

# West Jefferson Hills School District

*Phased Reopening Health and Safety and Educational Plan*

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## Our Process

- Formation of core planning team and working subcommittees
- District administration creates a draft document based on research, Health Department guidelines, and PDE recommendations
- Collect survey data from parents and teachers multiple times to aide in planning
- Analyze data and available metrics to further develop and tweak the draft plan
- Have each committee review the plan and make appropriate comments and recommendations
- Core planning team will revise the draft as appropriate and submit the final draft to board for final approval

The logo for WJHSD features a close-up, stylized illustration of a tiger's face. The tiger's eyes are a bright yellow, and its fur is depicted with dark brown and black stripes. The letters "WJHSD" are prominently displayed in the center of the image, rendered in a white, serif font. The letters are framed by two horizontal orange lines, one above and one below, which extend slightly beyond the width of the text.

WJHSD

## Research

- Weekly meetings with county superintendents, Allegheny County Health Department, and Steel Center and Parkway superintendents
- ***Considerations for Reopening Pennsylvania Schools***, Brian Gill, Ravi Goyal, Jacob Hartog, John Hotchkiss, and Danielle DeLisle, REL Mid-Atlantic
- ***COVID-19 Planning Considerations: Guidance for School Re-entry***, American Association of Pediatrics
- Guidance from PDE and the Pennsylvania Department of Health
- Consultations with health professionals
- Other available peer-reviewed research articles that were relevant
- State and County COVID Dashboards

The logo for WJHSD features a close-up, stylized illustration of a tiger's face. The tiger's eyes are a bright yellow, and its fur is depicted with dark brown and black stripes. The letters 'WJHSD' are centered over the tiger's face in a white, serif font. The letters are underlined with a thin orange line.

WJHSD

## INSTRUCTION & SCHEDULES (MATT PATTERSON)

<u>High School</u>	<u>PHMS</u>	<u>Elementary/Intermediate</u>
Pete Murphy (Co-chair)	Dan Como (Co-Chair)	Jodi Merwin (Co-chair)
Jen Kassimer	Dave Hiller	Anthony Sendro
Justin Kaszonyi	Logan Hasselhoff	Justin Liberatore
Holly Peiritsch	Jim Benedek	Jade Fiore
Suzanne Downer	Monica Kilcoyne	Amanda Fazekas
Gerry Dawson	Andrew Capretto	Katie Snodgrass
Amy Rodgers (para)	Jill Startari	Amber Pearson
Kelly Scears	Ashley Paradise	Denise Kahler
Adam Knaresborough	Linda Prah	Kristin Torrance
Dana Ritter		Amanda McWilliams
		Kristin Torrance
		Melissa Papinchak

**FACILITIES & OPERATIONS (RYAN SNODGRASS)**

<b><u>Transportation</u></b>	<b><u>Building and Facilities</u></b>	<b><u>Food Service</u></b>
Gwen Murphy (co-chair)	Dan Giger	John Rambo (Co-Chair)
Jack Baumgardner	Chris Zacur	Adam Zunic
Chris Very	Kelly Miller	Tracy Harris
Paul Ware	Tracy Harris	Bill Cherpak
Adam Zunic	Kylie Recktenwald	Lisa Wood
Paul Ware	Adam Zunic	Melissa McCauley
Karen Kotar	Michele Rash	
Brian Fernandes	Jack Baumgardner	
Dan Como	Melissa Arndt	
	Brian Fernandes	
	Dan Como	

## HEALTH & SAFETY (Chair: SCOTT MILBURN)

Lindsay Pfister (Co- Chair)	Diane McGrady	Dave Hiller
Dr. Carolyn Coyne Professor, Childrens Pediatrics Director, Center for Microbial Pathogens	Nicole Leckenby University of Pittsburgh Department of Epidemiology	Dr. Mohannad Kusti Occupational medicine specialist COVID-19 in the workplace consultant.
Kim Finnerty	Dr. Darcy Giger Family Physician	Heidi Karcher
Kristin Shoemaker	Michelle Flinn	Holly Kosanovich
Melissa McCauley	Kristin Kulikowski	Dave Shearouse
Dr. David Dausey Provost and VP Duq. University Internationally recognized epidemiologist	Dr. Megan Freeman, MD, Ph.D (Childrens fellow and COVID-19 expert)	Dr. Divina Djokic (AHN Pediatric infectious disease expert)
Dr. Judy Kauffman Ph.D in Public Health Professor of epidemiology and nursing at Robert Morris University	Amanda Fazekis	Lauren Kaszonyi
Elizabeth Floyd	Kaylie Rectenwald	

## McREL/Mathematica Study

**Scenario B (daily attendance with precautions)** - Students wear masks on the bus only, and school staff wear masks at all times outside the classroom. Students interact with other students only in their class(es); elementary students take only a single class, while middle and high school students take six classes during the day. Lunch is eaten in classrooms and recess exists for elementary students only; that is elementary students have recess at the same time and in the same place only with their own classmates, preventing mixing with other classes. This scenario represents a relatively modest change to regular school routines.

**Scenario C (daily attendance with precautions and block scheduling)** - Same as Scenario B, with an additional shift to block scheduling for middle schools and high schools, meaning that each class meets only every other day for double the amount of time. This would have the effect of reducing the number of other students that each student contacts by half each day.

**Scenario E (rotating 2 days per week)** - Same as Scenario B, except that students are divided into two groups, with half coming to school on Mondays and Wednesdays and the other half coming to school on Tuesdays and Thursdays. All students remain at home on Fridays for remote instruction. We make the assumption that reducing the school population by one-half each day—in addition to having 20 percent of students stay home full-time voluntarily—is likely to be sufficient to allow 6 feet of distance between desks in most classrooms. It also cuts in half the number of other students that each student contacts—both in the classroom and on the bus. But we assume that it will not reduce bus ridership enough to achieve the space suggested by the Centers for Disease Control (2020, May 19), which would seem to require buses to run at 20 percent or less of their normal capacity.

# Results

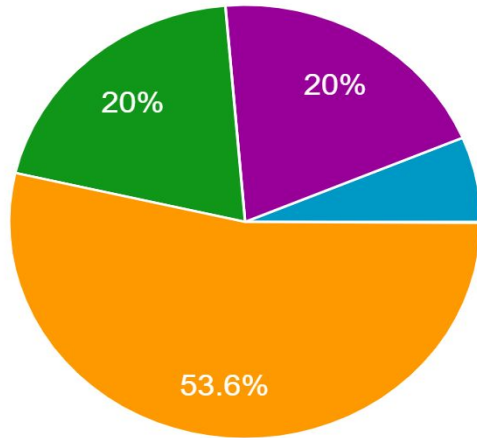
- **Scenario B (daily attendance with precautions)**- In high schools, where students change classes multiple times a day, the modest mitigation strategy of Scenario B is predicted to produce limited improvement in the number of days until five infections are reached (relative time of 1.2 times). The percentage of transmissions occurring within the school decrease from 68 percent under Scenario A to 61 percent under Scenario B.
- **Scenario C (daily attendance with precautions and block scheduling)** - Scenario C keeps students in school all 5 days while reducing student transitions between classes. Scenario C's block scheduling increases the number of days to the 5th infection by a factor of 1.3 relative to baseline. For individual schools, the range of likely Part 3: Agent-Based Model REL Mid-Atlantic | Guidance for Reopening Pennsylvania Schools 29 outcomes is similar for Scenarios C. The percentage of transmissions occurring within the school decreases from between 61 and 68 percent under Scenarios A and B to 50 and 43 percent under Scenarios C.
- **Scenarios E (rotating 2 days per week)**- Dividing the students into two groups, each of which attends school only 40 percent time, substantially decreases infection risk and increases time to the fifth infection. Scenario E increases the length of time to the 5th infection by a factor of approximately 6, relative to baseline Scenario A. The proportion of all infections coming from the community (outside the school) increases to 88.



# Survey #1 (June)

Which of the following scenarios best describes your preference for school starting in the fall:

2,999 responses

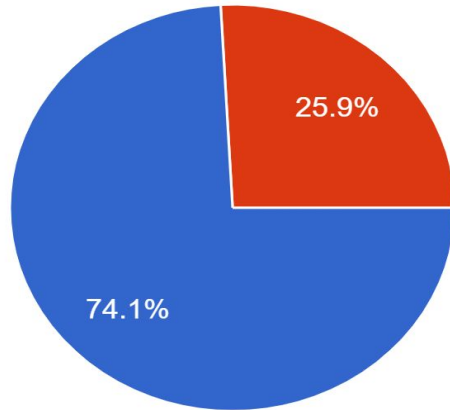


- Option A: Full-time in-person instruction with moderate mitigation - Mitigation...
- Option B: Full-time online West Jefferson Hills Cyber program - This o...
- Return full-time on August 24th as planned.
- Return using a hybrid schedule where students would attend one or two days...
- Return full-time on August 24 with PP...
- Continue a full-time online schedule ut...

# Survey #2 (July 19)

Which of the following scenarios best describes your preference for school starting in the fall:

2,615 responses

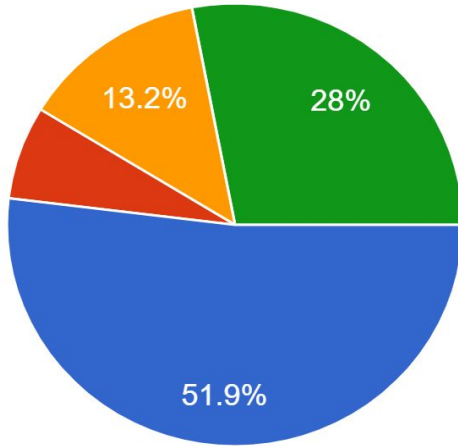


- Option A: Full-time in-person instruction with moderate mitigation - Mitigation means that we will implement most of the CDC recommended practices in food service, transportation (when possible), and facilities (specialized cleaning and...)
- Option B: Full-time online West Jefferson Hills Cyber program - This option is for students K-12 and students may remain in the program for the entire year. Families may choose to send the...

# Survey #3 (August 3)

Which of the following scenarios best describes your preference for school starting in the fall:

2,818 responses

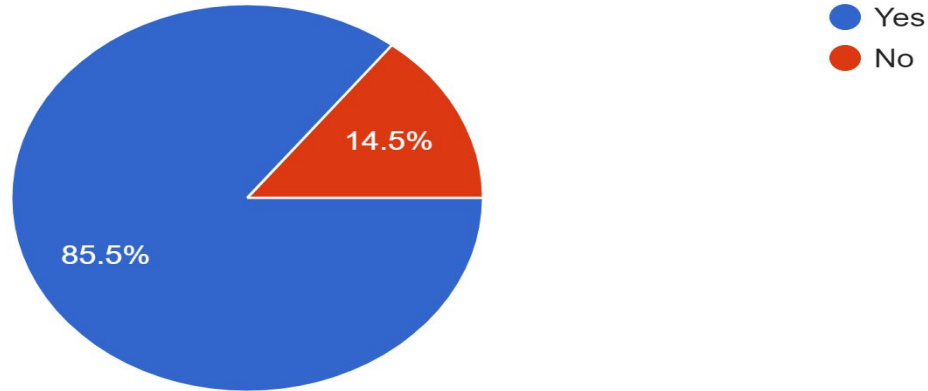


- Option A: Full-time in-person instruction with mitigation - Mitigation means that we will implement most of the CDC re...
- Option D: Full-time online West Jefferson Hills Cyber program (Asynchronous)- This option is for stu...
- Option B: Full-time online synchronous and asynchronous classes. Students...
- Option C: Hybrid model. Students would attend school two days a week and be...

# Survey #1(June)

If the following COVID-19 protocols are in place: health screenings at home for all students and staff (temperature check), cleaning/sanitizing prot... apart, etc.), would you send your child to school?

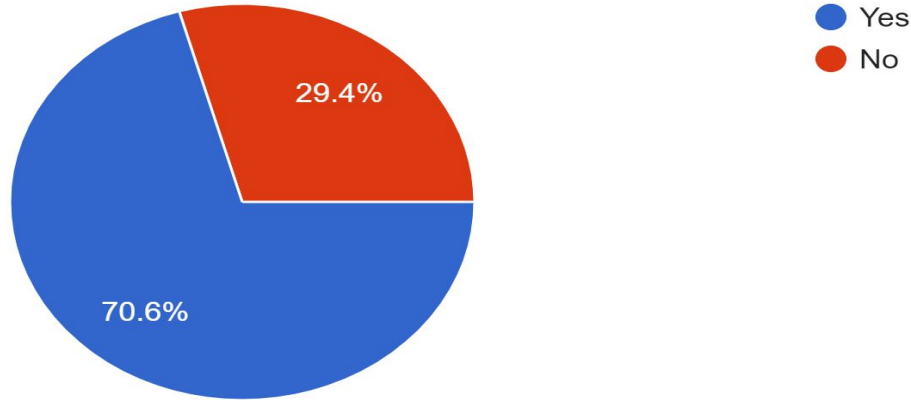
3,003 responses



# Survey # 2 (July 19)

If the following COVID-19 protocols are in place: health screenings at home for all students and staff (temperature check), cleaning/sanitizing prot... apart, etc.), would you send your child to school?

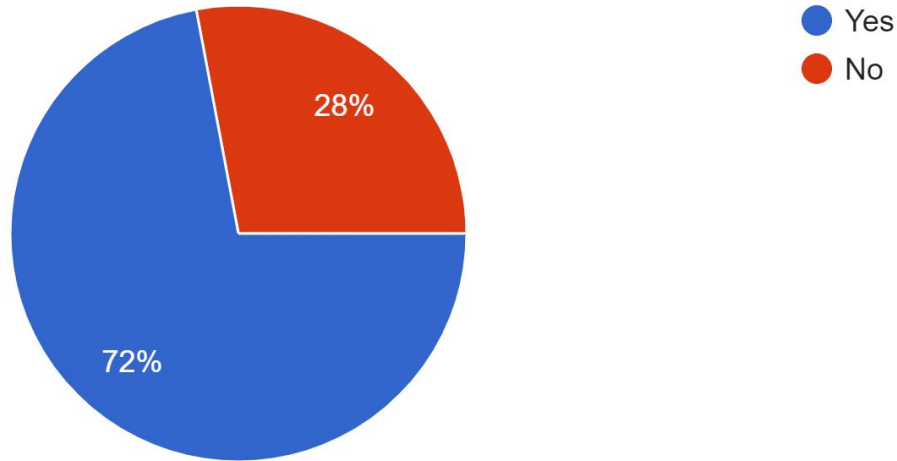
2,615 responses



# Survey #3 (August 3)

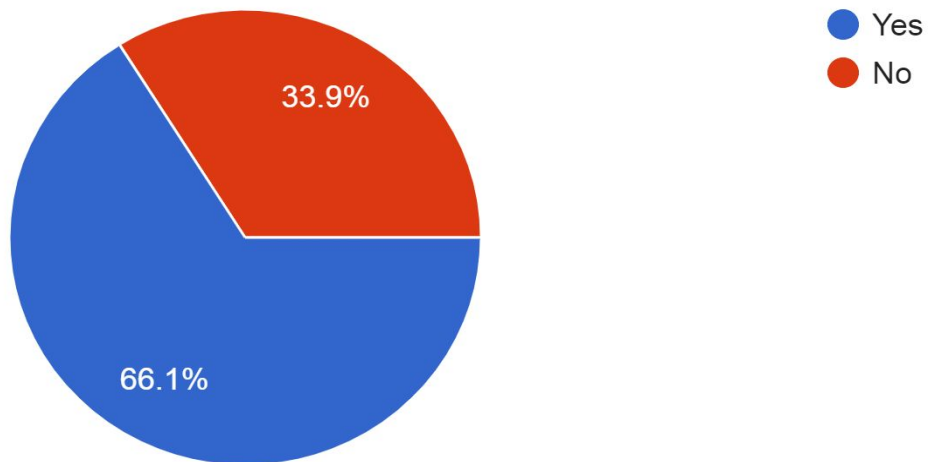
If the following COVID-19 protocols are in place: health screenings at home for all students and staff (temperature check), cleaning/sanitizing proto...es. Will you send your child to school in person?

2,818 responses



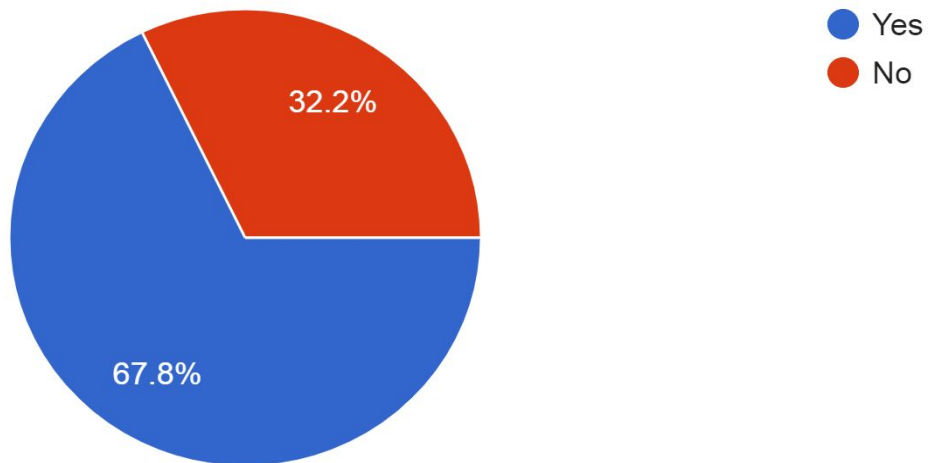
Do you have an adult at home during the day if circumstances warrant us to go to full-time online instruction or a hybrid model?

2,831 responses



Do you have childcare available if we are required to be fully online?

2,627 responses





# Substance Abuse and Mental Health Considerations

- "We're seeing, sadly, far greater suicides now than we are deaths from COVID," "We're seeing far greater deaths from drug overdose that are above the excess that we had as background than we are seeing the deaths from COVID." CDC Director Robert Redfield
- The American Medical Association also voiced concern in a July 20 [report](#) stating that over 35 states have reported increases in "opioid-related mortality as well as ongoing concerns for those with a mental illness or substance use disorder."
- Last year, the public health institute [reported](#) that the suicide rate for kids 10 to 14 has nearly tripled in the last decade while the suicide rate among older teenagers has increased by 76%.

# Allegheny County COVID-19 Key Metrics

Metric	Source	Current State
Percent positive test	World Health Organization	✓
Number of People Tested per Number of New Cases	State of Washington	✗
Decline in new cases or low number of cases	The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)	✗
New Cases Below Threshold	Commonwealth of Pennsylvania	✗
Reproduction number of COVID-19 below 1	Children's Hospital of Philadelphia	✓
Decline in Total Hospitalization	The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)	✗
ICU Bed Usage	Commonwealth of Pennsylvania	✓
Decline in Death	State of New York	✓

## ACHD County Metrics

**Two-week cumulative incidence rate:** The Number of new cases in the prior two weeks per 100,000 people. Categorization (#cases/100,000 people):

- Low: 0 - 50
- Medium: 51 - 200
- High : > 201
- **Allegheny - 7/15 to 7/28 2072/1216045 = 170 MEDIUM**
- **Two - week percent positive rate:** the percentage of individuals who tested positive out of the number of individuals tested with a molecular (swab, or PCR) test in the last two weeks for each county. The metric takes into consideration the number of tests performed in the county in the prior two weeks. Categorization:
  - Low: < 5.0%
  - Medium: 5.1 -9.9%
  - High: > 10.0%
- **Allegheny -2057 positive/24740 PCR tests = 8.3% MEDIUM**

## West Jefferson Hills School District COVID-19 Tracking

July	24	25	26	27	28	29	8/2	8/3		
<b>JH</b>	97 3 925 10.4%	106 3 1036 10.2%	107 3 1087 9.8%	110 3 1120 9.8%	111 3 1130 9.8%	112 3 1141 9.8%	116 4 1178 9.8%	117 4 1261 9.3%		
<b>PH</b>	41 1 573 7.1%	46 1 628 7.3%	48 1 673 7.1%	49 1 720 6.8%	48 1 725 6.6%	49 1 730 6.7%	49 1 756 6.4%	51 1 775 6.5%		
<b>WE</b>	0 0 16 0%	1 0 20 5%	1 0 20 5%	1 0 22 4.5%	1 0 22 4.5%	1 0 23 4.5%	1 0 26 3.8%	1 0 26 3.8%		

Per 20,000 people over a two week period positive cases-

Trend-

Percent of tests positive -

0-10 low

12-40 medium

40+ High

Decreasing- low

Stabile- medium

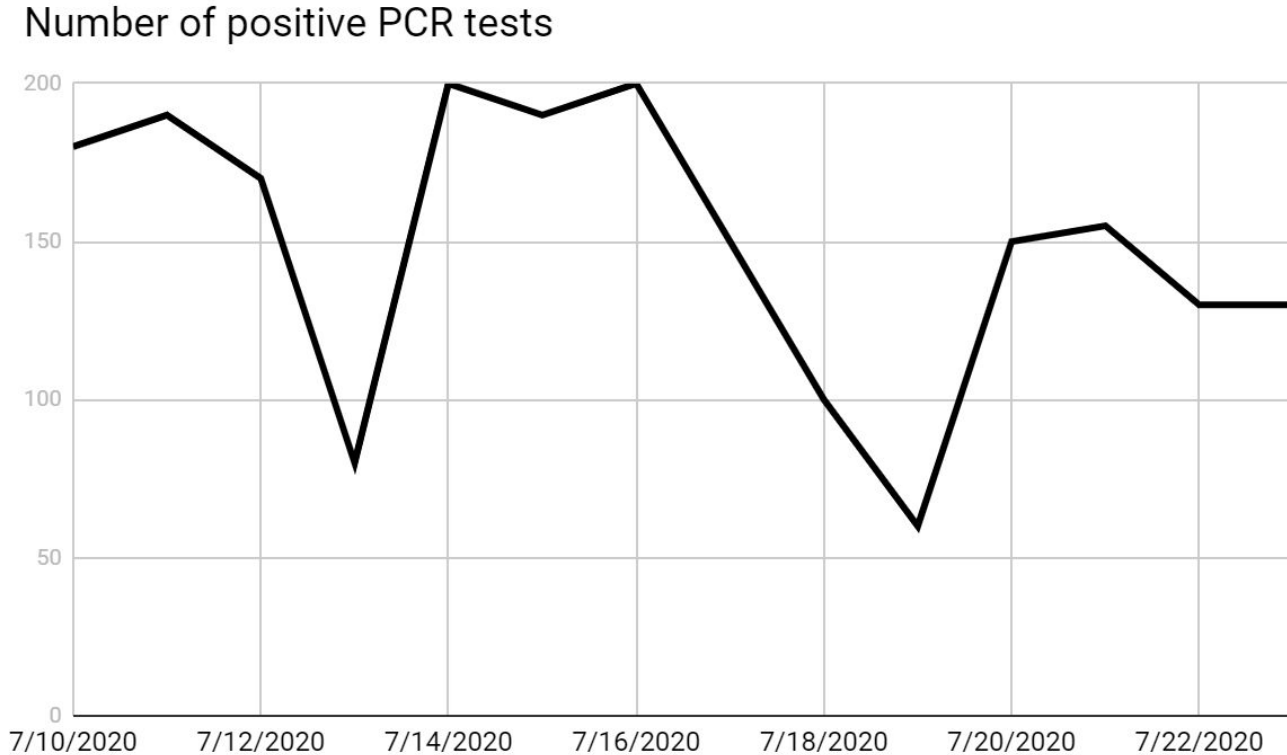
Rising - High

≤5%- Low

5.1%-9.9%- medium

Greater than 10%- High

# ACHD County Metrics trend in incidence - Stable MEDIUM



## Level of mitigation needed by level of community transmission and community characteristics

Level of Community Transmission	Community characteristics and description	Level of mitigation
Substantial, uncontrolled transmission	Large scales, uncontrolled community transmission, including communal settings (e.g., schools, workplaces)	Shelter in place
<b>Substantial, controlled transmission</b>	<b>Large scale, controlled community transmission, including communal settings (e.g., schools, workplaces)</b>	<b>Significant mitigation</b>
Minimal to moderate community transmission	Sustained transmission with high likelihood or confirmed exposure within communal settings and potential for rapid increase in cases	Moderate mitigation
No to minimal community transmission	Evidence of isolated cases or limited community transmission, case investigations underway; no evidence of exposure in large communal setting	Low mitigation

CDC outlines a range of specific mitigation strategies to consider to slow the spread of COVID-19 by level of mitigation required. This includes protecting individuals at increased risk for severe illness, including older adults and persons of any age with underlying health conditions, and the healthcare and critical infrastructure workforces.

## Substantial, controlled

If there is *substantial, controlled* transmission, significant mitigation strategies are necessary. These include following all the actions listed above and also ensuring that student and staff groupings/cohorts are as static as possible with limited mixing of student and staff groups, field trips and large gatherings and events are canceled, and communal spaces (e.g., cafeterias, media centers) are closed.

## Facilities Department Highlights

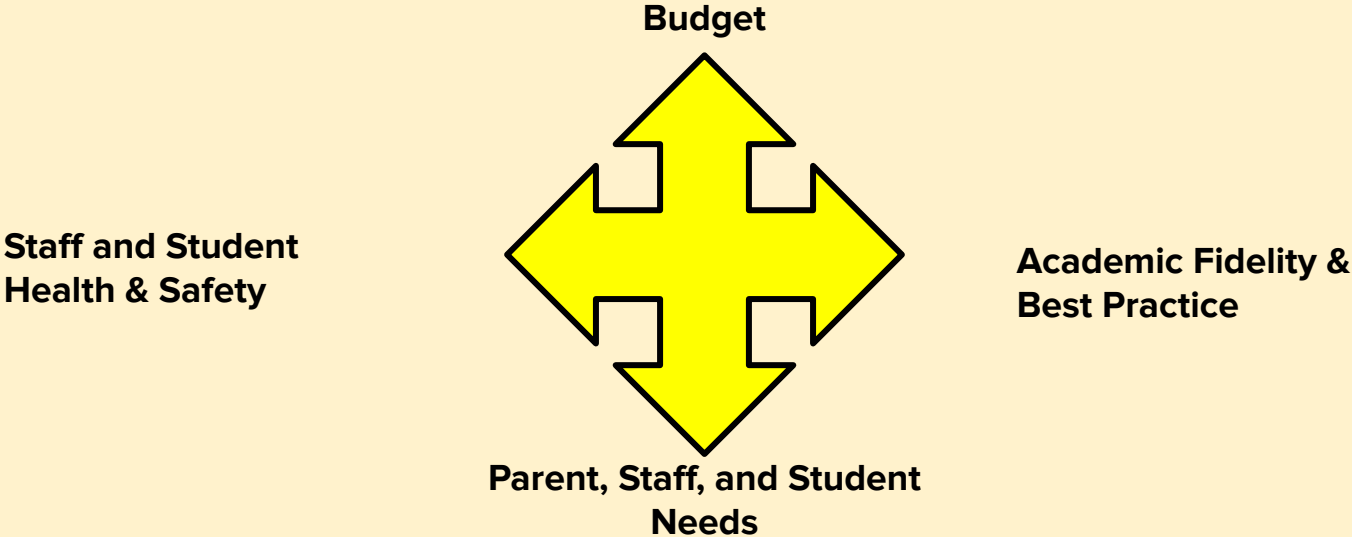
- Nightly full cleaning of all used spaces using EPA Certified Covid Disinfectants. All custodial staff will be retrained before the start of the school year
- All communal spaces such as nurses offices and bathroom rooms are to be disinfected three times during the school day using a food safe EPA Certified Covid Disinfectant
- Teachers will be supplied with disinfecting supplies for spot cleaning in their rooms during the day as well as hand sanitizer
- High touch surfaces in the all buildings will be disinfected on an hourly rotation
- UV Lighting will be utilized in areas that require shared items (TechEd, FCS, Art, Science)
- Trane Inc. will be retained for air quality monitoring and changes to our HVAC Systems (Increased Outside air, humidity controls and a change to a specialized filter where able)
- Buildings will be spray disinfected using traditional and electrostatic sprayers three times a week after hours using a food safe EPA Certified Covid Disinfectant

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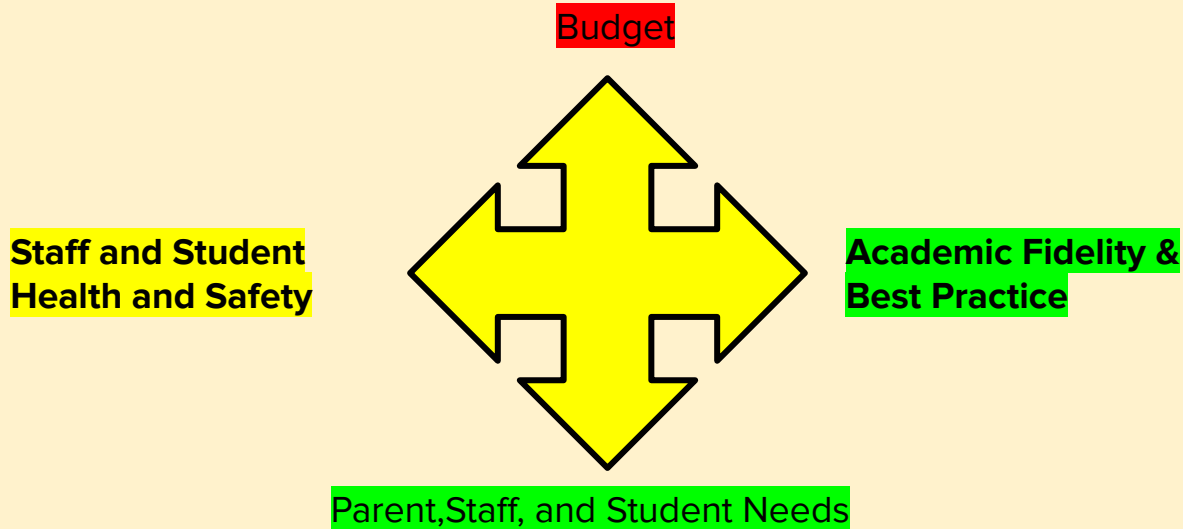
WJHSD



# Factors To Consider

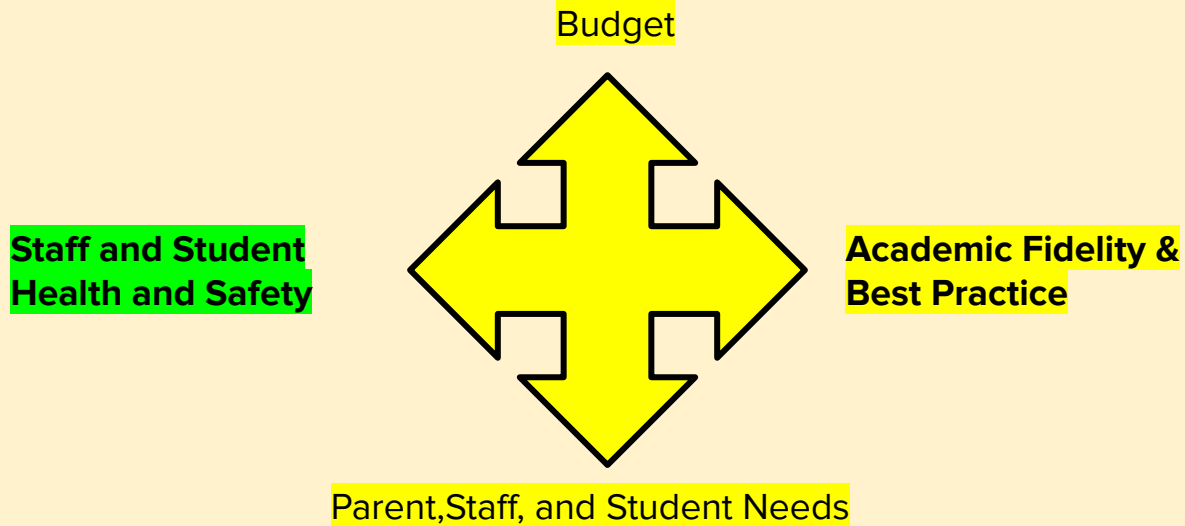


# In-School Full-Time 5 Days a Week



**WJHSD**

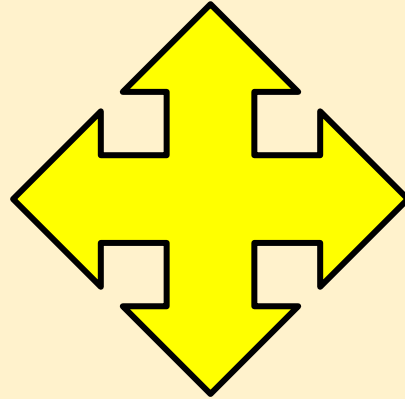
# Hybrid Model (3x2)



# Full-Time Online

Budget

Staff and Student  
Health and Safety



Academic Fidelity &  
Best Practice

Parent, Staff, and Student Needs



WJHSD

# Final Recommendation:

**Week One (Aug 24-Aug: 28): All Students Online via Canvas.** *\*\*Those students in the WJHSD Cyber Academy will also be required to complete the training courses.*

## Rationale:

- Full class introductions and team building
- Canvas instruction for parents and students
- Instruct all staff and student on health and safety plan best practices
- Provide teachers with extra PD and preparation.
- Keeps the calendar intact and counts as a week of instruction.



# Final Recommendation Cont.:

**(Weeks 2-4) August 31 - September 14:**

**Either Hybrid or Online via Canvas or WJHSD Cyber Academy**

## **Rationale:**

- **Implement and Practice Safety and Health Plan.**
- **Monitor and track COVID-19 prevalence and trends.**
- **Will be able to maintain 6 feet of physical distancing in most classrooms.**
- **Allow teachers and students to become comfortable with a mitigated environment.**
- **Significant reduction in learning disruptions because of quarantining. (Especially Teachers)**
- **Additional opportunity for mask breaks while in class.**
- **Goal would be to make progress toward in-person learning on September 21.**





# **Instruction and Scheduling Committee**

## **West Jefferson Hills School District Priority Questions**

[Instructional model, K-12 draft schedules and lesson design template](#)

# Transition Dates:

Kindergarten

Grade 3

Grade 6

Grade 9

