Considerations and Updates on District 58 Instruction during Phase 4

District 58 Board of Education
July 13, 2020
Overview of Presentation

- District 58 Remote Learning Task Force Update
- Review of Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) most current guidance
- District 58 Potential Scenarios and Administrative Recommendations
Remote Learning Task Force Charge

- Review of Information
  - Feedback from all Remote Surveys
  - ISBE guidance
  - Restore Illinois

- 4 Working Groups
  - Remote Learning
  - Blended Learning
  - Onsite Learning
  - Health, Safety, & Well-Being
Remote Learning Task Force Charge

- Determine the questions we need to answer in any given scenario, *not the answers*

- Articulate the areas of consideration for each scenario to guide the development of each potential plan

- Acknowledging that most current guidance will drive the ultimate decision-making
Working Group Considerations

- Communication
- Instructional Practices, Planning & Preparation
- Assessment
- Social-Emotional Learning & Needs
- Support for Students, Staff & Families
- Transition Planning
- Logistics
- Instructional Health & Safety
- New Expectations

- Preparedness/Proactivity
- Guidance from ISBE, IDPH, and DCHD
- Personal Protective Equipment, including face coverings
- Protocols for Sick Staff Members or Students
- Transportation/Arrival of Students
- Cleaning Protocols
- Onsite Instruction Safety Protocols
Task Force Exit Slips

- Emphasis on the importance of student safety, social-emotional needs and communication
- Recognition of the importance of onsite instruction with the acknowledgement of safety needs
- Understanding the difficult nature of any decision-making
- Dedication and commitment of all stakeholders
Task Force Exit Slips

This is not a "binding vote" - but, based upon your work with this group and your review of all of the available information, how do you think District 58 should operate in the fall?

55 responses

- 38.2% Fully Remote
- 52.7% Blended Onsite and Remote
- 9.1% Fully onsite

● Blended and Onsite are defined in various ways in the feedback responses
● Many of the Blended responses express desire to return onsite and concern about the ability to physically make this work in our space
Executive Summary of ISBE’s Guidance

- In-Person, Blended, and/or Remote Instruction is Permissible
- Strongly encourages in-person learning for children under 13
- Districts must be prepared to shift to remote instruction
- Require use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including face coverings;
- Prohibit more than 50 individuals from gathering in one space;
- Require social distancing be observed (6 ft.), as much as possible;
- Require that schools conduct symptom screenings and temperature checks or require that individuals self-certify that they are free of symptoms before entering school buildings
- Require an increase in schoolwide cleaning and disinfection.
Illinois State Board of Education Guidance

Other Key “Take-Aways”

○ Guidance is subject to change
○ In-Person, remote and/or blended days must be five clock hours
○ Students are expected to attend daily in any format
○ A maximum of 50 students can be placed on a bus
○ Modifications to grading should be considered
○ Five instructional days may be used for planning purposes, collaboration and/or professional development for staff
Illinois State Board of Education Guidance

Other Key “Take-Aways”

○ Back to school events should be held virtually
○ Health and safety protocols must be reviewed and followed
○ A high priority should be placed on providing in-person instruction for students who have Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), 504 Plans, and/or who receive English language supports when building an equitable schedule for Blended Remote Learning Days.
○ Accounting for children’s entire days and weeks outside of the home when developing plans is advised
DuPage County Health Department

- In addition to ISBE and the IDPH, District 58 also receives guidance and direction from the DuPage County Health Department
- Very conservative approach
- 6 ft of social distance must be followed
- Masks must be worn inside at all times (even if students are more than 6 ft apart)

Other considerations
  - Centers for Disease Control (CDC)
  - The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)

The District must follow these guidelines because it is about safety and diminishing risks
• The DLT met on Wednesday, July 8th to review plans and options.

• The purpose of this meeting was for this group to listen to all scenarios and provide feedback.
How do we prioritize our decision-making?

- Student and Staff Safety and Well-Being
- Instructional Needs
- Equity
- Students with Special Needs
- Adherence to Guidelines (i.e. safety guidelines as well as prioritization of in-person instruction)
- Awareness of local district plans
- Consideration of impact on District families and staff
- Recognizing our role in the community

*These are not listed in order of importance as they are all critical
Options to Consider

- A Continuum of possibilities...
  - Fully Remote
  - Blended Learning
  - Modified Onsite
  - Fully Onsite

- Planning at this time is for the first trimester of the school year (through November) knowing we could be obligated to pivot at any time.
Re-imagining *any* onsite instruction

- 6-foot distancing; desks likely in rows
  - Shift in instructional practices away from small groups at tables, classroom centers, lab station groups

- Cohort groups of students
  - Minimizing student movement throughout the building or into different spaces

- Teacher proximity
  - Consideration of the physical location of teacher for the majority of instruction

- Scheduling considerations
  - Outdoor mask-breaks, staggering elementary recesses, middle school class schedules
Blended Learning

**Concept:** Students are onsite for portions of instruction and receiving portions of instruction remotely.

- Onsite groups would be approximately 14-19, grouped by alphabet (A-L, M-Z as an example)
- Consideration: Special programs, IEP/504/EL students onsite more frequently
- Remote days when opposite of onsite would not resemble fully remote learning

**Formats could include:**

- Half-days (i.e., one group attends 8:00-11:00, the other 12:30-3:30)
- Split-week options
  - Group 1 Mon/Tues - full remote Wednesday - Group 2 Thurs/Fri
  - Group 1 Mon/Wed - Group 2 Tues/Thurs - full remote Friday
- Week on/week off (Group 1 week of August 27, Group 2 week of Sept 3, etc)

Further planning would need to take place with our staff
Modified Onsite Learning

**Concept:** All students are onsite 5 days/week
- All instruction would take place onsite
- Nearly all spaces will be utilized - gyms, libraries, etc.
- Elementary specials would likely take place in classrooms
- Outdoor spaces would be utilized as much as reasonably possible
- Guidelines would be followed (distancing, masks)
- Students would remain in a cohort and not move throughout the building except when absolutely necessary
- Class sizes of 14-19 in a typical classroom allows for 6-foot spacing of student desks to the greatest extent possible
- The length of the instructional day may be slightly modified as we work to finalize the schedule
- Kindergarten as a half-day only program may be considered
Modified Onsite Learning

Each building can accommodate classes of 14-19 with the following caveats:

○ In some cases a group of 40 might be in a gym with 2 teachers
○ Certified staff may teach in different roles to accommodate additional grade-level sections; additional FTE should not be required
○ Middle school schedules would be complex with teachers moving classrooms more often than students
○ Specialized programs would not realize section adjustments
○ Students at Highland and Lester would need to attend at other schools to accommodate social distancing/space
  ■ Kindergarten sections could move to elementary “partner schools” at Pierce Downer and Belle Aire
  ■ 6th Grade could move to O’Neill

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- Staff members have shared skepticism and hesitation regarding the feasibility of returning onsite and maintaining safety for all.
- This is precisely why we need to begin our work with staff to detail the specifics of the plan and determine feasibility at each school.
- The collaborative work during the next two weeks will be critical for informing the final plan for the start of school.
- We need to be prepared to shift our model of instruction as we have new and/or updated information.
- The Remote Learning Task Force will be reconvened to review final details to ensure all considerations were addressed.
Administrative Recommendation

- This is an imperfect situation; no plan is likely to be universally accepted.

- When considering all factors, the prioritization of in-person instruction is the best option that most closely aligns with the guidance at this time.

- “The mission of District 58, in partnership with parents and community, is to challenge and engage each child by providing quality educational programs and support services in safe, nurturing, and child-centered environments in order to prepare all students to be lifelong learners and contributing members of a global society.”
Administrative Recommendation

The Administration would like to recommend to the Board that we pursue the feasibility of having students and staff come back to school under a modified onsite instructional plan.

- What does this mean?
  - All students and staff return for five days a week
  - The safety guidance from ISBE and the IDPH must be followed
  - Class sizes are made as small as possible
  - All staff and spaces are utilized to the fullest potential
  - **Further planning will need to take place with our staff**

- We will concurrently build and prepare for fully remote learning so that we can be fully prepared for this possible occurrence.
Additional Considerations for...

- Students or staff who may not return as the result of specific medical certification

- Families who may choose not to return but wish to remain enrolled in District 58
  - The self-paced, online Acellus program will be made available to these families with district staff monitoring student progress

- Families who fully withdraw from District 58

- Students who are eligible for IEP/504 students will continue to be supported through the procedures and practices to which they are entitled in each specific scenario
Next Steps

- The Administration will seek Board approval later this meeting to move forward
- Working groups will be formed to plan for all scenarios (this would include arrival, dismissal, transitions, lunch, etc.)
- Working groups will also be formed to plan for the other scenarios as we may have to revert back to other plans
Next Steps

- Survey staff and families on components of the plan (if approved), which will assist the District in finalizing all details.
- Development of a form for staff and families to submit questions regarding our fall plans that will be answered via livestream/recorded sessions.
- The Administration will request a special Board meeting take place in early August to finalize big details (school hours, start date, shifting grade levels between schools, kindergarten considerations, etc.).
- A final plan will be shared at the regular August meeting.