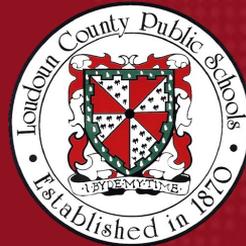
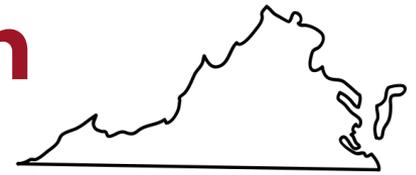


# Planning for the 2020–2021 School Year Loudoun County Public Schools #ReadyTogether

June 9, 2020



# Virginia's Return to School Plan



- On June 9, 2020, the Governor released a plan that aligns school reopening phases with the Forward Virginia Blueprint phases. There are several phases:
  - Phase I
  - Phase II
    - Much of Virginia entered Phase 2 on June 5, 2020. Some areas, including Northern Virginia, will remain in Phase I until the Governor authorizes entry into Phase II based on public health data
  - Phase III
  - Beyond Phase III
- Virginia's Return to School Plan provides information regarding what is and is not permitted in each phase. Schools may be more limited in their in-person instructional offerings than the phase allows.



# In-person, Safe Learning Experiences

- LCPS wants to maximize in-person, safe learning experiences
- Here is a list of instructional models, listed in order of LCPS preference (as long as each model is safe to implement and abides by guidance from state and public health officials)
  - #1 100% in-person learning
  - #2 A combination of in-person learning and a revised approach to distance learning
  - #3 100% distance learning



# Virginia Requires Precautions in all Phases

Virginia states that the May 2020 CDC guidance for schools is the foundational public health guidance for schools. Virginia states that schools' precautions should include the following measures and that local school divisions may implement additional requirements.

## Phases I , II, and III

Maintain 6 feet separation between people whenever possible

Require the use of cloth face coverings by staff when at least 6 feet separation cannot be maintained

Encourage the use of face coverings in students, as developmentally appropriate, in settings where 6 feet separation cannot be maintained

Daily health screenings (Q & A) of students and staff who are at school

Implement enhanced hygiene, cleaning and disinfecting practices recommended by the CDC

Seat children on buses one per seat, every other row, limiting capacity as needed. Children living together, such as siblings, may sit in the same seat.

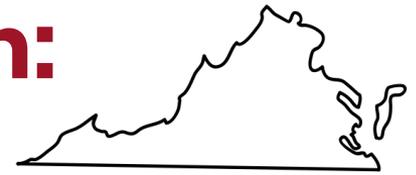


# Required Public Health Precautions for K-12 Schools

Phase I	Phase II	Phase III
A maximum of 10 people per bus, classroom, or other discrete space	50 person limit on large gatherings, assemblies, graduations, etc.	Large gathering limit, subject to updated Executive Order at the time
6 feet separation whenever possible	6 feet separation whenever possible	6 feet separation whenever possible
Restrict mixing groups of students	Restrict mixing groups of students	Consider restricting mixing groups of students, adjusting schedules, transitions, recess options & instruction
No athletics or extracurricular activities	Limited extracurricular activities and athletics with mitigation strategies	Athletics and extracurricular activities may be expanded with required public health precautions
Close communal spaces	Close communal spaces if possible, otherwise stagger use and disinfect between use	



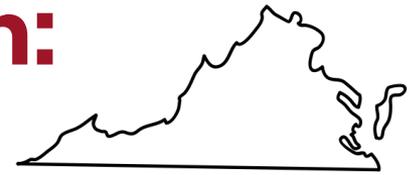
# Virginia's Return to School Plan: Allowed Activities in Phase I



- According to the state plan, distance learning is still the dominant method of instruction in Phase I
- Virginia allows local divisions to choose to provide in-person learning for some or all students with disabilities in accordance with public health mitigation practices
  - In-person learning is only provided if the Individual Education Program (IEP) team agrees it is appropriate and the parent consents. Distance learning may remain appropriate for some students with disabilities
- Required Phase I Public Health Precautions for Virginia K-12 Schools
  - A maximum of 10 people per bus, classroom, or other discrete space
  - 6 feet separation whenever possible
  - Restrict mixing groups of students
  - No athletics or extracurricular activities
  - Close communal spaces



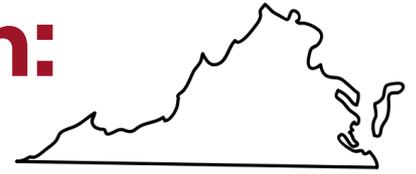
# Virginia's Return to School Plan: Allowed Activities in Phase II



- According to the state plan, distance learning is still the dominant method of instruction in Phase II
- Virginia allows local school divisions to choose to provide in-person learning authorized in Phase I, while also allowing some or all students in preschool through grade 3 and/or English learners to participate in in-person learning in accordance with public health mitigation practices
- Local school divisions may also operate summer camps in accordance with public health mitigation practices
- Required Phase II public health precautions for Virginia K-12 schools
  - 50 person limit on large gatherings, assemblies, graduations, etc.
  - 6 feet separation whenever possible
  - Restrict mixing groups of students
  - Limited extracurricular activities and athletics with mitigation strategies
  - Close communal spaces if possible, otherwise stagger use and disinfect between use



# Virginia's Return to School Plan: Allowed Activities in Phase III



- Virginia allows local school divisions to provide in-person learning for all students with strict physical distancing in place
- Distance learning supplements in-person learning (impact of mitigation strategies/capacity limits)
- Required Phase III public health precautions for Virginia K-12 schools
  - Large gathering limit, subject to updated Executive Order at the time
  - 6 feet separation whenever possible
  - Consider restricting mixing groups of students, adjusting schedules, transitions, recess options, and instruction to accomplish this
  - Athletics and extracurricular activities may be expanded with required public health precautions



## Possibility of Starting the New School Year in Phase III

- Any in-person learning must be implemented in accordance with public health precautions, including 6 feet separation whenever possible on buses and in classrooms
- LCPS is assessing how many students can be served in classrooms while maintaining six feet separation among students and teachers whenever possible
- Reduced classroom capacity affects the frequency with which students may attend school



# Revised Approach to Distance Learning

- The LCPS approach to any distance learning in the 2020–2021 school year will be different than the approach to distance learning in the spring of 2020
  - Required attendance
  - Increased work time expectations
  - More synchronous learning (live, interactive learning)
  - Grading of student work
  - Greater structure and schedules consistent across LCPS
  - Extracurricular activities in accordance with required public health precautions



# LCPS Working to Assess the Frequency of In-Person Learning Feasible with Required Public Health Precautions

**100% distance learning**  
(revised approach)

**Most students attend twice a week**  
Some students with disabilities and English learners attend more frequently

*Most Restrictive Mitigation Strategies*

*Least Restrictive Mitigation Strategies*

**Most students attend once a week**  
Some students with disabilities and English learners attend more frequently

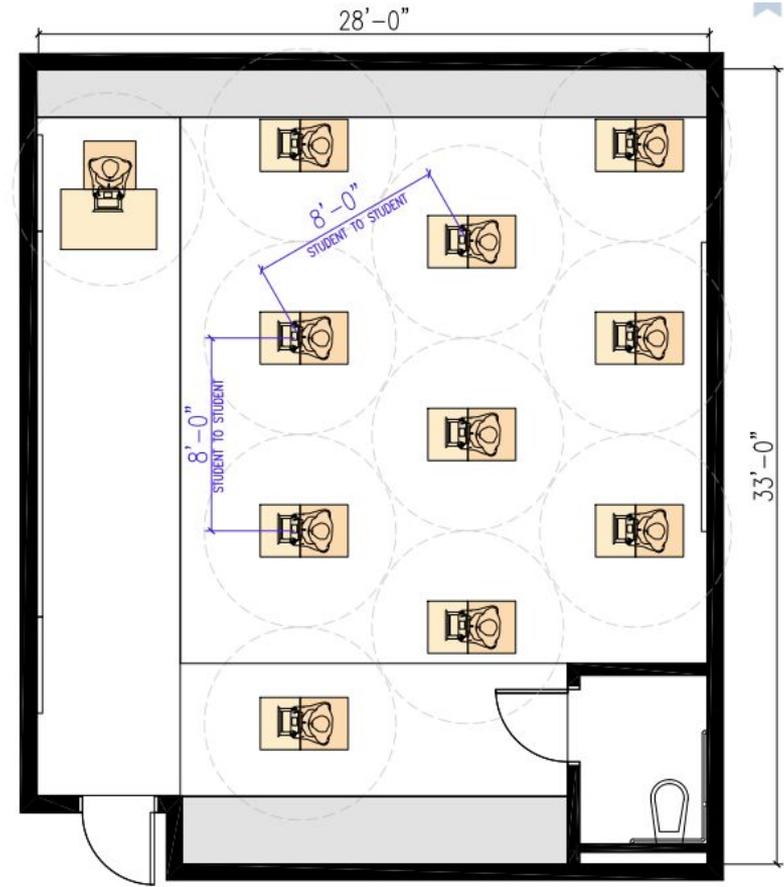
**100% in-person learning**

LCPS is analyzing the implications of the requirements of the Virginia Return to School Plan in order to assess the frequency with which all students will be able to attend school in Phase III.



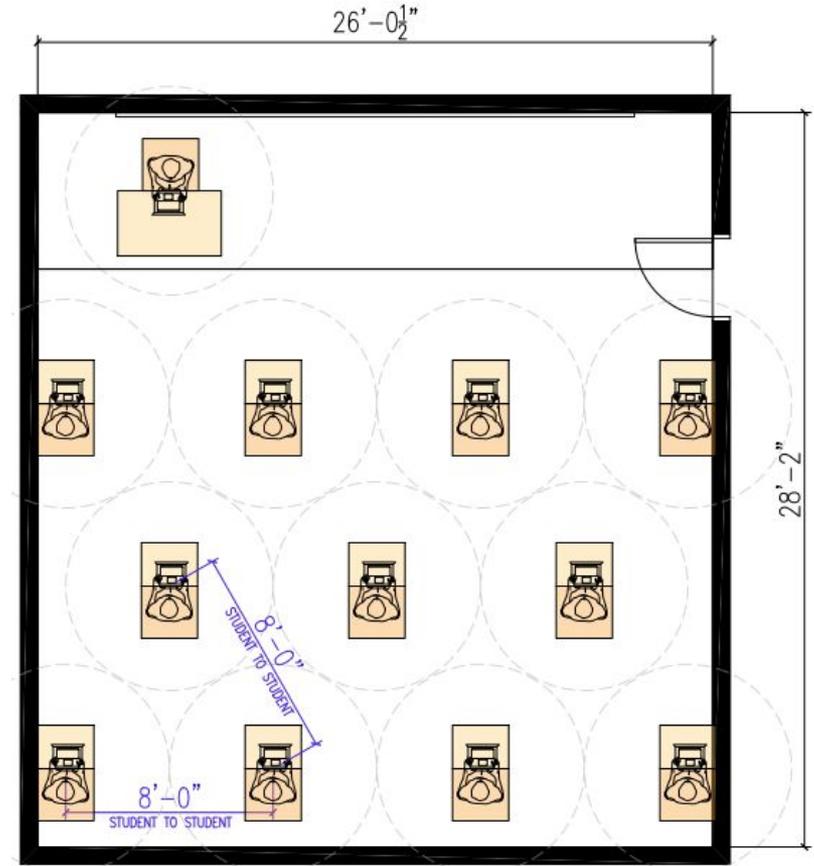
# Elementary Classroom Capacity

- The sketch depicts 10 students and 1 teacher in an 850 s.f. elementary classroom. The sketch includes 4-foot circles (a 1 foot inner circle for the student, and then another 3 feet of space)
- 2 adjacent circles result in 6 feet of physical separation between the students in the 2 inner circles



# Secondary Classroom Capacity

- The sketch depicts 11 students and 1 teacher in an 730 s.f. secondary classroom. The sketch includes 4-foot circles (a 1 foot inner circle for the student, and then another 3 feet of space)
- 2 adjacent circles result in 6 feet of physical separation between the students in the 2 inner circles



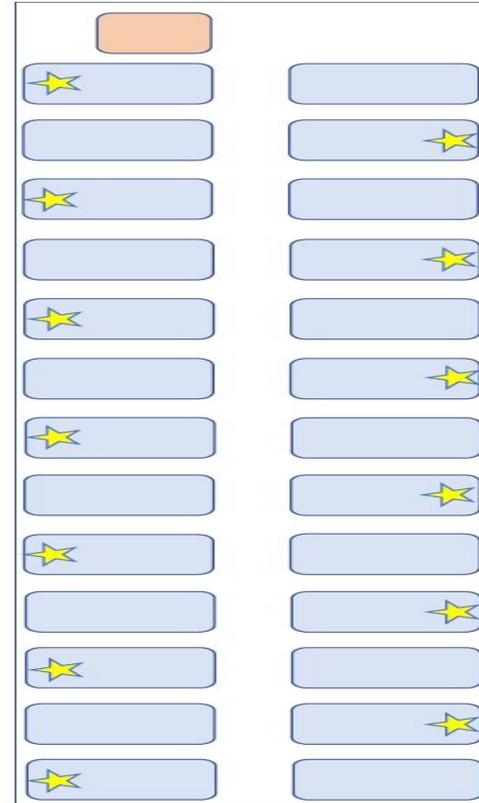
# Classroom Capacity

- Sketches with 4 foot circles do not provide space for an individual to walk between 2 students while maintaining 6 feet of separation
  - LCPS will seek clarification from the state regarding whether this approach satisfies recommended practices
  - Virginia has stated that it is particularly important for individuals to wear face coverings in classrooms when they walk between two students without maintaining six feet of separation so perhaps this approach satisfies recommended practices
  - Even if this approach satisfies recommended practices, LCPS could design classroom seating to provide space for individuals to walk between 2 students while maintaining 6 feet of separation. This would further reduce classroom capacity
- The sketches reflects standard desks, whereas many schools use tables or other furniture
- The sketches includes a 6-foot wide rectangle along one side of the room. This space could accommodate a teacher desk and limited other furniture or equipment. Assigning other space to additional furniture or equipment would further reduce capacity unless the items are placed within students' 4-foot circles
- Classroom sizes vary from 700 s.f. to 1,100 s.f.



# Bus Capacity

- Virginia will only permit 1 student per row, every other row, in Phases I – III, with no more than ten people on a bus in Phase I
- It appears that Virginia is not requiring 6 foot separation on buses, as long as there is only one student per seat, every other row AND students are encouraged or required to wear face coverings
- This sketch depicts a 77-passenger bus with 13 students. A similar sketch depicts an 84-passenger bus with 14 students.
- LCPS staff will analyze whether bus capacity is sufficient for instructional models/schedules that are considered
- An increase in students who walk to schools would provide greater flexibility in efforts to maximize in-person learning
- School campuses do not have unlimited capacity to accommodate car riders



77 Passenger  
13 Rows  
13 Passengers

# Moving Between Phases & Beyond Phase III

- Virginia Return to School Plan states that divisions must be ready to move within phases and to shift instructional practices, depending on the phase
- Additional details and guidance will be forthcoming regarding beyond Phase III, including details regarding K-12 schools and required public health precautions



# Collaboration Among NoVa School Divisions

- The Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) includes municipalities in Northern Virginia
- Superintendents affiliated with NCRC municipalities lead the following divisions: Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax City, Fairfax County, Falls Church, Loudoun, Manassas City, Manassas Park, Prince William County
- NVRC Superintendents have been meeting weekly to share information regarding planning for the new school year
- NVRC Superintendents are exploring the potential for common practices across the region
- NVRC Superintendents hope to meet with NVRC chief administrators (County Administrators, County Executives, etc.)



# Sprint 3 of LCPS Planning for New School Year

**Sprint 3 Goal:** Recognize consistencies and prioritize components of a *Return to School Plan* across scenarios with prototypes built on multiple conditions

May 26 – 29

June 1–5

June 8–12

Cabinet and Teams working on Modules (6 of 16)

Cabinet and Teams working on Modules (11 of 16)

Cabinet and Teams working on Modules (16 of 16)

Communication with Principals on Senior Staff

Principals on Senior Staff set up two, 2 hour meetings with Leadership Teams; Communication and engagement with all Principals

Principals on Senior Staff work through School Return Plan; Communication and engagement with all Principals

Communication w/ Focus Group Facilitators and Participants

Focus Groups hosted throughout the week

Feedback from Focus Groups shared with Cabinet and Senior Staff (including 8 Principals)

Cabinet

Principals

Focus Groups



# Sprint 3 Focus Groups – by the Numbers



**27**  
Focus  
Groups



**245**

Number of People  
Invited to Focus  
Groups



**30**

LCPS Facilitators  
and Notetakers

# School Board Work Session, June 16

- We approach the work session with a prototyping mindset
- Overview of focus group feedback, including areas of strength and areas for growth in planning for various scenarios
- Presentation of a few *Week in the Life of a Student* narratives (revised based on focus group feedback and Virginia Return to School plan)
  - Receiving feedback on our imperfect, incomplete prototypes will allow improvement of our plans
  - At least one narrative involving a combination of in-person learning and distance learning (will include information regarding public health mitigation strategies for in-person learning)
  - At least one narrative involving a revised approach to 100% distance learning
  - At least one elementary narrative and at least one secondary narrative
  - Q & A in order to understand narratives
  - School Board provides input regarding narratives
- Potential additional School Board action regarding policies and resource allocation



# LCPS Mindset in Developing Prototype Responses

**Just start building.**

- Bias towards action – build prototype plans though we lack desired clarity
- Think about our ideas in a concrete manner
- Gain insights into ways we can improve our ideas

**Recognize prototypes are imperfect and incomplete.**

- Use a “good enough to share” standard; don’t wait for perfect, complete plans to share with stakeholders
- Encourage stakeholders to embrace ambiguity and a prototyping mindset

**Iterate with a focus on users and new information.**

- Focus on the experience of students, teachers, parents, and others
- Share our prototypes with increasing numbers of stakeholders
- Create new iterations of our prototypes based on input from stakeholders and new information



# Return to School Survey

- LCPS will administer a survey of parents and teachers
- Survey will be administered by June 19
- Parent questions will include:
  - Questions regarding interest in a 100% distance learning option even if most students participate in in-person learning for some or all of the time
  - Questions regarding interest/comfort with sending their child to school with public health mitigation strategies in place
- Teacher questions will include:
  - Questions regarding intentions to return to work in various scenarios
  - Questions regarding comfort with teaching with public health mitigation strategies in place



# In-Person Summer School

- LCPS tentatively plans to offer summer school that includes in-person learning during Phase II
- In-person LCPS summer school would be able to serve select students in accordance with the Virginia Return to School Plan
- Details regarding LCPS in-person summer school are under development, including details regarding timing, scope, focus, and eligibility
- LCPS staff will provide an update to the School Board regarding in-person summer school by June 16, 2020



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