



Office of the Division Superintendent

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June 9, 2020

Dear CCPS Staff, Students, Families, and Community,

Today, Tuesday, June 9, 2020 Governor Northam announced the plan for reopening of schools. School Division Administration and the School Board will need to assess the recommendations contained in the reopening plans in terms of the best way to implement the “phases” as outlined by the Governor. I ask for your support and patience as we navigate uncharted waters.

We will be making plans for the reopening of school, to include but not limited to, the school calendar and what the return to school might look like in terms of face to face instruction. As you know, CCPS is scheduled to begin school on August 10. The approved school calendar contemplates new teachers reporting on July 27. We do not know at this time if the approved calendar is feasible or practical in terms of the reopening recommendations. The guidelines shared today limiting numbers of students, social distancing on buses and in classrooms, common space restrictions, and daily screening of students, presents many challenges to opening schools. To be clear, CCPS will adopt, follow, and adjust to, the latest guidance from the CDC, the Virginia Department of Education, and the Virginia Health Department in creating a return to school plan for the 2020-21 school year.

The School Board has endorsed the creation of a local Reopening of Schools Task Force based upon the unique needs of our community. The phases outlined by the Governor are a baseline. School divisions may be granted the flexibility to proceed more cautiously or stringently within the phases or request variances to deviate from the recommendations.

A full return to school buildings for in-person teaching and learning without social distancing and other safety measures in place is not an option. Rather, we will be planning for a return to school with limited student attendance to comply with social distancing and other safety measures. The partial return to school buildings for instruction may include staggered schedules for attendance so that all students are not in school buildings at one time. This will likely require the continuation of blended online and in-person instruction.

We understand that the impact on students and families related to any sort of staggered return will be very challenging. We plan to engage with our community partners to create arrangements for students to engage in distance learning away from home so that parents/guardians may go to work.

The plan must include provisions for short-term school closures in the event of positive cases of COVID-19 in our schools. Closures could range from an individual school closure to a school division closure until disinfecting can occur. Subsequently, a return to school or schools would be pursuant to CDC guidelines.

Please understand that we do not have all of the answers at this time. The good news is that we now have guidance for a starting point. I can assure you that we will work diligently to develop a plan around these recommendations while keeping the needs of Culpeper in the forefront.

Sincerely,

Division Superintendent
Anthony S. Brads, Ed.D.

“... every student will be inspired, empowered, and educated for success. “