

# Return to School Considerations

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7/21/2020

\*This is a planning document only



WJHSD

## 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

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# INSTRUCTION & SCHEDULES (MATT PATTERSON)

## High School

Pete Murphy (Co-chair)

Jen Kassimer

Justin Kaszonyi

Holly Peiritsch

Suzanne Downer

Gerry Dawson

Amy Rodgers (para)

Kelly Scears

Adam Knaresborough

Dana Ritter

## PHMS

Dan Como

Dave Hiller

Logan Hasselhoff

Jim Benedek

Dave Hiller

Andrew Capretto

Jill Startari

Ashley Paradise

Linda Prah

## Elementary/Intermediate

Jodi Merwin

Anthony Sendro

Justin Liberatore

Jade Fiore

Amanda Fazekas

Katie Snodgrass

Amber Pearson

Denise Kahler

Kristin Torrance

Amanda McWilliams

Kristin Torrance

Melissa Papinchak

# FACILITIES & OPERATIONS (RYAN SNODGRASS)

## Transportation

Gwen Murphy (co-chair)

Jack Baumgardner

Chris Very

Paul Ware

Adam Zunic

Paul Ware

Karen Kotar

Brian Fernandes

## Building and Facilities

Dan Giger

Chris Zacur

Kelly Miller

Tracy Harris

Kylie Recktenwald

Adam Zunic

Michele Rash

Jack Baumgardner

Melissa Arndt

Brian Fernandes

Dan Como

## Food Service

John Rambo (Co-Chair)

Adam Zunic

Tracy Harris

Bill Cherpak

Lisa Wood

Melissa McCauley

# HEALTH & SAFETY (Chair: SCOTT MILBURN)

**Lindsay Pfister (Co- Chair)**

**Dr. Carolyn Coyne**  
Professor, Children's Pediatrics  
Director, Center for Microbial Pathogens

**Kim Finnerty**

**Kristin Shoemaker**

**Melissa McCauley**

**Dr. David Dausey**  
Provost and VP Duq. University  
Internationally recognized epidemiologist

**Dr. Judy Kauffman**  
Ph.D in Public Health  
Professor of Epidemiology at  
Robert Morris University

**Elizabeth Floyd**

**Diane McGrady**

**Nicole Leckenby**  
University of Pittsburgh  
Department of Epidemiology

**Dr. Darcy Giger**

**Michelle Flinn**

**Kristin Kulikowski**

**Dr. Megan Freeman, MD, Ph.D**  
Children's COVID-19 fellow expert

**Amanda Fazekas**

**Kaylie Rectenwald**

**Dave Hiller**

**Dr. Mohannad Kusti**  
Occupational Medicine Specialist  
COVID-19 in the workplace consultant.

**Heidi Karcher**

**Holly Kosanovich**

**Dave Shearouse**

**Dr. Divina Djokic**  
AHN Pediatric Infectious Disease Expert

**Lauren Kaszonyi**

## 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 is centered at the bottom of the slide. It features a close-up, stylized image of a tiger's face with intense yellow eyes. The letters "WJHSD" are overlaid in a white, serif font, with thin horizontal lines above and below the letters. The background of the logo is a mix of brown and black, representing the tiger's fur.

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## 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.

# **School Community Statistics**

(as of 7/21/2020)

## **Jefferson Hills:**

Cases: 93

Case rate: 87.6 per 10,000

Deaths: 3

## **Pleasant Hills:**

Cases: 41

Case rate: 49.6 per 10,000

Deaths: 1

## **West Elizabeth:**

Cases: 0

Case rate: 0

Deaths: 0

# County Statistics

(As of 7/22/2020)

- 29% of all COVID-19 cases are in the 20-28 year old age group.
- Eight percent of all COVID-19 cases are under the age of 19.
- There have been zero deaths in Allegheny County and the state of Pennsylvania under the age of 19.
- There have been 8 children under the age of 19 hospitalized in Allegheny County from COVID-19.
- There have been 13 deaths under the age of 60 in Allegheny County from COVID-19.

# PDE Non-Negotiables (Must be included in our plan)

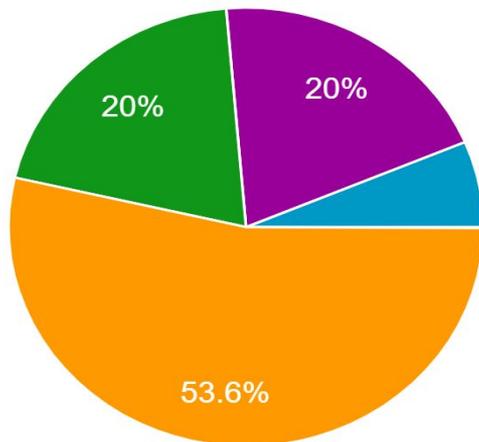
- Social distancing: 6 ft. to the maximum extent feasible.
- Hold large group meetings virtually
- Face coverings are required for staff and students when a minimum distance of six feet can't be achieved. We will provide one face shield to all staff & students.
- Any mental health or physical condition that precludes a student from wearing a face covering will require communication from a doctor and follow the 504 service agreement process.
- Symptom screening should occur at home for staff and students. (Except for high risk)
- Medically fragile and high risk students and staff may require additional mitigation and/or support.
- Limit any outside visitors to the buildings (Including parents).



# Survey #1 (June)

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

2,999 responses



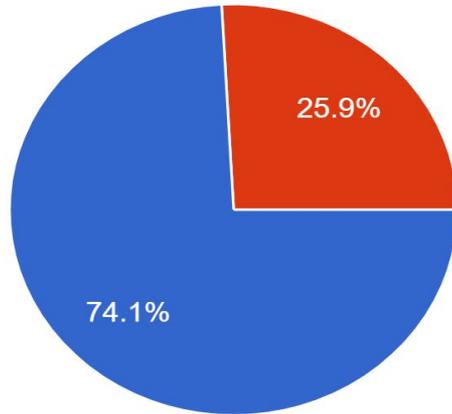
- Option A: Full-time in-person instruction with moderate mitigation - Mitigation...
- Option B: Full-time online West Jefferson Hills Cyber program - This o...
- Return full-time on August 24th as planned.
- Return using a hybrid schedule where students would attend one or two days...
- Return full-time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

WJHSD

The logo for West Jefferson Hills School District (WJHSD) features a close-up, stylized image of a tiger's face with intense yellow eyes. The letters 'WJHSD' are prominently displayed in white, serif font across the center of the tiger's face, with thin horizontal lines above and below the text.

# 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...

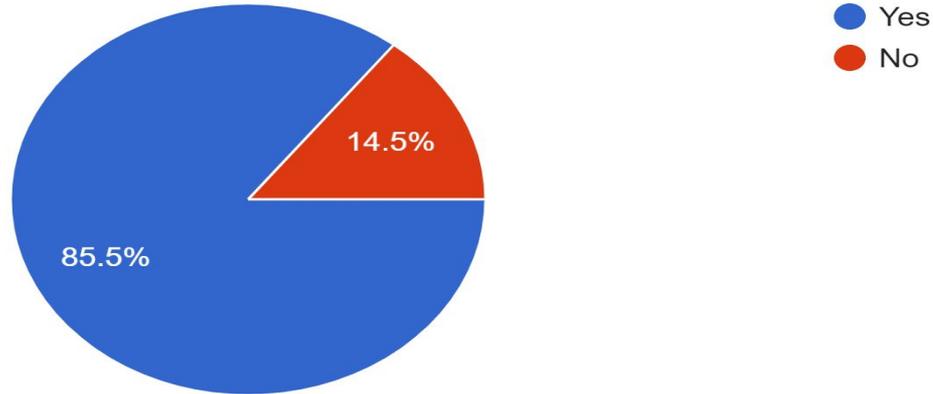


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# Survey #1

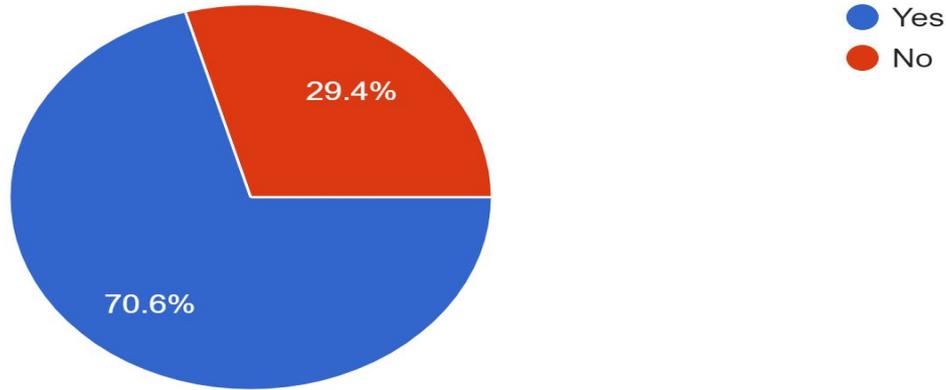
If the following COVID-19 protocols are in place: health screenings at home for all students and staff (temperature check), cleaning/sanitizing prot... apart, etc.), would you send your child to school?

3,003 responses



# Survey # 2

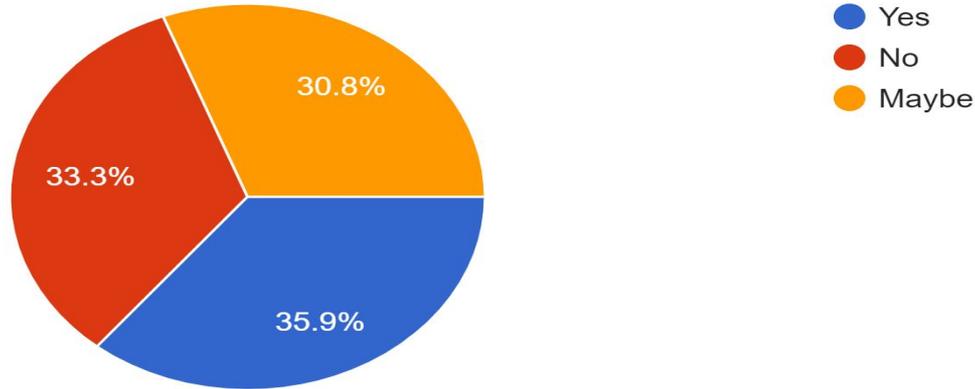
If the following COVID-19 protocols are in place: health screenings at home for all students and staff (temperature check), cleaning/sanitizing prot... apart, etc.), would you send your child to school?  
2,615 responses



# Survey #2

Do you plan on your child riding the bus? (Parents will be encouraged to drive their children to school or let them drive at the HS.)

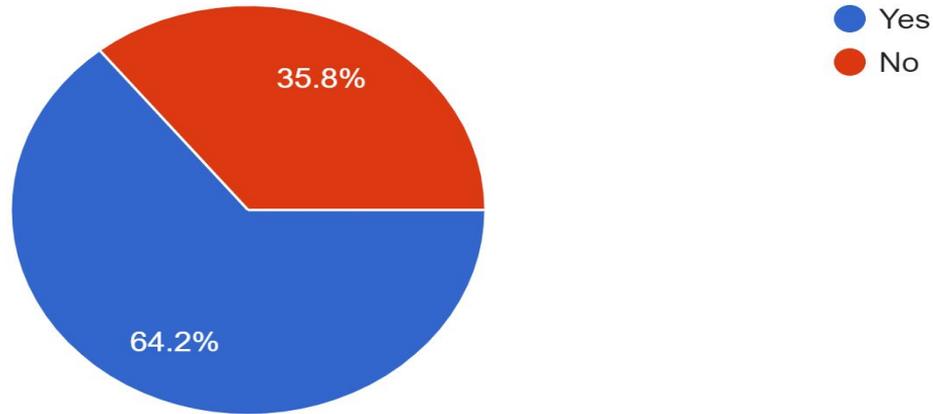
2,615 responses



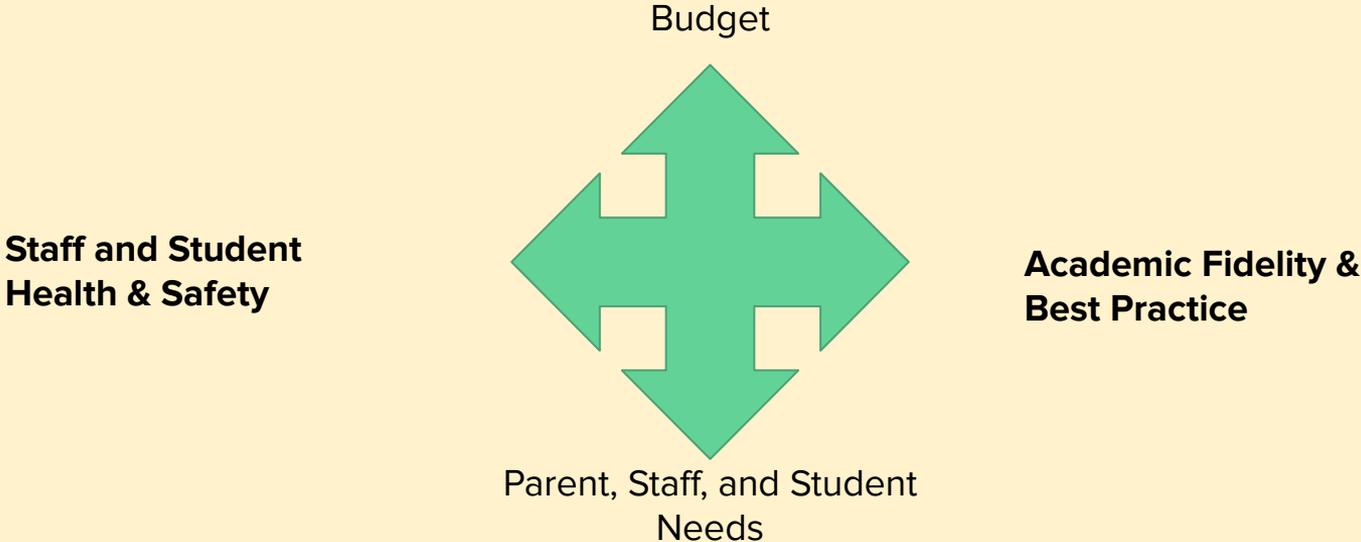
# Survey #2

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?

2,615 responses



# Factors To Consider



# Option A

- 5 days a week of live in-person instruction
- Extensive cleaning and disinfecting program
- Upgrades to HVAC to increase air flow and reduce droplets
- Grab and go lunches and lunches using alternative spaces to maintain 6 feet (outside, gym, etc.)
- All teachers will have their own classroom space.
- Block scheduling will be considered to limit student movement with possible early dismissal.
- Directional signage and one way movement in buildings with narrow hallways
- Parent/student transportation encouraged
- Extensive student and staff PD on health & safety procedures and best practices
- Classes will follow an instructional model and be offered synchronously and asynchronously.
- These are just a few of the mitigation strategies. More detail will be included in the draft.

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## Option B

- Fully online using the Canvas system
- Students will be rostered in their normal classrooms.
- Students will have the choice of attending school daily via asynchronously and/or synchronously.
- Online classes will be fully integrated with the live in-person classes through recorded and live lessons. There will be some required synchronous activity.
- Students will have daily attendance and receive the same instruction and support as those attending five days a week.
- Students may return to 5 day-a-week in-person instruction at any time.

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## Option C - (Yellow Phase Only)

- Hybrid model (two days a week)
- All schools will operate at 50% capacity.
- Students will receive 5 days of instruction, but only two of those days will be in-person live instruction as part of a cohort that is 50% of the student body.
- Virtual days can be a mix of synchronous and asynchronous instruction.
- Students will be required to submit daily attendance.

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## Option D: West Jefferson Hills Cyber Academy

- Fully online asynchronous instruction - Work will be done at the student's own pace with teacher assistance via email or by phone after school hours.
- Delivered via Edgenuity curriculum
- Uses West Jefferson Hills teachers
- Available for K-12
- Live help and support available through Edgenuity



# Final Considerations

- The final plan details still need worked out and approval from the school board, targeted work committees, and teacher and support staff unions.
- We will need to issue another staff and parent survey and determine final numbers for each option and also parents that are willing to provide transportation.
- This remains a very fluid and ever changing situation. We will need great cooperation and understanding from our staff, parents, and students in order to be successful.
- A final plan will be voted on at the Special Board Meeting on August 4.

