will be left on their own to make these decisions and jury-rig alternatives without any increase in funding or state support whatsoever. The rich kids in Cape Henlopen and Caesar Rodney will have a vastly different educational experience this fall than the poor POC kids in Laurel or Capital. That is not acceptable.</p> <p>Governor Carney needs to stand up and make the tough calls here - the ones he has refused to make so far in his quest to avoid responsibility. He needs to waive required school days, hire more teachers and bus drivers and counselors and therapists, reallocate huge amounts of funding to classrooms and take-home educational technology, and relax standards so our older kids aren't stressed about making the grade while trying to work a job and take care of siblings. He also needs to give direct cash support to all families, scaled up based on need, so that parents can afford to be home and take care of younger kids who aren't able to go to child care or school.</p> <p>Try paying for it by raising taxes on the wealthiest Delawareans and on corporations registered here. They have gotten a break for far too long and need to be forced to pay their fair share to benefit our kids.</p> <p>And the Governor and our legislators must abandon their pipe dream of having school sports this year. That is a virus' dream date. I know the Governor loves his sports, but he should not be allowed to put kids at risk to re-live his high school days on the gridiron. Reallocate sports budgets to something actually worthwhile, like laptops and WiFi hotspots.</p>
6/13/2020	Rosaria Macera, NBCT	<p>Dear DOE:</p> <p>Is anyone giving due consideration to the special needs of music performing ensembles in the COVID classroom? The documentation is clear that ensembles, especially choirs, have greater social distancing needs. Two choir super-spreader events (in Seattle and Concertgebouw) are well documented, when 50-80 people became infected by one singer in rehearsal. Band rehearsals create increased breathing, air movement and condensation at the end of the instrument (hence the "spit valve" in brass instruments). Masks cannot be worn while playing. Strings and percussion often share equipment. Teachers are in close proximity to students during class and performance.</p> <p>How can we be sure our admins (building and district), who have many other restrictions of staffing, scheduling and facilities, will be equipped or required to address our special needs of increased social distance, air circulation and sanitation?</p> <p>Please forward these questions with urgency.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p>

6/14/2020	Helen Judefind	<p>Why not do all classes in one room for students as like in old school we were only allowed out of class for physical education or bathroom pass can monitor social distance better and be able to control spreading of The virus remember children did not get sick as much in a one class environment lunches were either packed or brought to class by cafeteria workers</p>
6/15/2020	Tia Live-Joseph	<p>Good morning. My name is Tia Live-Joseph and I have been an educator in New York as well as Delaware for a combination of 18 years. I currently work at The Bancroft School in Wilmington De. As we have to learn to get adjusted to our "new normal", I have had some time to think of ways my children (ages 9 and 7) as well as my students could benefit from learning during this pandemic. My thought was that perhaps we could split the learning day in half so that all students (for equity) could have access to core curriculum learning. Class sizes would then be split as well ie: 14, 7 in a.m., 7 in the p.m. It could possibly look like this: 8:00-12:00 Core subjects (intensive and strategic teaching) ELA and Math...one special (gym, art, etc.) and lunch and dismissal. Teachers would get their lunch and prep during this time while the room was being prepped and sanitized for the next set of students for afternoon learning. They would go straight to the lunchroom, then their classroom for identical lessons on core subjects. If we split the class in half this would ensure safety for both class sizes. They would also have access to a afternoon snack before heading at the close of the school day.</p> <p>I do understand that other logistical matters arise...who gets to go in the a.m. and p.m.; parents working, etc. however I do believe that those are kinks that can work out with clear communication with our parents. I am a single mom of two but would with the support of friends and family navigate this transition to ensure the safety of my own children as well as my students. I also thought about possibly providing face shields and places to hold them daily to ensure safety in the classrooms. Masks to enter and exit school (and for busses) but maybe shields during learning time. Then we can guarantee that they are sanitized daily by staff. Thank you for taking the time to read my thoughts as we navigate these uncharted waters.</p> <p>Yours in Education,</p>
6/15/2020	Peggi Watson	<p>Reopen schools after a vaccine is available to the public.</p>
6/15/2020	Michael Smith	<p>Good afternoon!</p> <p>I've had numerous individuals reach out since this Working Group started for the Back to School Committee. Attached are the comments, questions and concerns. I started each new piece of feedback with bolding the first sentence or two. I consolidated all of the feedback into one word document. Please let me know if you have any questions!</p>

6/15/2020

Jennifer
O'Neill

Hello,

My name is Jennifer O'Neill and I am an elementary educator in the Red Clay Consolidated School District. I know a decision has not been made regarding the school format for the fall, but I wanted to share this information with you in case we resume going to school in person (which I hope we do). If we go back to school in person, I know the issue of masks and whether or not they would be appropriate for elementary students will be an important decision. I am asking you to PLEASE do NOT require elementary students to wear masks (since in the state of Delaware they are not required until over the age of 12). In fact, I would ask that you request that students NOT wear masks at the elementary level. The reason I feel so strongly about this (and so does every other teacher I have talked to) is below. I am going to copy and paste something that was posted on social media. It was posted to be funny and to bring light and levity to our situation, but every single situation listed in this post is TRUE. It would be something that teachers would deal with every day if elementary students had to wear masks. The masks would become a major distraction, effectively prohibiting us from teaching our content. As you can see from the post, it would also be more unsanitary for students to wear masks than to leave them at home.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Jennifer O'Neill

Comments teachers would make if elementary students wore masks to school:

Please don't snap (insert name)'s mask in their face.

You should not be using your mask as a sling shot. Please put it on your face.

Your mask should be on your face not on the back of your head

Your mask is not a necklace, bracelet, or any other form of jewelry.

Please do not chew on your mask. (This one!!!)

I'm sorry your mask is wet but that is what happens when you lick the inside of your mask.

I'm sorry you sneezed but wipe out the snot as good as you can.

No you can not blow your nose in your mask.

Why is your mask soaking wet? You just came back from the bathroom?
And you put it back on your face after you dropped it?

I'm sorry you broke the elastic on your mask by seeing how far the band would stretch but now you will have to hold the mask on your face or use this duct tape.

Please take the mask off your eyes and watch where you are walking. I don't care if you can see through it.

Please take the mask off of your pencil and stop twirling it.

I know the mask fits over your pants like a knee pad but please take it off of your leg and put it on your face.

What do you mean you tried to eat your lunch through your mask?

Please do not share your mask or trade masks. I don't care if you like their mask better.

I'm sorry but your mask is not school appropriate.

We are not comparing our masks to other kids masks... everyone's mask is unique and special.

No you can not decorate your mask instead of doing your work. I don't care if you have a Sharpie.

You are not a pirate, please take your mask off your eye.

Try to get the gum off as much as you can.

Please do not use your mask to pick your nose.

I'm sorry you tripped but that's what happens when you put your feet inside the elastic of your mask.

No your mask does not make it hard to get your work done.

Your Mom will need to get you a new mask since you chewed a hole in that one.

Why is there a shoe print on your mask?

No you cannot eat the snow through your mask.

I don't care if you were in art class and being creative, we do not decorate our masks.

We do not beam other kids in the face with a ball. No, their mask doesn't make it not hurt.

Please do not plug your nose holes with your mask.

		<p>Who is making that noise?</p> <p>I'm sorry your ponytail is stuck, that's what happens when you see how many times you can wrap it around your mask.</p> <p>I'm sorry to tell you but your child thought their mask made them a superhero and so they tried to fly off of the jungle gym at recess...</p> <p>I'm sorry your breath stinks in your mask, maybe we should all try to brush better.</p> <p>Please take those things out of your mask. No, you are not a chipmunk.</p>
6/15/2020	Paige & Eric Evers	<p>Hello,</p> <p>Thank you for your work on this committee. We are the parents of a rising 5th grader and 8th grader in the Milford School District. Our strong preferences for the 2020-2021 school year is face-to-face learning only.</p> <p>We also would like face-to-face learning because of the importance of social learning, community, individual attention from the teachers, and a sense of community for our students. While the district did its best to adapt to online learning quickly and without much warning at the end of the 2020 school year, the academic work was insufficient for our students' needs.</p> <p>We support face-to-face learning in the fall. If children are sick, they should stay home. If a family is uncomfortable with their student returning to school because they have a vulnerable family member at home, that student could be offered online learning as an alternative. We would prefer to have face-to-face learning as the standard for most students.</p> <p>Thank you for accepting feedback.</p> <p>Best,</p>
6/15/2020	Kathie P. Cherry	<p>On behalf of Ann Fisher, Chairperson and Wendy Strauss, Executive Director:</p> <p>Greetings:</p> <p>Please accept the attached comments from the Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) for inclusion in discussions on school reopening strategies by the Governor's Schools Reopening Workgroups. As mentioned in our earlier message, this document will be updated following discussions each week between the three committees of this Workgroup. If you have any questions on our comments, please contact the GACEC office. We thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts with you on behalf of students with special needs in Delaware. Be safe and have a nice day.</p>

6/15/2020

Lauren
Purcell

I am writing to you as a parent of one elementary school child and one middle school child. As you are trying to prepare different scenarios for the fall, it is important to take into account the parent perspective as these decisions will impact our lives in more ways than one. While no plan will be perfect, we would like you to consider the plan that offers the greatest good for our community and especially our kids. Please send them back to school on a regular schedule and without masks. This virus is not going away, so we cannot stay hidden in our homes for months or years while hoping for a vaccine or cure. We need to assess the risk based on the evidence that has presented itself as of now, not two months ago. The data has shown that children are in the demographic that has the lowest risk of becoming severely ill or dying from this virus. Therefore, we should not be holing them up in our homes, keeping them away from their peers, and stripping away all of their natural and developmentally appropriate ways for learning and growing.

Put simply, our children need to be in school. They need to have a regular schedule with the ability to play with their friends and learn from their teachers in a classroom. They need emotional support from the teachers that love them. In asking you to open schools and return to a normal schedule, we are basing that request on the fact that given the current data presented our children are the lowest risk population group. Ultimately, though, if we continue to keep them home, or altering their schedule with some days home, some days at school, and some days distance learning, we have to consider the other risks we are now exposing them to: jeopardized mental health, physical health and, for certain, the level of education they are receiving.

As a parent I have witnessed the reality of distance learning in my home. In all honesty, it has gone well for my kids and they are staying engaged and committed to the education being offered them and I am VERY appreciative of their teachers. We are a dual income family and both my husband and I work full time. I have always worked remotely so this has not shifted my work environment, other than my kids are home and I have to be available to them as well to help maneuver through zoom meetings and homework. I would be able to make a modified schedule work and I would be able to make full time virtual school work. However, I don't believe it's the right choice.

Distance learning, even in the best of learning environments, is not the best option. Consider the kids who do not have a safe home environment, who do not have a mom or dad to sit with them and help them with schoolwork, who do not have access to lunch, who do not have a sibling to play with, who do not receive love and support, who do not have a laptop, iPad, or reliable internet connection. While this plan temporarily works for my children, I know it's not working for others.

So what about an alternative schedule? How can families, the majority with two working adults, many of whom will now need to go back to their jobs, be expected to manage this type of schedule? Our society and economy is built on the school schedule that has been in place for all of modern time. If parents and employers are expected to adjust for an infinite amount of time, that just isn't going to work. Parents will have to either not go to work, find a new job, or be forced to find a childcare option to fit this schedule. If you expect students to be home two or more days a week, you can expect that in many homes their parents will be working, thus these kids may have little to no supervision. This alternative schedule will reduce the amount of time that children are receiving education and has the potential to lead to a plethora of new problems.

Will there be a shortage of teachers willing to go into the schools and teach? I don't think so. Ask the teachers. Those that I have spoken to are not proponents of distance teaching. They miss their students and they want them to learn.

		<p>It is time to look to the future and find a way to make this work, rather than continue on as If the initial evaluations of this virus have come to fruition. Instead of basing decisions on the thoughts and fears of two months ago, please assess the situation as it is today. If it is safe for adults to go back to work and crowds to shop at Walmart and Target, it is clearly safe to allow our least affected demographic to resume school. Please consider the actual data, the actual minimal risk at hand, and make the right choice for our children.</p>
6/15/2020	Sue Eveland	<p>Through the at home learning period and use of various devices, many chats with Xfinity customer representatives, the \$9.95 Xfinity Essentials package is NOT adequate for video conferencing, which is Zoom. Students would be dropped from the call repeatedly, then reappear after a few minutes, missing directions or portions of activities and becoming frustrated. The need for out of school Internet to continue learning needs to be addressed. I see the broadband for schools be a utility is in the Do Now category. What about students and families that do not have resources for high speed or adequate speed to Internet access? Thank you for continuing conversations around these topics.</p>
6/15/2020	Donna Polk	<p>Dear committee members.</p> <p>I am submitting the following guidance documents attached and links for consider for reopening sports for education based athletics.</p> <p>https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/youth-sports.html</p> <p>https://coronavirus.delaware.gov/reopening/phase2/</p> <p>NFHS is the governing association DIAA is a member and follows for playing rules. Attached find the following guidance received from NFHS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2020 NFHS Guidance for Opening up High School Athletics and Activities – addresses general principles related to practices, locker rooms and equipment - Received Sport Specific Guidance on Friday, 6/12/20 for volleyball, field hockey, gymnastics, swimming and soccer. The sport specific guidance documents focuses on potential rules considerations during actual competition. NFHS will provide similar documents for football, cheerleading and cross country by 6/19/20. Winter (basketball, wrestling, indoor track) and spring sports (baseball, softball, golf, g/b lacrosse, tennis, outdoor track) will follow after that. <p>2020 FH Covid-19 considerations FINAL</p> <p>2020-21 Volleyball Rules</p> <p>NFHS Soccer</p> <p>2020-21 Swimming and Diving</p> <p>DIAA BOD will approve the recommendations received from DIAA Sports Medicine Advisory Committee in the coming weeks.</p> <p>Thank you in advance for your consideration.</p>

6/16/2020	Jenn Crowell	<p>Susan,</p> <p>I hope this note finds you well. I am writing as I read an article in the Cape Gazette about thoughts on reopening schools this fall in Delaware and what that will look like. I am a parent of two elementary aged children in the Cape Henlopen school district and I find myself not being able to sleep some nights worrying about what the new future looks like for my children. We must get our children back into schools and not just one or two days a week. We are creating irreparable damage to the psyche of our children with little to no scientific evidence that they are carriers and much scientific evidence that the risk to their health is extremely low. I'm not being cavalier with this comment and I realize that this virus is much more contagious than the flu, but children die from the flu and we send them to school every year.</p> <p>At a time in their lives when social interaction is so very important to teach them cues for the rest of their lives, we have taught them that they cannot touch or see anyone. How can daycares be open, but the public schools (which are the foundation for parents being able to work), consider only having students in class one or two days a week? It is impossible and a waste of time to education young children virtually. It did not work with my first grade child and it will be even less effective with my kindergarten child. I'm not a teacher and with two young children and a household where both parents work, it was an impossible and unmanageable workload.</p> <p>I'm sure you are receiving many communications both for and against schools reopening, but felt obligated to provide my viewpoint. My last point would be, at a time when we need to all come together, I realize the school districts are facing mounting issues with resources and schools should reach out to parents to ask for input/help. Many parents/grandparents/members of society would gladly volunteer to help with temperature checks in the morning or volunteer to help monitor the playground so kids can get outside.</p> <p>All the best,</p>
6/16/2020	Mandy Stant	<p>Please keep in mind that not all families have older children/ stay at home parents to watch children on days off from school. I have a preschooler and a toddler that are taken care of in daycare while my daughter goes to school (K) and my husband and I work.</p> <p>If daycares have limits on their numbers as well, where will my daughter go on "off" days? AND if a daycare has room, you want her in daycare every other day bringing germs back and forth between the two?</p> <p>I understand that schools are not daycares as I am a first grade teacher. But, parents need some option for school children while they are at work. If you limit numbers allowed in daycares and children are not in school, what are parents to do?</p> <p>I hate to say it, but I feel that we should either be in school, or stay in distance learning until we can go to school. Families have been stressed enough- figuring out logistics of A days and B days or AM/ PM days just seems so stressful.</p> <p>Thanks for taking this into consideration as I know several friends have the same concerns.</p>

6/16/2020	Kimberly Johnson-Muffley	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I was wondering if students that have underlying risk factor conditions are being considered when discussing DE school reopening plans (such as asthma, diabetes, etc.)...any response would be appreciated.</p>
6/16/2020	Ed Klima, CEM	<p>Good afternoon,</p> <p>Several questions and /or comments related to the draft document.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. COVID-19 is not the only risk to students. What process is being utilized to evaluate potential mitigation measures against the overall risk matrix for students? For example, how could potential measures increase security threats? 2. Behavioral health approach seems reactionary. Would recommend identifying mechanisms that would be more effective on the front end. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Effects of reopening plans and marginalized student population (long term versus short term risks) b. One of the best ways to improve mental health is to address modifiable risk factors such as physical activity and nutrition. Restoration of these activities should be viewed as a positive. The sooner children can resume normal activities the better off they will be. Again, how do you balance short term exposure versus long term behavioral health issues that may be more detrimental. There does not appear to be a wholistic approach. c. There is a tremendous amount of misinformation out there related to the virus. Educate appropriate age groups about true risks etc. Information should also not be mischaracterized. For example, understanding anxiety related to uncertainty in today's environment versus true PTSD which would be less common. d. In summary, incorporate mechanisms to reduce anxiety on the front end as opposed to just exacerbate or address afterwards. 3. R0 values are often misinterpreted based upon the various decisions utilized to develop the mathematical model. What is the thought process of utilizing this as the only metric for the various program phases?

6/16/2020	Rebecca Welch	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am the mother of 5 children. My children are in dire need of normalcy. This entire lockdown of society and schools have had a devastating affect on my children. Remote learning has plunged one of my daughter's grades down. She was always an honor student until this lockdown. Online learning is not a viable way to teach young children. They need the stimulation of being face to face with teachers and peers. Isolation has taken a toll on all my kids. My 5th grader cried many times because she missed her teacher and friends. My 9th grader had an especially tough time missing her friends and activities. My children are very active with lots of extracurricular dance/music and chorus/sports and theater. It was all taken from them. Day in and day out staying home staring at a computer screen has reduced their joy and curiosity and left them feeling so empty. All we want is to return to normal. The REAL normal. This virus has a 99% recovery rate and doesn't even affect children, why are they being punished and made to carry the responsibility of keeping older people safe?? Those at risk are the ones who should safeguard their own health and not depend on school children to do it. Also, masks are dangerous for children to wear all day long reducing their oxygen levels and forcing them to breathe in carbon dioxide. This will only make them sick by lowering their immunity. Being isolated from others also lowers immunity. There is no earthly sensible reason why our children should be forced to suffer further. the schools need to open up in a normal fashion. If there are parents who want their children to stay home , then they should be the ones to use remote learning. Thank You for your time.</p>
6/17/2020	Emily S. Klein, Ed.S., NCSP	<p>I've listened to all of the workgroup meetings over the last few weeks, and it seems like all the groups are at least considering the idea that in scenario 2 (minimal-to-moderate spread), schools might need to be creative with how students participate. Specifically, hybrid models where learning occurs through some combination of f2f and remotely-delivered instruction to minimize the number of students in the building at any given time, flexibility to allow parents to choose whether their child goes to school or receives remote services, scenarios in which there may be rolling short-term closures due to increased presence of COVID in the communities served by a particular school, etc. Yet in reviewing the available documents for each committee, I'm not seeing a clear recommendation for LEAs to even consider these types of solutions or consider their implications for students, staff and families, even though there is reference to such measures being necessary for "social distancing" in scenario 2. I'm not sure exactly which workgroup these recommendations would fall under, as I think there's an argument to be made that for it to be part of any of the 3 workgroups' plans. However, since these ideas have been part of the discussion in all three workgroups, I think it's critical for the workgroups to address that proverbial "elephant" in the recommendations.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p>

6/17/2020

Emily
Iaconelli

To the Department of Education committee to reopen schools:

I understand the Governor is the deciding factor in opening schools and I believe that schools can push back on him and not just do whatever he says because he thinks it's a good idea. The administrators at the schools outnumber ONE Governor so the only answer is that schools open up and operate in a normal fashion. There really is no other alternative based on everything I know. After listening to the last meeting, it was clear to me that this is a meeting to toss around ideas in regards to opening schools based on feelings of individuals on a committee. It didn't seem apparent that there has been research put into it. There would be no health experts in the education system that could make solid decisions to open schools unless they have been researching independent sources this whole time, crunching numbers and doing statistics in regards to the effect the coronavirus non-pandemic has had on children. I would like to offer some insight into this and hopefully this email will be read and not deleted. I am proposing schools open as normal and this is based on actual data and science, not anything that the mainstream media says and not anything that people waiting to benefit off of money from vaccines say either. Not opening schools or opening schools with hard restrictive measures is going to be extremely damaging to our children. I had trouble listening to the proposal of face shields and that anyone would even suggest that. Based on what has happened in the few months since these kids have been sent home, I'm really not even understanding why opening schools as normal would even be a debate. The data seems to point more heavily toward these kids being harmed by staying home. Kids are falling behind, that can't be debated. Many parents have to work, so there will be children unsupervised at home should you not open up in the fall with normal school days. I can tell you with experience, it was extremely difficult to consistently work with my daughter on lessons at home.

I have a job I'm trying to keep by working at home, and occasionally have to go into the office, and there is a considerable amount of attention that needs to happen to work on these lessons with the children. I, myself, had a hard time understanding what needed to be done at times. That put an enormous strain on me and family life at home. And I have heard schools across the country talking about electronically tracking children in the classroom. That should never happen, that is ridiculous. If we parents pull our children out of school to full-time homeschool so they aren't to be subjected to the psychological experiments, will the schools be able to operate with 40% less income? Because the more kids that get pulled out of the school system, there will be less teachers needed and that will result in less government income to the school systems due to low student enrollment. This could also be a solution for many parents who don't want our children to be jabbed with an unnecessary vaccine for this virus that doesn't harm children in the first place. We shouldn't have to choose between different harmful scenarios. We should be opening schools for children to learn, have recess, socialize, eat lunch with other children and live normal lives. Because these alternatives are not normal, they are harmful and they will produce more harmful results for our children that I'm not sure the school systems will be able to survive the lawsuits and whatever other consequences that will come from it.

Has anyone on this decision-making board done any estimates on how far these children have fallen behind, or will fall behind? Has anyone researched the stats on that in other states or even other countries? Surely there is data out there by now. Which areas are hardest hit? Which socioeconomic areas are hardest hit? What about suicide rates in children from the loneliness and strain it has put on them--where are those statistics? These are things that should be considered BEFORE you go making different "levels or phases" of school opening.

Nobody wants to endanger the adults in the schools, but they are way more safe in a school than they are in a grocery store or Walmart or all these other stores that people are close to other people and last time I checked the virus doesn't choose where it's going to hang out at, these places are not exempt from viruses. Covid19 targets mostly the elderly and people with underlying

conditions. People under 60 have incredibly low mortality rates according to the CDC and other countries. The median age of teachers in the US is 41. People who are fearful or have comorbidities should protect themselves, and not the rest of the population isolating themselves to protect the vulnerable.

I urge you to read the links below.

"Unfortunately, it is rapidly becoming conventional wisdom that students should be asked to attend half-days, wear masks, skip recess, spread themselves six feet apart and spend half their time in front of a computer — all in the name of social distancing. But how can classrooms hold students spread apart by six feet? How can you practice phonics with your mouth covered? How can you learn if it is time to return home just as you have settled into your seat? How can you develop socially and emotionally if you must remain distant from friends at recess? How can teachers instruct with masks on their faces? "

"... children are safe at school already. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states that of the first 68,998 U.S. deaths from COVID-19, only 12 have been in children under age 14 — less than 0.02 percent. Nor is coronavirus killing teenagers. At last count, the fatality total among children under 18 without an underlying condition is one; only ten of the 16,469 confirmed coronavirus deaths in New York City were among those under the age of 18. That's similar to the fatality rate for those under 20 in France, estimated at 0.001 percent, and in Spain." <https://thehill.com/opinion/education/500349-science-says-open-the-schools>

Denmark was the first country to send kids back to schools and it did not increase Covid19 cases. There is quite a bit of information in medical journals showing the school closures caused much more damage than if they remained open.

"It has been calculated that the expected number of cases directly generated by 1 case of SARS-CoV-2 infection (R_0) is high and not lower than 2.5.2 Moreover, children younger than 10 years account for only 1% of COVID-19 cases,³ and although a certain number of them can experience an asymptomatic infection, the total number of children with SARS-CoV-2 infection seems lower than expected. Although no official data are available, to our knowledge, on the effectiveness of school closure during the COVID-19 epidemic, the poor relevance of this restrictive measure seems confirmed by the evidence that in Taiwan, the spread of COVID-19 was minimized without widespread planned school closures.⁴ On the other hand, using UK population and school data together with data on SARS-CoV-2 transmission dynamics calculated in the early COVID-19 pandemic in China, it was predicted that school closure would be insufficient to mitigate the pandemic. Finally, the poor effect of school closure during coronavirus epidemics has already been evidenced in some studies carried out during the SARS epidemic. In China, it was found that school closure for 2 months was not significantly effective for disease prevention mainly because of the very low incidence of symptomatic disease among school-aged children " <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/fullarticle/2766114>

Masks

I would like to propose that masks are optional for children and I use science that isn't cherry-picked by the government to make the case that they do more harm than good. The WHO still doesn't generally recommend them and states there is little science showing fabric masks do anything. We are talking about masking a small child for >6 hrs a day (you have to consider the bus ride and also if they are coming from a daycare that wants to mask them). Do you want to be responsible for children's health issues as

a result of this idea to mask them? I don't think you do. Unless you get the governor, who is happily despotic, to grant you immunity for any health harms you cause in children as a result of masking, you will be responsible for it, and after listening to the last meeting, none of you have strong clinical science backgrounds. My child has an auto-inflammatory syndrome. Do you know what that is? It is not autoimmune, it's auto-inflammatory. She gets a periodic fever, sometimes 99 or 99.5 sometimes higher fever, which is a result of a dysregulation of her innate immune system. It is usually on a schedule, although flares can occur when stress is put on the body. According to your board, 100.4 the normal cut-off for a true fever is too easily confused with 104? I'm sorry but that is the most bizarre thing I have ever heard. My daughter's syndrome is a result of her immune system overreacting. It causes fever, sometimes leg pain and mouth sores. She has a 504 plan with her school. She is to be treated normal with these flares if and when they occur, and she is not infectious. She can function normally and I send her to school during flares. She has no respiratory symptoms, mostly just a fever that lasts a few days. So if she is masked all day long, and can't breathe properly, it will put unnecessary stress on her system that could induce a fever flare, which from the sounds of it everyone is so freaked out over this new simple flu-like virus, that any child with a fever will be hurled out of the school like they have leprosy. She also has allergies and it sounds like sneezing is against the law and one must hide in a closet and never come out if they sneeze. It will also force children to have to talk louder to be heard and that just increases the amount of spit and debris inside the mask. Not to mention making their noses run and sneezing into it and then having that up against their face for hours. How can children talk to their teacher or each other with a muzzle on their face- or is that the goal? If you look at the actual numbers, children in this country are not getting ill from this virus and it has to do with their T cell response. It is false to say children are dying everywhere when the numbers did not indicate that last fall and still don't indicate that. You also have to consider that the forehead temperature devices are not very accurate. A child running around playing at a daycare before school could potentially register as warm because it is a surface device. The only way to accurately take a temperature, aside from rectal, is oral. And you don't want to use an oral thermometer that isn't a model used in a hospital or doctor's office. So screening children and tossing them out because they are 99.5 with a highly inaccurate thermometer device would be to put it mildly, absurd.

So, if you follow all the "science" being proposed by the government and our Governor, you will find they cherry-pick to float their narrative because isn't this all about vaccinations? Vaccinations which already harm children, cause neurological disorders and are the reason for 3 million kids with Autism-which was revealed by the whistleblower in 2004 that CDC burned the data and covered it up. Vaccinations that lead to cancer, childhood leukemia, autoimmune disorders etc. Vaccinations that don't provide long-term immunity like wild-type virus and have to have constant boosters, and vaccinations which generate a lot of money for the pharmaceutical industry which doesn't have to safety test them because they aren't held accountable for adverse reactions which is why each vaccination has a tax on it so money can be generated to pay the vaccine court cases? Yes, those vaccines. The very vaccines which vaccine-injured my child. Anything coming out of the CDC should be interpreted with caution, as they are to benefit from money to be made from vaccinations. The CDC isn't gospel, certainly has done some really stupid stuff as of late, classifies anyone who dies who has a positive test for coronavirus as death by Covid even if they were hit by a bus and died from internal injuries. If you believe the "science is settled" and CDC is the only source you can go with, you are going to continue the farce that is upon us. The Lancet just published a study that was found to be made up and false and had to be retracted, so we can't necessarily go with that journal anymore, and things coming out of China now might be fake. If you want to understand masks, their purpose (which isn't to stop viruses from transmitting) you have to go to older data that surrounds the first SARS outbreak, or even before that.

I personally don't think Gov. Carney is a scientist, not sure why there is so much worship of someone who doesn't actually make

much sense deciding what stores can open , which people can be laid off and who gets to have their lives destroyed. The "we are all in this together" mantra is pretty pathetic coming from someone who isn't financially affected or had his life destroyed in any way or is waiting in line at the Food Bank hoping to get food for his children so they don't starve. We can be spared of the information coming out of his office. And this made up idea that there is a rampant asymptomatic spread of a respiratory illness is totally made up. So many people in the science field not taking a government paycheck do not believe in rampant asymptomatic spread. But, can't make money off of vaccines if we don't make it look like everyone is a walking oozing infection.

Below is information in regards to masks. I will not be able to have my child masked at school as it will cause more harm to her body and cause her to have fever flares that are non-infectious and then miss school for zero reason other than I have to cater to the fears of people who don't know what they are doing. You can't possibly think all these studies blessed by the government have suddenly uncovered masks are the way to go when the science BEFORE this non-pandemic did not agree. Masks aren't slowing the spread of anything. If you quarantine for the length of time we did, you suppress the immune system and then you will be at risk for anything. This will be their made up "second wave" and they'll be so concerned and close schools and make people go back in their homes so they can keep herd immunity from happening because if herd immunity happened a vaccine won't be needed. For weeks it was "flatten the curve flatten the curve!" and now the curve has been flat and it's "everyone is going to die unless we get a vaccine!". The narrative changes oddly with where the agenda needs to go.

In order for the immune system to function properly it must be diverse with microbial life (we have more microbial DNA in our bodies than human DNA and of that microbial DNA 34% is viral) one must eat a healthy diet of plants- no dairy, little to no meat, no processed junk, drink water, exercise, breath air and breath in the microbes in the air, touch nature and laugh. If we spray these kids with disinfectant, mask them, tell them to touch nothing and be fearful of everything, we will be subjecting them to serious illness and possibly epigenetics/genetic expression of disease from the impact of these decisions. Masks are for the sick and vulnerable population, not for healthy people. Isn't it interesting that we were told months ago by Mr. Fauci to NOT wear masks, and then it was optional and then it changed suddenly to wear them all the time when his eyes glazed over with dollar signs? Pretty interesting, indeed.

The COVID-19 virus is 0.125 μm in size, and can penetrate the surgical mask barrier. You would have to wear cloth masks with many many layers to even be a little effective and that makes breathing difficult.

Regards,
Emily Iaconelli

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6/17/2020	Paulette Durham	I don't think it's a good idea. De is small.. People are getting sick daily.. Everyone is not social distancing.. This is not a game, people are dying. It doesn't take much to spread a cold yet alone a deadly disease that moves this fast... Homeschool has worked before Corona, and it's the safest way to keep our children in the position to continue their Education. Let's do the "Safe Thing", by not putting our children in harms way.. when a student has a common cold, they are told to stay home... So why would a parent/school agree to send a/their child now?
6/17/2020	Emelia Ayala	I don't feel sure that my son will go back to school while the virus is still present

6/17/2020	Mary beth Russell	<p>Good afternoon</p> <p>I just have a question Regarding reopening of schools: Once children return to school, if someone within their class contracts COVID what will be the procedure? Will the class be quarantined at home? What about those students that have siblings? Will they also be quarantined?</p> <p>I realize we have a long way to go with planning.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
6/17/2020	Sue Smith	<p>Sharing reopening video of what we could potentially look like here in Delaware.</p> <p>https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fcolegiovirgendeeuropa%2Fvideos%2F263963298244769%2F&data=01%7C01%7C5Smith%40msd.k12.de.us%7Cfa9db32b23cb457eaea508d812bcb5ec%7C21b6d6867f08438dbdc6bd214d829bd2%7C1&sdata=yaw1z6TyScAmNT6I7IZMARsHdl3bWqZ9%2B6A840ihRzE%3D&reserved=0</p>

6/17/2020

Kerri Best

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to you as a concerned parent of a rising sophomore and rising senior in the DE public school system. As I know there are several committees working on ideas for the 2020-2021 school year, I wanted to provide my thoughts.

First, I would like to acknowledge that the distance learning that occurred at the end of this year was a complete and utter failure, in my opinion. My two children are higher performing students that take honors and AP classes. It was completely disheartening to see how much they regressed during the last few months of school. With the exception of only a few teachers, the teachers simply did not teach. They sent out busy work. Or, they sent out difficult work that the students were expected to complete by watching videos (not of the teacher). There was such little contact between my children and their teachers that my children started doing what I know many did - staying up all night and sleeping all day. As a working parent, it was very difficult to keep them on a schedule when the teachers were not holding them accountable to much of anything. So, with this said, I feel that the kids staying home and participating in distance learning should be the absolute last option for next school year.

Second, it seems to me that you have parents on two sides of the fence. Those that want their kids to get back to normal school and activities. And those that do not - perhaps they are scared or have family members at high risk. This is understandable. So, given this, it makes sense to me to make it a choice. Set up a program where it is easier and more effective for the kids that want to stay home - perhaps expanding the homeschooling program or setting aside a few teachers to simply do online teaching. If there are enough families that take advantage of this, it would lower the numbers in school and make social distancing easier.

Another idea I have to make those that attend school safer, includes allowing juniors and seniors that drive to leave campus for lunch (with signed permission). This would lessen the amount of students in the cafeteria during lunchtime. Additionally, if the risk to the teachers is a concern, as it should be, ensure they have adequate PPE. A face shield versus a face mask might be more comfortable for teaching.

My feeling, as I know is the feeling of many parents, is that kids are at the very lowest risk for complications from COVID-19, yet their lives have been completely turned upside down- academically, socially, emotionally. It is a fact that in DE nearly 2/3 (64%) of the deaths have occurred in nursing homes, yet students are the subject of these major changes impacting their education and social lives. It is my daughter's senior year. I am so fearful that this important milestone will be negatively impacted by changes to school in the same way the class of 2020 experienced. I'm also concerned that she will not be academically ready for college due to the lack of effective teaching done with distance learning at the high school level (this would also be the case with staggered schedules - it would negatively impact learning).

Please, do everything you can to allow us, as families, to assume the risk. Let our children go back to school, sports and activities normally with the appropriate but least restrictive precautions.

Thank you,

6/17/2020	Audrey J. Noble	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I submit this comment not as a member of the State Board of Education but as a retired educator. Numerous members of your group, including a district superintendent, mentioned the importance of formative assessment data for instructional planning purposes. Educators are going to have many issues to address when students come back to school, whether that is face to face or remotely or both. Since the state's Smarter Balanced assessment has a formative component that can be administered remotely, could the assessments be administered this summer so that educators have an opportunity before school starts to use the results for instructional planning and decision-making? Since we cannot be sure of how extensive the depth of unfinished learning is, having data to better understand that early on can only be helpful.</p> <p>Thank you for taking my comment into consideration.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>
6/17/2020	Todd Webb	<p>Good evening Deborah,</p> <p>I send you this request as the Chairperson of the State Council for Persons with Disabilities.</p> <p>I'm watching the School Reopening Work Group: Academics & Equity and notice that the Live YouTube stream and noticed that it doesn't have live captioning enabled?</p> <p>https://www.doe.k12.de.us/Page/4211</p>
6/17/2020	Karen Clark M. Ed	<p>I have just finished listening to 2 days of meetings.</p> <p>Sue Smith brings up many valid points about the ability of schools to be able to act on the suggestions that are being made in regards to families having thermometers, medicating children before school to bring down temperatures and what to do when families can not or will not pick up sick children. No one seems to answer or make adjustments to her concerns. Also what will happen if a student refuses to wear a mask. Will they be sent home, will it be a referral ? How can the health of others be taken for granted with the actions of one student ?</p> <p>One concern I have from the Health and wellness is in relation to buses. It was the last slide before the meeting adjourned. My daughters regular school bus has 12 middle school children (since we live in a remote area). If it operated on a 1/2 that would be only 6 students. There needs to be a better way to determine how full a bus can be -saying 1/2 isn't the right way to determine children on bus. That same slide says - ALL windows should be open at ALL times to facilitate air flow. I do not want my daughter sitting in a freezing bus or getting wet on the way to school because the recommendation said to open "all" windows and at "all" times. There needs to be some reasonable discussion about how many windows and what happens during inclement weather.</p> <p>Thank you for considering these suggestions.</p>

6/17/2020	Tammy Kennard	<p>Please, open schools in September. I have school age children, 8th, 7th and 2nd graders for the 2020/2021 school year. Both my husband and I are considered essential workers. Having my children doing online classes was a nightmare. They have not learned anything. They need in school instruction. I was not meant to be a teacher, with our work schedule this is impossible with 3 kids. There has to be a way we can open safely.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
6/18/2020	Kate Bowski, Ed.D., NBCT	<p>In reading the documents for today's Operations meeting, I would ask you to add the consideration of teachers into the Technology section. Slides 26 and 28 speak of assessing devices and internet access for students and families. We need to remember that online learning won't happen if teachers don't have adequate internet connections. Many teachers in my district paid dearly over the last few months to upgrade their internet or install new services, and others incurred large overage charges due to data use. We need to consider this aspect within the scenarios being discussed today.</p>
6/18/2020	Karen Clark M. Ed	<p>After listening to 2 weeks of the Academics and Equity meetings, I have a few comments to share with the committee. This week there was a great deal of talk about teacher PLCs and Pd. We already have plenty of plc time and pd time built into our schedule. I don't feel that more time is necessary, but I am not sure what other districts have, so as many committee members mentioned perhaps consistency throughout the state is necessary. Quality and relevant pd is also an important issue, having pd to have pd isn't the best plan. As we move forward with a new way to teach, I do believe schools and grade levels need common planning time especially for grade level articulation as we start a new school year.</p> <p>I would also like to add that one way to ensure quality instruction is to provide, identify and teach using the "power standards" for each grade level. Not only will this help to fill in the pandemic gaps, provide consistency throughout the grade levels and the state. Power standards are the standards that each grade level is expected to understand and master in that year of school. I believe one committee member called it "cutting the fat."</p> <p>Thank you for reading and for working hard to complete this assigned task.</p>

6/18/2020	Debbie Carden	<p>My child was a 9th grade high school student this year in one of the Middletown schools. First of all, I do NOT agree with the kids not going back to school in the fall. My child learned absolutely nothing this school year with remote learning! To begin with my child may have had 1 hour of homework in a day and probably a majority of that homework he actually googled the answers as I am sure that a lot of other students did that as well. I fear that when these kids do return to school in the fall, they will be behind and a lot of the material that was taught remotely will have to be relearned. I am one of the fortunate parents that does not have to worry about day care should my child not go back to school. However, what about the parents who cannot afford to not go back to work, cannot afford daycare and are unable to leave their children at home alone? While I understand that some parents are concerned because their children may be at high risk or are just plain afraid to send their children back to school, I don't believe we can wait for a vaccine before we get these children back in school. I for one will not vaccinate my child with a brand new vaccine that has been rushed and not thoroughly tested just to make others feel comfortable with sending their children back to school. I suggest maybe there be an option for the children that are unable to return to school for whatever reason. My thoughts are that you could set up virtual learning opportunity for them. Maybe they could tap in to a live feed of the classroom from their home computer. The teacher could count them in for attendance and they will be able to be a part of the classroom. They would have the opportunity to listen to questions from other students in the class or ask questions themselves. I just believe that keeping the majority of the students from the classroom and face-to-face opportunities is a mistake. Thank you for taking the time to consider my thoughts.</p>
6/18/2020	Rep. Jaques	<p>A Vision for Post COVID Education</p>