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Cover photo by August de Richelieu from Pexels
MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

When I was chosen to lead Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS), I committed to putting our children first. Now, especially during these times, my focus on these core values remains the same. As we continue to live amid a global pandemic, our best approach to keeping our community safe is to continue with full distance learning for the first two quarters of the 2020-21 school year.

We did not reach this decision without consulting a range of parents, teachers, administrators and the PGCPS Reopening Task Force. Coupled with a recent parent, teacher and administrator survey that showed a strong preference for the distance learning model, we are confident this is the best approach for the PGCPS community.

As we work to enhance our distance learning model, we will provide more live instruction in addition to pre-recorded lessons. All students will be equipped with their own digital device to support our district-wide goal. We are also improving instructional supports for students, both individually and in small groups, in core subject areas and increasing access to social and emotional learning opportunities. Families will have more resources through Parent Support Centers to assist with technology support and other aspects of distance learning. All schools will serve as student meal sites and offer twice-weekly pickups. Additionally, PGCPS will continue to invest in helping to close the digital divide by providing devices and Internet connectivity.

This report outlines how the school system will support all students, in particular English language learners, those with special needs and youth from families with low-income, during the distance learning phase. A special Board of Education meeting will be held in late July to review the plan.

I understand that there is no perfect solution. Our next steps will be guided by our goal of protecting and enriching the entire PGCPS community. We will share the latest information on the Reopen PGCPS website.

While this is not the school year we could have imagined, I am still looking forward to upholding a learning and working environment where students, employees and families can thrive. We will get through this together and come out of this stronger. I thank you for your collaboration and for your commitment.

Dr. Monica Goldson
Chief Executive Officer
Prince George’s County Public Schools
STATE REOPENING REQUIREMENTS

Background

Following Governor Hogan’s Roadmap for Recovery, schools and school programs began preparing for the reopening process when Phase 2 was announced. The State Superintendent, working with the Governor, the State Board of Education, the Maryland Department of Health, and other Maryland agencies and personnel. Upon a decision, Dr. Karen Salmon, State Superintendent of Schools, will announce the reopening and will communicate directly with the Local School Superintendents and the public. In preparation of reopening, the Maryland Together: Maryland’s Recovery Plan for Education serves as a roadmap for the local school systems in developing Local Recovery Plans. Each school system must include state requirements in their reopening plan.

Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) Requirements

All Maryland school districts must:

- Complete and post reopening plans on their website by August 14. MSDE will review all plans to ensure they include and address all requirements.
- Include strategies to address equity.
- Establish a recovery plan stakeholder group to represent schools and community.
- Assess all students to identify and address gaps in learning.
- Follow MSDE standards and provide instruction across all key content areas.
- Follow IDEA, 504 and ADA plus all other special education protocols and laws.
- Follow MSDE, state and federal health guidelines and procedures for individuals who test positive for COVID-19.
- Follow MSDE, state and federal health safety protocols around food service, daily cleanings and other school operations.
- Follow protocols for safely transporting students to and from schools.
- Develop a system for tracking attendance while taking part in distance learning.
- Develop a communications plan to share information with stakeholders.
Background

Throughout the pandemic, Prince George's County has been the epicenter of the COVID-19 public health crisis in Maryland. In light of the health disparities in communities that house more than 136,500 students and 20,000 employees, there is a significant public health concern if schools were to reopen this fall for in-person instruction.

The School Reopening Task Force began work in June to develop instruction model options for the start of the 2020-2021 school year. After researching models throughout the country, reviewing results from stakeholder surveys in June and sharing ideas, the task force broke into subcommittees to develop recommendations in the following areas:

1) Instructional Models
2) Health and Safety/School Facilities
3) Student Activities

Goals

When building the reopening plan, the commitment was to reopen PGCPS safely and responsibly and the priority was to ensure safe learning and working conditions. The district had the opportunity to redesign distance learning to be more robust and rigorous while providing more resources and supports. The decision was deliberated carefully around the following pillars:

Safety – Support the health and wellbeing of students and staff.
Equity – Provide ALL students with the tools needed for success.
Excellence – Offer high-quality teaching and learning opportunities.
Clear Communication – Keep stakeholders informed.

Communication

Since schools first closed in March, PGCPS kept stakeholders informed through frequent communications and the district's COVID-19 web page (www.pgcps.org/coronavirus). This summer, PGCPS launched the Reopen PGCPS web page (www.pgcps.org/reopen) the first week of July to provide a one-stop place for families and the community to learn more about the school reopening plan, find resources and get the latest news and updates.

PGCPS is committed to providing frequent and timely updates to keep parents informed in preparation for the 2020-2021 school year. Communication will remain a priority throughout the fall as the district evaluates distance learning and, if it can be done safely, moves towards returning to school using a hybrid format for the third quarter in February 2021.
PLAN CONSIDERATIONS

Health and Safety
The reopening plan must provide for the safety of students and staff. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, PGCPS has worked with state and local health experts, government partners and the Maryland State Department of Education to make decisions that support health and safety first and foremost. The plan must adhere to guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention which include social distancing and hand washing, wearing face masks in buildings and conducting thorough cleaning and sanitizing procedures.

Quality Instruction
The plan’s instruction model must offer high-quality, equitable teaching and learning opportunities. This includes instruction from teachers in live and pre-recorded formats, opportunities for small group interaction and enhanced learning software. It must offer support to special needs students and English language learners, and opportunities for students who need support in mastering skills in the core subject areas of reading and math.

Technology Access
The plan must ensure equitable access to instruction through technology. This means having a 1:1 ratio of Chromebooks to students and providing all students access to the Internet. The plan must include technology distribution plans and build on the Connect PGCPS initiative to provide low- or no-cost Internet access to families.

Student and Family Supports
The plan must include supports to meet students’ academic and socio-emotional needs and support families and caregivers. This includes ensuring courses include Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) components to help children and adults understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships and make responsible decisions. Students will have access to professional school counselors and other support staff for SEL. Families and caregivers will have access to technology assistance, workshops and other supports through strategically-placed Parent Centers.
PGCPS REOPENING KEY DATES

JUNE 2020

- JUNE 3 - 12
  External and internal stakeholders share input through surveys

- JUNE 18 - JULY 3
  Internal stakeholders’ review, discussion, feedback and plan development

JULY 2020

- JULY 6 - 15
  Launch Reopen PGCPS web page
  Create Reopening Plan
  External stakeholders review Plan

- JULY 15
  CEO announces Reopening Plan

- JULY 15 & 16
  CEO’s Tele Town Halls with external and internal stakeholders

- JULY 24
  Share Plan with community

- JULY 30
  Present Plan to Board of Education

AUGUST 2020

- AUGUST 1 - 15
  Distribute learning tools to families

- AUGUST 14
  Submit Reopening Plan to MSDE

- AUGUST 21
  Student schedules available in SchoolMax

- AUGUST 31
  First Day of School
  Distance learning begins
Background

PGCPS invited families, teachers and administrators to take part in a survey from June 3 through 12 to share their preferences for a learning model to use when school reopened in the fall. All three survey groups had a clear preference for distance learning as indicated in the charts below.

Preferences for Learning Models

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Family Preferences</th>
<th>Teacher Preferences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Distance Learning</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hybrid Schedule</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Return to Full-Time School</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**KEY**
- Distance Learning
- Hybrid Schedule
- Return to Full-Time School
Overview

All students will receive daily distance learning opportunities in “real time” with their teachers. They will have access to instructional materials for use at home during distance learning, including materials for Early Learning, Creative and Performing Arts, Career and Technical Education, Special Education and Montessori. Each student will receive instructional materials based on grade level and course of study. If they do not have one at home, students will be provided a technology device to attend classes, access online platforms, complete assignments and communicate with teachers. Assignments will be graded and recorded in SchoolMax.

Distance learning for the start of school will follow each student’s individual schedule. All student schedules for the 2020-2021 school year will be available in the SchoolMax parent portal by August 21. Attendance will be taken daily. Teacher planning time will take place during the student independent practice times, breaks or designated planning times.

Additional supports for English Learners (ELs) and special needs students will be provided by classroom teachers and certified specialists, such as ESOL teachers and special educators.

Early Childhood, Prekindergarten and Montessori

Students enrolled in Early Childhood Center, Montessori (ages 3-5) and other full or half-day prekindergarten programs will participate in learning that includes live “real time” instruction, independent work with age-appropriate software such as Hatch Ignite and SeeSaw and themed at-home learning packets.

Elementary School

Students will receive four lessons per week in reading/English language arts and mathematics, and one or two lessons per week in science and social studies. Classes for health, physical education, music, and art will rotate daily and students will receive one lesson per week for each of these classes. This schedule is a sample only; students will follow the schedule they receive from their school.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Monday, Tuesday, Thursday &amp; Friday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00-9:00</td>
<td><strong>Live Session One (Reading, English Language Arts)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Teacher-Led Small Group Instruction and Enrichment</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00-9:30</td>
<td>Independent Practice</td>
<td>Interventions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30-9:40</td>
<td><strong>Break</strong></td>
<td>Related Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:40-10:40</td>
<td><strong>Live Session Two (Math)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:40-11:00</td>
<td>Independent Practice</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00-11:30</td>
<td><strong>Lunch</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30-12:30</td>
<td><strong>Live Session Three (Science/Social Studies - Alternating Days)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30-1:00</td>
<td>Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Connection/Guidance Library/Media</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00-1:10</td>
<td><strong>Break</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:10-2:10</td>
<td><strong>Live Session Four (PE/Health/Music/Art - Daily Rotation)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Middle and High School

Using an A/B-Day model, students will receive live “real time” lessons daily in all scheduled classes. Some classes are scheduled to meet every day and some meet every other day. Teachers will use curriculum documents, resources and distance learning platforms to plan engaging lessons for students. The schedule below is a sample only; students will follow the schedule they receive from their school.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Monday &amp; Thursday (A-Days)</th>
<th>Tuesday &amp; Friday (B-Days)</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00-9:00</td>
<td><strong>Period 1: Live Session</strong></td>
<td><strong>Period 1: Live Session</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00-9:25</td>
<td>Independent Practice</td>
<td>Independent Practice</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:25-9:40</td>
<td>Break</td>
<td>Break</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:40-10:40</td>
<td><strong>Period 2: Live Session</strong></td>
<td><strong>Period 2: Live Session</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:40-11:05</td>
<td>Independent Practice</td>
<td>Independent Practice</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:05-11:35</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:35-12:35</td>
<td><strong>Period 3: Live Session</strong></td>
<td><strong>Period 3: Live Session</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:35-1:00</td>
<td>Independent Practice</td>
<td>Independent Practice</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00-1:15</td>
<td>Break</td>
<td>Break</td>
<td>Teacher-Led Small Group Instruction and Enrichment for all periods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:15-2:15</td>
<td><strong>Period 4: Live Session</strong></td>
<td><strong>Period 4: Live Session</strong></td>
<td>Interventions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:15-2:40</td>
<td>Independent Practice</td>
<td>Independent Practice</td>
<td>Related Services</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### English Learners (ELs) and Special Education Schedules and Supports

Teachers and certified specialists (ESOL teachers, special educators, etc.) will support English Learners (ELs) and students with disabilities on a regular schedule. During distance learning live lessons, ELs and students with disabilities should join breakout sessions with their ESOL teacher or special educator during a portion of the instructional block. Small group instruction for enrichment or intervention will be provided on Wednesdays as needed or outlined in a student’s Individualized Education Plan (IEP), EL plan or 504 plan. All IEP and 504 meetings will be held virtually with parents.

*NOTE: For details on scheduling, please view the PGCPS Reopening Plan online.*
INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS

Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs
CTE programs will use online, industry-recognized and approved resources. Students may participate in simulations instead of physical participation where permitted. PGCPS is working with industry partners and Prince George’s Community College (PGCC) to develop virtual labs/practicums for obtaining licensure or certifications.

Dual Enrollment
Students will participate in dual enrollment virtually from their homes or on the college campus as designated by the specific college or university.

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS

School Meal Service
Food service will continue using a similar model as the one we used in the spring. Schools will serve as pick up sites for multi-day, pre-packaged breakfast and lunch on Mondays and Wednesdays. Students not eligible for free and reduced-priced meals will have to pay for breakfast and lunch and are encouraged to pay through their student account. Families can apply online for free and reduced-price meals. Meals will only be provided to students enrolled in PGCPS.

Before and After Care
The before and after care program is closed while using distance learning. Upon the reopening of school, even in the hybrid model, class size will be reduced by 50 percent to maintain social distancing mandates for day care providers.

Athletics
Sports carry an increased risk of COVID-19 exposure due to close contact with other players, indoor versus outdoor participation and shared equipment. The first semester of athletics will be virtual and feature three sport seasons: Fall, Winter and Spring. PGCPS will continue to use the MSDE Maryland’s Road to Recovery Plan and Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA) guidance when making decisions on scheduling sports.

Field Trips, Clubs and School Meetings
School clubs and organizations are a vital part of the school experience. Schools are encouraged to use virtual meeting spaces such as Zoom or Google Meet for tutoring, parent conferences, teacher office hours, student activities, organizations and extracurricular activities.

TESTING PROGRAMS

PGCPS Benchmarks
Student assessments help staff identify students’ learning needs and plan instruction. Staff will be trained in effective and appropriate assessment practices in a distance learning environment.

State Assessments
The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) makes decisions on state assessments such as MCAP Reading, Mathematics, Science, Government, Social Studies, ACCESS, Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) and Alternative Assessments. MSDE will announce if these assessments are to take place this school year and in what format.

NOTE: For details on all programs, please view the PGCPS Reopening Plan online.
STUDENT, FAMILY AND TEACHER SUPPORTS

**Student**

**Instructional Supports** – Students will have opportunities for both individual and small group support to build strengths in core subjects.

**Social and Emotional Supports** – Elementary students will have Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) components built into their classes. Secondary students will have strategies immersed throughout content areas. All students will have access to professional school counselors and other support staff.

**Family**

**Parent Centers** – Parent Centers will open on August 31 to assist parents, guardians and caregivers with tech support and other needs, such as navigating aspects of distance learning or accessing instructional packets.

**Hours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8-10 a.m. and 6-8 p.m.

**Locations:**
- Benjamin Tasker Middle School - 4901 Collington Road, Bowie, MD 20715
- Charles Carroll Middle School - 6130 Lamont Drive, New Carrollton, MD 20784
- Drew-Freeman Middle School - 2600 Brooks Drive, Suitland, MD 20746
- G. James Gholson Middle School - 900 Nalley Road, Landover, MD 20785
- Gwyn Park High School - 13800 Brandywine Road, Brandywine, MD 20613
- High Point High School - 3601 Powder Mill Road, Beltsville, MD 20705
- Northwestern High School - 7000 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD 20782
- Port Towns Elementary School - 4351 58th Avenue, Bladensburg, MD 20710
- Thurgood Marshall Middle School - 4909 Brinkley Road, Temple Hills, MD 20748

**PGCPS Distance Learning Hotline** – Starting August 31, parents can call 240-696-6229 Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. for live assistance with distance learning technical/equipment issues and/or instructional guidance and support.

**School Meals** – Meals will be distributed between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. at designated community locations for students who live at least 1.5 miles from the nearest schools. For more information, please call the Department of Transportation support telephone number at 301-952-6570.

**Learning Technology** – PreK and K students will receive iPads. Students in Grades 1-12 will continue using PGCPS Chromebooks they received in the spring. Chromebooks and wifi hotspots for new students will be distributed in the coming weeks. The Connect PGCPS initiative will continue to provide low- or no-cost Internet access to families.

**Teacher**

**Professional Development** – During the opening pre-service week, staff will participate in a series of virtual professional development sessions opportunities on social-emotional learning and mental health supports to help them with reopening and provide strategies for supporting students.

**Counseling Services** – All PGCPS employees have access to the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) which offers face-to-face and virtual counseling services.
NEXT STEPS AND TRANSITION DATES

Next Steps

**Step 1** – Present plan to the Board of Education.

**Step 2** – Review, evaluate and adjust instructional plan as needed.

**Step 3** – Provide timely communication with families through the Reopen PGCPS web page, email, social media and more.

Transition Dates

**Aug. 31 – First Day of School**
Distance learning will begin for all grade levels through the end of second quarter in January.

**Dec. 1-18**
If it is safe to do so, PGCPS will offer families the option to continue distance learning or begin hybrid instruction for the remainder of the school year.

**February to June – Second Semester**
Depending on conditions, PGCPS will implement a hybrid staggered schedule with two days of in-person learning and three days of distance learning. Full-time distance learning will continue for those students who opted in.
RESOURCES

Websites

Reopen PGCPS
www.pgcps.org/reopen

Maryland Strong Roadmap to Recovery Website
https://governor.maryland.gov/recovery/

CDC – Preparing for a Safe Return to School in Fall 2020

Publications

Prince George’s County Public Schools Reopening Plan (full plan)
www.pgcps.org/reopen

Maryland Strong Roadmap to Recovery

CDC Considerations for Reopening Schools
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gNM2yNaAwDkZeQ29-Alk0tyqEsimXX_t/view

PGCPS Reopening Contact Information

Website: www.pgcps.org/reopen
Contact Person: Dr. Kara Libby
Email: klibby@pgcps.org
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