



Middle School Return to In-Person Update & Recommendation

November 10, 2020

District Operational Metrics

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Child Nutrition

School cafeterias adequately staffed and stocked

> 90%

84.00%
75 – 90%

< 75%

Transportation

Bus routes staffed

> 90%

84.10%
75 – 90%

< 75%

Custodial

Schools with adequate custodial staff coverage to maintain enhanced cleanliness standards

93.70%
> 90%

75 – 90%

< 75%

Nurses

Schools with a full time nurse or full time coverage

> 90%

75.00%
60 – 90%

< 60%

All metrics in green: District operating as planned. All metrics in yellow: District operation plans may need to be adjusted to begin/continue to limit in-person learning option to specific prioritized student populations. Metrics in red: Consider maintaining/return to virtual learning.

Transportation - *Overview*

Middle School Return - 11/23

Current Data

1,005 buses scheduled for the 2020-2021 school year

-122 drivers on approved federal/other leave

-6 driver vacancies

877 total assigned drivers available to transport students

Additional employees awaiting pending leave decisions.

1,005 buses: reduced from 1,088 buses as a result of de-assigning students in full remote.

Remaining 18,115 non-full remote middle school students were assigned bus schedules based on current Board-approved plan to return MS on November 23. This includes 1,448 middle school students attending K-8 schools.

Definitions

Assigned student - Student eligible for transportation that has requested a stop either AM, PM, or both.

Bus Stop - location that falls within department guidelines for safety, distance, and visibility.

Bus Run - A collection of bus stops organized geographically for efficiency within a school's attendance boundary.

Bus Route - A collection of bus runs created to optimize the efficient and effective use of the bus fleet.

Example: In a regular school year, Bus 4 serves a Myers Park High, Sharon Elementary, and Carmel Middle School

Middle School Return

Transportation – *Potential Impact for Students*

227 bus runs on the 128 buses with no drivers serve **7,117** PK-8 students

In order to cover 227 runs:

- Reassign 227 runs to the currently available 877 routes
- Available buses must run double and perhaps triple runs at the same school.
- Must maintain social-distancing capacity of maximum 24 MS students per bus

Potential outcomes:

- Cannot maintain social-distancing capacity of maximum 24 MS students per bus; **or**
- **7,117** students waiting at bus stops each morning and at school each afternoon for an estimated minimum of 30 minutes to one hour delay.
- Impact to student instructional day with late arrivals
- Decreases available time for midday refueling/maintenance
- Budget impact - overtime for drivers

Using previous example, Bus 4 may now run Sharon Elementary, Dilworth Elementary twice, and then Carmel MS (with bus arriving after morning bell and after 5 pm)

Middle School Return

Transportation - *Variables to Consider for 2nd semester*

- Federal Leave expires on 12/31/20, but could be extended into 2021 (67 drivers).
- Changes to number of students in full remote academy for 2nd semester. An increased number of students requesting a return to in-person learning will require additional buses and drivers.
- Changes to Governor's order regarding max bus capacity and social-distancing requirements

We've also explored...

Shifting most middle schools to high school tier (7:15 a.m. - 1:45 p.m.)

- Students being transported approximately two hours earlier.
- Would require a change to the high school exam schedule.
- Would require a change back to regular MS tier on January 5, 2020 if high schools return to in-person learning creating significant scheduling challenges for families.

Adding a 10th bell tier (9:45 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.).

- Long day for students; some not arriving home until 7:00 p.m.
- Overtime for bus drivers on daily basis (budget implication).
- Reduces amount of time available to service/fuel buses in the middle of the day

Consolidated/Shuttle stops:

- Does not adequately address gap in staffing
- Timing required to develop effective plan while running/updating PK/EC/K-5

Action Steps for 2nd Semester: Nov. 16 - 30, 2020

- Timeline for 2nd semester decisions accelerated to allow sufficient time for schedule changes, updating bus routes, etc. **New deadline: November 30**
- Families should continue alerting their schools if they intend to change their student's in-person or full remote assignment for second semester.
- Families with students attending in-person for second semester, should also respond to a transportation survey by end of day Monday, November 30. Survey will launch Monday, November 16.
- Students for whom the survey is not completed will default to their first semester attendance assignment, and, if attending in-person and eligible for transportation, will be included on a CMS bus route.

Middle School Return to In-Person Recommendation

Return students in grades 6-8 who attend K-8 schools on Nov. 30. on the K-5 (A, A, remote, B, B) rotation schedule.

Return all remaining students in grades 6-12 on Jan. 5, on A, B, C weekly rotation aligning with the high school calendar.

- All 6-8 middle school and high school teachers, not previously approved for remote work, will return on November 30, in preparation for EOC testing.
- High-risk remote work approvals for licensed school-based staff will be re-evaluated for potential extension beyond 12/31.

Rationale:

- For the health & safety of our students and to remain in compliance with the Governor's executive order, we can safely transport the 6-8 component of our K-8 schools, placing no more than 24 students on a bus.
- K-8 school bus routes were designed to meet the threshold of 24 students/bus.