

President PHILIP RUMORE



BUFFALO TEACHERS  
FEDERATION, INC.

271 PORTER AVENUE  
BUFFALO, N.Y. 14201  
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FAX (716) 881-6678

July 20, 2020

**MEMO TO:** Dr. Kriner Cash, Superintendent, BPS  
Members, Buffalo Board of Education

**FROM:** Philip Rumore, President, BTF

**RE:** Reopening Manual? / Reopening Plan  
Teacher Concerns

We are in receipt of your "BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOLS REOPENING MANUAL FOLLOWING PERIOD OF EXTENDED CLOSURE" / "Reopening Plan", (p.5).

Please be advised that this document is neither. It contains pages of "do this" but no delineation of how they are to be done.

Rather than list all the problems with the document, I have attached a copy with my (poor) handwritten notes done very quickly today.

To be clear, although the District attempts to make it appear that "Teacher Representatives – Buffalo Teachers Federation (BTF)" were in any way involved or consulted in the development of this document, the teacher members were in no way consulted or involved in its development. Indeed, the Committee only met twice. The first meeting was an orientation meeting lasting about one hour. The second and last meeting(s) was on June 16, 2020 - - It lasted about an hour.

Whether the others on the list of Committee members and the "Board of Education Ad-Hoc Reopening Committee members" met is unknown.

The deadline for submission and September are rapidly approaching.

In addition, why has the document been labeled "Confidential"? We believe that this is not only a violation of law but an attempt to prevent those most concerned, parents, teachers/staff and the community from providing critical input. Since it was sent to many people, we believe it must be and will be sent to Buffalo teachers.

Dr. Kriner Cash, Superintendent  
Members, Board of Education  
July 20, 2020

-2-

Enclosed please find copies of a sampling of initial critical concerns that have been raised, by teachers, as of July 17, 2020. They need to be acted on by providing answers and procedures to address them.

We remain willing to work with the District to develop delineated procedures to address these teacher concerns and the important concerns of parent, students and staff.

PR:ls

Encl: Reopening document with notes  
Teacher Concerns

cc: Buffalo Teachers

Subject: **Fwd: Reopening Committee Meeting**  
Date: 7/19/2020 5:08:12 PM Eastern Standard Time  
From: rpordum@aol.com  
To: btfny@aol.com, lsauer@btfny.org, matthew.kibler@nysut.org, jenna.burke@nysut.org, robert.mueller@nysut.org

FYI

-----Original Message-----

From: Pordum, Rebecca <RPordum@buffaloschools.org>  
To: Rebecca Pordum <rpordum@aol.com>  
Sent: Sun, Jul 19, 2020 5:03 pm  
Subject: Fw: Reopening Committee Meeting

Rebecca Pordum, Vice President  
Buffalo Teachers Federation  
[rpordum@buffaloschools.org](mailto:rpordum@buffaloschools.org)

---

**From:** Brown, Darren <DBrown@buffaloschools.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 19, 2020 4:37 PM  
**To:** Brown, Sharon <SEBrown@buffaloschools.org>; Botticelli, Anne <ABotticelli@buffaloschools.org>; Vitale, Tom <TVitale@buffaloschools.org>; DiNatale, Dawn <DDiNatale@buffaloschools.org>; Barrey, Brian <BBarrey@buffaloschools.org>; Flynn, Amy <AFlynn@buffaloschools.org>; Mecca, Mark <MVMecca@buffaloschools.org>; Rosokoff, Trisha <TRosokoff@buffaloschools.org>; Watson, Charlene <CWatson@buffaloschools.org>; Pordum, Rebecca <RPordum@buffaloschools.org>; Covington, Jody <JCovington@buffaloschools.org>; Jessica Bauer Walker <jessica@chwbuffalo.org>; [keh627@gmail.com](mailto:keh627@gmail.com) <keh627@gmail.com>; [mgoss@mainstreethost.com](mailto:mgoss@mainstreethost.com) <mgoss@mainstreethost.com>; Keith Jones <rj1428950@gmail.com>; Wendy Mistretta PhD <wendy.mistretta@live.com>; Assunta Ventresca <assuntav1017@gmail.com>; [folami50@gmail.com](mailto:folami50@gmail.com) <folami50@gmail.com>; [klj@parentnetworkwny.org](mailto:klj@parentnetworkwny.org) <klj@parentnetworkwny.org>; Rosso, Dolores <DRosso@buffaloschools.org>; Jo ann Sweat <joannswheat@yahoo.com>; Evans Brown, Kathy <KEvansBrown@buffaloschools.org>; [Ksimmons@city-buffalo.com](mailto:Ksimmons@city-buffalo.com) <Ksimmons@city-buffalo.com>; Miller, Damone R <DRMiller2@buffaloschools.org>; Lofton, Nick <NLofton@buffaloschools.org>; [tmoss@buffaloschools.org](mailto:tmoss@buffaloschools.org) <tmoss@buffaloschools.org>  
**Cc:** Wendy Mistretta PhD <parentfac45@live.com>; Kathy Evans Brown <kevans-brown@buffalourbanleague.org>; Simmons, Kenneth A <ksimmons@ch.ci.buffalo.ny.us>; Watson-Wales, Charlotte <CWatson-Wales@BuffaloSchools.org>  
**Subject:** Re: Reopening Committee Meeting

Colleagues;

Greetings. In preparation for the Reopening Committee meeting scheduled for Monday, July 20, 2020. Please find attached the beginning **confidential draft** of the reopening plan. Our discussion/work tomorrow will be to focus on the 4 Hybrid models that are listed in the July 20, 2020 draft plan (attached).

I have also attached the State Education Departments' reopening guidance along with the Department of Health guidelines.

After tomorrow's meeting, I will ask the chairperson of the Elementary (Dawn Dinatale) and High School (Charlotte Watson-Wales), to have additional meetings, to work through some of the ideas or concerns that surface. We can then have another follow-up meeting on Thursday or Friday to further the planning, and review additional sections of the draft plan.

I look forward to meeting with you all tomorrow. - DJBH

Educationally yours;

Darren J. Brown-Hall, Ed.D.  
Chief of Staff / District Clerk  
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[dbrown@buffaloschools.org](mailto:dbrown@buffaloschools.org)

***"Putting Children and Families First to Ensure HIGH Academic Achievement for ALL"***

---

**From:** Brown, Sharon <[SEBrown@buffaloschools.org](mailto:SEBrown@buffaloschools.org)>

**Sent:** Sunday, July 19, 2020 1:03 PM

**To:** Brown, Darren <[DBrown@buffaloschools.org](mailto:DBrown@buffaloschools.org)>; Brown, Sharon <[SEBrown@buffaloschools.org](mailto:SEBrown@buffaloschools.org)>; Brown, Darren <[DBrown@buffaloschools.org](mailto:DBrown@buffaloschools.org)>; Botticelli, Anne <[ABotticelli@buffaloschools.org](mailto:ABotticelli@buffaloschools.org)>; Vitale, Tom <[TVitale@buffaloschools.org](mailto:TVitale@buffaloschools.org)>; DiNatale, Dawn <[DDiNatale@buffaloschools.org](mailto:DDiNatale@buffaloschools.org)>; Barrey, Brian <[BBarrey@buffaloschools.org](mailto:BBarrey@buffaloschools.org)>; Flynn, Amy <[AFlynn@buffaloschools.org](mailto:AFlynn@buffaloschools.org)>; Mecca, Mark <[MVMecca@buffaloschools.org](mailto:MVMecca@buffaloschools.org)>; Rosokoff, Trisha <[TRosokoff@buffaloschools.org](mailto:TRosokoff@buffaloschools.org)>; Watson, Charlene <[CWatson@buffaloschools.org](mailto:CWatson@buffaloschools.org)>; Pordum, Rebecca <[RPordum@buffaloschools.org](mailto:RPordum@buffaloschools.org)>; Covington, Jody <[JCovington@buffaloschools.org](mailto:JCovington@buffaloschools.org)>; Jessica Bauer Walker <[jessica@chwbuffalo.org](mailto:jessica@chwbuffalo.org)>; [keh627@gmail.com](mailto:keh627@gmail.com) <[keh627@gmail.com](mailto:keh627@gmail.com)>; [mgoss@mainstreethost.com](mailto:mgoss@mainstreethost.com) <[mgoss@mainstreethost.com](mailto:mgoss@mainstreethost.com)>; Keith Jones <[rj1428950@gmail.com](mailto:rj1428950@gmail.com)>; Wendy Mistretta PhD <[wendy.mistretta@live.com](mailto:wendy.mistretta@live.com)>; Assunta Ventresca <[assuntav1017@gmail.com](mailto:assuntav1017@gmail.com)>; [folami50@gmail.com](mailto:folami50@gmail.com) <[folami50@gmail.com](mailto:folami50@gmail.com)>; [klj@parentnetworkwny.org](mailto:klj@parentnetworkwny.org) <[klj@parentnetworkwny.org](mailto:klj@parentnetworkwny.org)>; Rosso, Dolores <[DRosso@buffaloschools.org](mailto:DRosso@buffaloschools.org)>; Jo ann Sweat <[joannswheat@yahoo.com](mailto:joannswheat@yahoo.com)>; Evans Brown, Kathy <[KEvansBrown@buffaloschools.org](mailto:KEvansBrown@buffaloschools.org)>; [Ksimmons@city-buffalo.com](mailto:Ksimmons@city-buffalo.com) <[Ksimmons@city-buffalo.com](mailto:Ksimmons@city-buffalo.com)>; Miller, Damone R <[DRMiller2@buffaloschools.org](mailto:DRMiller2@buffaloschools.org)>; Lofton, Nick <[NLofton@buffaloschools.org](mailto:NLofton@buffaloschools.org)>; [tmoss@buffaloschools.org](mailto:tmoss@buffaloschools.org) <[tmoss@buffaloschools.org](mailto:tmoss@buffaloschools.org)>

**Cc:** Vitale, Tom <[TVitale@buffaloschools.org](mailto:TVitale@buffaloschools.org)>; Botticelli, Anne <[ABotticelli@buffaloschools.org](mailto:ABotticelli@buffaloschools.org)>; Barrey, Brian <[BBarrey@buffaloschools.org](mailto:BBarrey@buffaloschools.org)>; Pordum, Rebecca <[RPordum@buffaloschools.org](mailto:RPordum@buffaloschools.org)>; Rosokoff, Trisha <[TRosokoff@buffaloschools.org](mailto:TRosokoff@buffaloschools.org)>; DiNatale, Dawn <[DDiNatale@buffaloschools.org](mailto:DDiNatale@buffaloschools.org)>; Wendy Mistretta PhD <[parentfac45@live.com](mailto:parentfac45@live.com)>; Kathy Evans Brown <[kevans-brown@buffalourbanleague.org](mailto:kevans-brown@buffalourbanleague.org)>; Evans Brown, Kathy <[KEvansBrown@buffaloschools.org](mailto:KEvansBrown@buffaloschools.org)>; Rosso, Dolores <[DRosso@buffaloschools.org](mailto:DRosso@buffaloschools.org)>; Miller, Damone R <[DRMiller2@buffaloschools.org](mailto:DRMiller2@buffaloschools.org)>; Lofton, Nick <[NLofton@buffaloschools.org](mailto:NLofton@buffaloschools.org)>; [tmoss@buffaloschools.org](mailto:tmoss@buffaloschools.org) <[tmoss@buffaloschools.org](mailto:tmoss@buffaloschools.org)>; Kim Hernandez <[keh627@gmail.com](mailto:keh627@gmail.com)>; [Ksimmons@city-buffalo.com](mailto:Ksimmons@city-buffalo.com) <[Ksimmons@city-buffalo.com](mailto:Ksimmons@city-buffalo.com)>; Assunta Ventresca <[assuntav1017@gmail.com](mailto:assuntav1017@gmail.com)>; Covington, Jody <[JCovington@buffaloschools.org](mailto:JCovington@buffaloschools.org)>; Flynn, Amy <[AFlynn@buffaloschools.org](mailto:AFlynn@buffaloschools.org)>; [folami50@gmail.com](mailto:folami50@gmail.com) <[folami50@gmail.com](mailto:folami50@gmail.com)>; Jessica Bauer Walker <[jessica@chwbuffalo.org](mailto:jessica@chwbuffalo.org)>; Jo ann Sweat <[joannswheat@yahoo.com](mailto:joannswheat@yahoo.com)>; Mecca, Mark <[MVMecca@buffaloschools.org](mailto:MVMecca@buffaloschools.org)>; [mgoss@mainstreethost.com](mailto:mgoss@mainstreethost.com) <[mgoss@mainstreethost.com](mailto:mgoss@mainstreethost.com)>; Keith Jones <[rj1428950@gmail.com](mailto:rj1428950@gmail.com)>; [klj@parentnetworkwny.org](mailto:klj@parentnetworkwny.org) <[klj@parentnetworkwny.org](mailto:klj@parentnetworkwny.org)>; Simmons, Kenneth A <[ksimmons@ch.ci.buffalo.ny.us](mailto:ksimmons@ch.ci.buffalo.ny.us)>; Watson-Wales, Charlotte <[CWatson-Wales@BuffaloSchools.org](mailto:CWatson-Wales@BuffaloSchools.org)>

**Subject:** Reopening Committee Meeting

**When:** Monday, July 20, 2020 10:30 AM-12:00 PM.

**Where:** Zoom Meeting

Sharon Brown is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Reopening Committee Meeting

Time: Jul 20, 2020 10:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95404056874>

Meeting ID: 954 0405 6874

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,95404056874# US (New York)

+13017158592,,95404056874# US (Germantown)

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

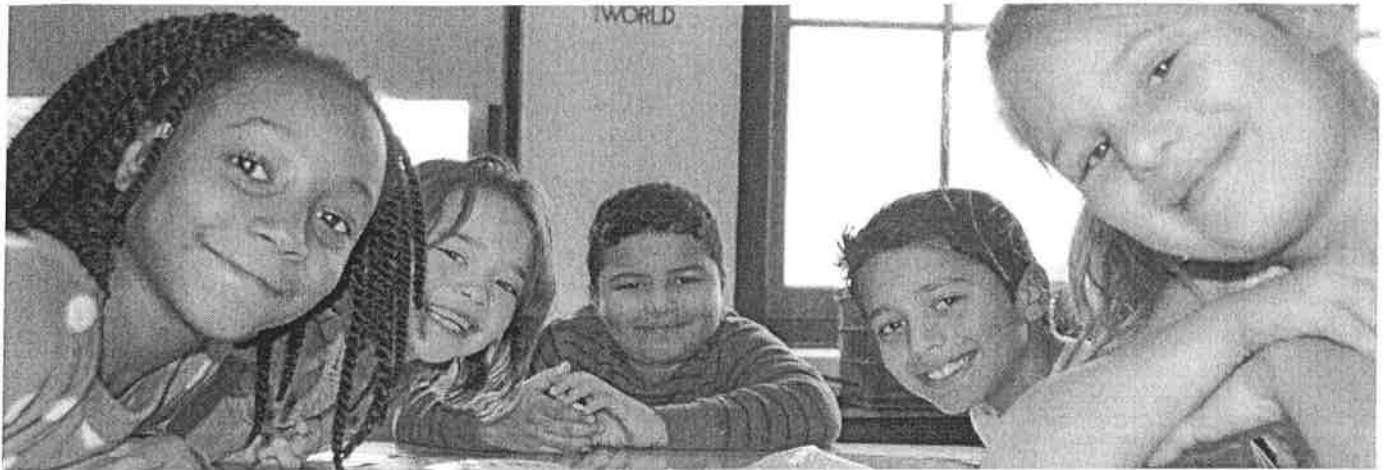
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 954 0405 6874

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/amtlyQAAd>



# **BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

## **REOPENING MANUAL FOLLOWING PERIOD OF EXTENDED CLOSURE**

**DRAFT (July 20, 2020)**



801 CITY HALL  
65 NIAGARA SQUARE  
BUFFALO, NY 14202  
(716) 816-3500

↖ why confidential ↗

## **Buffalo Board of Education Members:**

**Sharon M. Belton-Cottman**

President and Ferry District Board Member

**Dr. Kathy Evans - Brown**

Vice President of Student Achievement and East District Board Member

**Louis J. Petrucci**

Vice President of Executive Affairs and Park District Board Member

**Terrance L. Heard**

Board Member-at-Large

**Hope R. Jay**

North District Board Member

**Jennifer L. Mecozzi**

West District Board Member

**Dr. Ann R. Rivera**

Board Member-at-Large

**Lawrence L. Scott**

Board Member-at-Large

**Paulette Woods**

Central District Board Member

## **Superintendent**

Dr. Kriner Cash

## **Board of Education Ad-Hoc Reopening Committee:**

Dr. Ann Rivera, Chair

Terrance L. Heard

Jennifer L. Mecozzi

Dr. Kathy Evans-Brown

Hope R. Jay

## District Reopening Committee:

### District Representatives:

**Dr. Darren J. Brown-Hall**, Chief of Staff

**Anne Botticelli**, Chief Academic Officer

**Dr. Sharon Brown**, Instructional Specialist III – Best Practices

### Administrator Representatives – Buffalo Council of Supervisors & Administrators (BCSA)

**Jody Covington**, Principal – Buffalo Academy for Visual & Performing Arts

**Dawn Dinatale**, Principal – Makowski Early Childhood Center #99

**Tom Vitale**, Principal – Occupational Training Center

### Teacher Representatives – Buffalo Teachers Federation (BTF)

**Brian Barrey, Jr.**, Math Teacher – Hutch Tech High School

**Amy Flynn**, Special Education Teacher – Grabiarz School of Excellence #79

**Mark Mecca**, School Psychologist – MST High School

**Rebecca Pordum**, Vice President – Buffalo Teachers Federation

**Trisha Rosokoff**, Grade 1 Teacher – International School #45

**Charlotte Watson-Wales**, Attendance Teacher – Hutch Tech High School

*not involved  
met twice  
about 1 hour  
Last June 16<sup>th</sup>*

### Educational Support Staff Representatives – Buffalo Educational Support Team (B.E.S.T.)

**JoAnn Sweat**, President – Buffalo Educational Support Team

**Dolores Rosso**, Teacher Aide, North Park Community School #50

### Parent Representatives – Parent Congress

**Jessica Bauer Walker** – Community Health Worker Association

**Denise Fischer** – Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (SEPAC)

**Kim Hernandez** – Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (SEPAC)

**Keith Jones** – Buffalo Parent Teacher Organization (BPTO)

**Katie Junevic** – Parent Network of Western New York

**Dr. Wendy Mistretta** – District Parent Coordinating Council (DPCC)

**Kenneth Simmons** – Most Valuable Parents (MVP)



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction .....	5
AASA Guiding Principles .....	6
School Reopening Models (BPS Plans) .....	9
A. Completely Virtual .....	9
B. Hybrid Models .....	10
C. Completely In-Person .....	11
School Operations:	
Arriving to School .....	12
During the School Day .....	12
Designated COVID-19 Point of Contact	
Face Coverings	
Hand Hygiene & Respiratory Etiquette	
Shared Objects	
Modified Layouts	
Physical Barriers and Guides	
Food Service	
Isolate and Transport Those Who are Sick	
Dismissal from School .....	14
*Social Emotional Learning (SEL) .....	15
*Special Education .....	16
*English Language Learners .....	17
*Career & Technical Education .....	19
*Professional Development .....	19
Facilities .....	20
Signs and Messages	
Main Offices and Reception Areas	
Maintaining Healthy Environments	
Classrooms	
BPS Cleaning Protocols for School Buildings .....	22
Important Reminders .....	23
Staying Home When Appropriate	
Gatherings, Visitors and Field Trips	
References .....	24

**\*The information in these items (highlighted in yellow), act as a place holder until we receive guidance from NYSED, and BPS Departmental input. However, many of the essential questions should be used to guide BPS specific planning and information for the reopening plan/document.**



## INTRODUCTION:

On March 16, 2020, Governor Andrew Cuomo issued Executive Order 202.4; *Notwithstanding any prior directives, every school in the state of New York is hereby directed to close no later than Wednesday, March 18, 2020.* Further gubernatorial action required school facilities to remain closed through the end of the 2019–20 school year.

Now, school leaders are turning their focus on how to successfully plan for a safe and healthy start to the 2020–21 school year. Buffalo Public Schools reopening committee met virtually on June 2, 2020 and again on June 16, 2020 to help plan the reopening of Buffalo's schools in the Fall of 2020. Between the two large group meetings, New York State Education Department (NYSED) held regional reopening meetings which will aid in developing the New York State reopening guidance.

for about  
1 hour  
each

A district-wide survey of stakeholders was developed and released on June 10, 2020. The Survey closed on July 2, 2020. Over 2,700 responses were received and that information helped to guide and shape this reopening plan. Plan?!

Buffalo Public School is committed to communicating frequently on how the district is following CDC and State Education Department guidelines on school reopening, as well as providing training and materials for employees during this transitional education period. An important part of successfully communicating will involve addressing the concerns of employees, students, and parents about their personal health and the health of those they care about (CGCS, 2020).

sure!

While the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted and altered so many areas of our lives, the Buffalo Public School District (BCSD) is committed to this reopening plan to ensure that every child is supported.

The pandemic has required each of us to reimagine education. This Reopening Plan provides a comprehensive overview of how educators and administrators will ensure that school is reopened safely to meet the diverse needs of our students and families during this unprecedented time...

NOT  
Time

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

These initial plans were established using the Guiding Principles & Action Steps for Reopening Schools from The School Superintendents Association - AASA COVID-19 Recovery Task Force:

but in  
teachers, parents  
admin etc

### 1. Plan For Multiple Reopening Scenarios And Contingencies To Ensure The Health, Safety, And Well-Being Of All Students And Staff

- It is essential that district leaders and staff anticipate the reality of multiple potential scenarios associated with the reopening process. These may include a return to in-person learning, the continuation of virtual learning, or a blended approach involving some students and staff returning to in-person learning while others continue to participate in remote learning. Policies and procedures must be in place and maintained consistently for attendance, health screening and quarantine procedures, school closures, social distancing, hygiene, and cleaning aligned with the unique challenges of each scenario (in alignment with recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention).

where  
are  
they?

### 2. Build A COVID-19-Response Reopening Infrastructure Aligned With Changing Scenarios And Needs

- It is essential that leaders and staff prepare for a changing landscape when reopening occurs. Careful consideration must be given to safety and sanitation, the implications of social distancing, and shifting roles and duties of staff as education returns to some form of normalcy. Accommodations must be made to address learning loss as well as ensuring support services for students, staff, and families extending from the crisis.

only  
consideration?

### 3. Ensure Students' And Families' Equitable Access To Technology Required For Virtual Learning

- The COVID-19 crisis has brought a stark spotlight on the many inequities evident in our diverse student populations. A critically important priority is the continuation of free access for all learners to Broadband connectivity, the internet, and related hardware.

details?

### 4. Provide Continuing Support To Students And Adults To Address Their Immediate And Long-Term Physical, Psychological, Social, And Emotional Needs

- Without question, social and emotional learning (SEL) is a critically important priority that has emerged from the crisis and related school closures. The psychological, interpersonal, and emotional needs of students, staff, and families must become a key focal point as some form of reopening occurs. In addition to requisite services and resources, SEL strategies and techniques must become a consistent part of classroom instruction, reinforcing safety, well-being, and engagement within the learning community.

How?  
details?

### 5. Make Certain That All Schools Are Trauma-Informed And Trauma-Skilled

- Extensive professional development is necessary to ensure that staff understand the long-term effects of various forms of trauma (i.e., physical, psychological/mental, and relational). As staff become trauma-informed, district leaders and staff must ensure that policies and practices are in place to address the impact of trauma in its various forms and ensure that schools are safe spaces within which individuals and groups can express their concerns, anxieties, and fears. when?  
what?
6. Prepare For COVID-19-Related Changes In Human Resource Management And Practices
    - Educational leaders must prepare for a variety of potential human resource and related contractual issues that may extend from the Covid-19 crisis into the reopening process.
  7. Offer Ongoing Personalized And Differentiated Professional Learning
    - In the new educational environment we are entering, educational leaders must ensure that sustained professional development is available for administrators, teachers, and support staff on a range of crisis-related issues. These include strategies for making virtual learning engaging and interactive, addressing SEL needs among students and staff, and enhancing staff understanding of what it means to be trauma-informed and trauma-skilled. Like  
what?  
when?
  8. Transform The Teaching-Learning-Assessment Process To Ensure Personalization, Engagement, And Differentiation
    - Educators throughout the United States have confirmed that the COVID-19 crisis has revealed the power and importance of transforming teaching and learning as we typically practice them. Classrooms must be safe, healthy, and inviting learning communities. We must ensure that all students feel respected, acknowledged, and efficacious in their learning process. Our curriculum must be culturally responsive and relevant, organized around such connecting schema as themes, universal and enduring understandings, and essential questions. Similarly, we must overcome our prior tendencies to "teach to the test," expanding our assessment repertoire to include a balance of formative assessment, criterion-based coaching and feedback, and summative assessment that is performance-centered and – whenever possible – project based. Classrooms and schools must become increasingly personalized, engaging, and differentiated environments that acknowledge and address students' varying readiness levels, interests, and learner profiles. Must  
be  
revised  
for  
distance  
learning -  
not the  
same  
as  
in person.
  9. Anticipate COVID-19-Related Budget And Fiscal Management Issues
    - Without question, these are unprecedented times in terms of public health and economic well-being. As schools reopen, educators must be alert to potential funding shortages, shortfalls, and budget reallocation to fund a range of health and sanitation supplies, as well as budgetary implications of social-distancing requirements. do more  
with  
less?

#### 10. Embrace A New Paradigm For Public Education

- AASA Task force superintendents reinforced that educators will benefit from viewing the Covid-19 crisis as a breakthrough opportunity to transform schools and education as we know them. The crisis has reinforced long-standing inequities and imbalances within the United States extending from racial, ethnic, cultural, and geographic divides. The lessons we have learned during the pandemic can lead us to a new way of ensuring the achievement of all learners while emphasizing their physical development, health issues, as well as their social-emotional learning progress.

*and.....*

## SCHOOL REOPENING MODELS:

The New York State Education Department (NYSED), along with the Governor's office encouraged every District to develop three (3) plans:

- A. Completely Virtual Model: This model will allow schools to continue educating students virtually. Student will remain at home, and teachers will instruct via Lifesize, zoom, schoology, etc. Buffalo Public Schools will follow the guidelines developed in the Spring of 2020: *Instructional Guidance during Period of Extended Closure*. This document will be updated to reflect changes for Fall 2020. when?
- B. Hybrid Models: This model allows flexibility in the education of students across the District. Not all students will be in the school building at the same time, allowing for in-person instruction and at-home virtual instruction/completion of work. How? done?
- C. Completely In-Person: This model requires that all students attend school each day school is in session. How?

Model B & C above require strict adherence to the CDC guidelines. Some of the guidelines include:

- Face coverings for all staff members -- with coverings encouraged for students
- Cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch surfaces daily by whom? how often?
- Restrictions on mixing of students, keeping the same groups of students with the same staff members as much as possible
- Canceling of field trips, events, and extracurricular activities
- Spacing desks 6 ft. apart, facing the same direction How?
- Closing dining halls and serving meals in classrooms
- Spacing on school buses, putting one student in every other row by whom?
- Minimize sharing of objects such as electronic devices ?
- Serving pre-packaged food instead of buffet-style meals when possible where how?
- Conducting daily health screenings, such as temperature checks what health checks? by whom?

Governor Cuomo announced on July 8, 2020, that a final decision regarding school reopening will be made during the first week of August (Aug. 1-7, 2020). How?

### A. Completely Virtual Model:

This model is a continuation of instruction that took place beginning March 18, 2020 and lasting until the final day of school – June 17, 2020.

From: *Instructional Guidance during Period of Extended Closure* document:

Computing devices have been distributed to students in grades 3-12 to facilitate remote learning. However, some families struggle with connectivity. The District learning packets are intended to support those families and other families who may want additional,

where are they?  
How distributed when?

alternative resources. In addition, teachers should continue to assign work to students as they have since March 18, in accordance with the District's NYSED approved alternative instruction plan required by Executive Order 202.4.

#### Methods of Instruction

- Hard copy learning packets aligned to grade level state standards
- Remote learning
- Teacher-posted assignments in Schoology or other electronic platforms
- Activities from District courses in Schoology
- Live, virtual lessons or videotaped lessons
- Nearpod lessons
- Readings or videos accompanied by a means to verify participation, including responding to questions, completing assignments or exit tickets, or student participation in online discussion boards
- Emailed communication, assignments
- Completion of activities to complement core instruction using District approved online programs including Moby Max, Lexia Core5 or PowerUp, myON, Think Central, Pearson Realize, NextLesson, and Quill
- Virtual conferencing, office hours
- Phone conversations and consultations

The same standards?

What procedure if in response from student or parents

How?

**IMPORTANT:** If the Governor's office decides that schooling will remain virtual, students will have a more structured "school day" from home.

What is this? How?

Updates from Curriculum, Assessment & Instruction dept.:

The Buffalo Public Schools Instructional technology department is amending their current plan to ensure all students have the appropriate technological device for their grade level, as well as proper internet connectivity.

What is the plan?

Where is PK?

#### B. Hybrid Models: 4 Draft Models...

1. Students in grades K - 8 in elementary school buildings will be in session. High School students in grades 9-12 will be completely virtual.

- a. Students in grade K-8 will follow the cohort model: Ensure that student and staff groupings are as static as possible by having the same group of children stay with the same staff (all day for young children, and as much as possible for older children). (CDC, 2020)

How?

- b. Limit mixing between groups if possible.

if possible? what does this mean?

- c. Ideas that may assist with cohorting:

- i. Have teachers rotate instead of students.

How?

- ii. Utilize outdoor spaces, or unused spaces when possible (school auditorium if necessary).

There are also different barriers to successful implementation of many of these measures in high schools, as the structure of school is usually based on students changing classrooms regularly.

*When A student  
home, who tracks*

## 2. Alternating weeks of schooling – Week A, Week B

- a. Students, district-wide, would be assigned in groups to attend during Week A designation or Week B designation. This will allow for reduction of classroom size to increase social distancing. This will also assist with Transportation – Yellow bus capacity and NFTA (public transportation) capacity.
- b. In Elementary buildings, students will still adhere to the Cohort Model, as explained in Hybrid Model 1.
- c. High School students will switch classes less frequently, as block scheduling would better suit this hybrid model. For example, an Algebra class that meets for 45 minutes each day, will meet for a 90-minute block each day during Week A instruction. There will be a need for students to cover core classes as a priority in scheduling. *>!  
How*

## 3. Alternating days of schooling – A Day, B Day

- a. Students, district-wide, would be assigned in groups to attend school on A-Day or B-Day to allow for reduction of classroom size and increased social distancing. Students would work asynchronously on their alternate day. This will also assist with Transportation – Yellow bus capacity and NFTA (public transportation) capacity. *What  
does this  
mean/  
how does  
it work?*
- b. In Elementary buildings, students will still adhere to the Cohort Model, as explained in Hybrid Model 1.
- c. This option allows students to take breakfast and lunch home on their assigned day to cover the remote day. *take break fast  
home?*

## 4. Cohort Model for Elementary, Alternating Weeks for High School

- a. Combination of Models 1 & 2. This will allow for Elementary students to be in session and follow the cohort model, while High School students will follow Alternating weeks scheduling. *examples / how?*

## C. Completely In-Person: All students attend regularly scheduled school...



there is no detail!

This plan will also have greater detail as the weeks progress. This will be fully developed during planning sessions with the reopening committee.

why?

## ***TEACHER CONCERNS***

**From:**  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 15, 2020 8:54 PM  
**To:** Lupe Sauer; rpordum@aol.com  
**Subject:** Re-Opening Questions

Hi Phil and Becky-Here are some of my questions.

Thank you!

### Questions for Re-Opening

1. Since the district will be providing PPE for every single staff member and student-what will the guidelines be for reusing and/or replacing PPE? What happens if a mask rips, or gets soiled? How many masks will students get per day? Will teachers/admins. have the right to refuse entrance to anyone not wearing a mask or not wearing it properly?

2. Who will enforce social distancing and mask-wearing? What will the role and responsibility be for staff enforcing the health and safety guidelines? How will you support staff in enforcing these guidelines in their schools/classrooms?

3. What cleaning procedures will be implemented by custodial staff? How often will our classrooms and bathrooms be cleaned thoroughly? Will cleaning staff be retrained? Schools were filthy before COVID and staff couldn't keep up with cleaning then-how is that going to change?

What about cleaning between class periods? Who is doing the cleaning then? Will a checklist be posted so teachers know procedures were followed? Will cleaning of desks/tables: tops, undersides, legs, all chairs: seats and backs, rugs, door knobs, light switches, white boards, computers, shelves, etc. happen every single day? Floors were not mopped except during winter/spring/summer breaks which is unacceptable! They cannot just be swept daily they need to be mopped with a cleaning disinfectant every single day.

Bathrooms? Will there be hot water, anti -bacterial soap, paper towels in every student, classroom and faculty bathrooms? Will they be checked and refilled several times a day?

4. Will there be more hand washing and sanitizer stations? Water fountains need to be closed. How will the school provide water for kids each day? Bottled water?
5. Will the air ducts be cleaned and maintained regularly? Will they pull air OUT of the classroom and not just continually circulate the air back into the classroom? Will they have high-quality air filters that capture air contaminants and will they be changed regularly?
6. What are schools supposed to do where the temperatures are hot, unbearable and extremely unsafe? How are students and staff supposed to wear masks in these unsafe temperatures? Fans do not cool these rooms very well, but will they even be safe to be used? The district does not have enough fans for every classroom.
7. Will class sizes reflect social distancing guidelines? If so, how?
8. Will teachers who share a classroom be able to have their own room to pull out students? Is it safe for adults to share spaces anymore?
9. Are special area teachers going to get laid off? Will there be any layoffs?
10. Will teacher/TA's travel from classroom to classroom? If students stay together in the same cohort how is it safe for staff to be exposed to many different cohorts of children?
11. Will there be a clear and thorough notification system for those exposed to anyone who tests positive for the virus? Contact tracing? How? Teachers need to know (regardless of HIPPA Law) the name of a student who is in their care who tested positive.
12. Will there be regular, on-site testing for all stakeholders at every school?
13. How many nurses will be at a school? One nurse is not going to be able to handle all this at each school?

14. What about subs who travel from school to school? They will be exposed to many different students and staff:
15. What happens with discipline? What happens if an altercation occurs at school? Coughing or spitting in a teacher's face? Another student's face? What will the disciplinary action be and will it matter if someone just spread the virus to others and they become sick and/or die?
16. What will be the guidelines be for hall passes (these are unsanitary with multiple student use over the course of the day)? Will students even be allowed to leave the room?
17. How will you ensure a student who has a COVID-positive family member self-quarantines?
18. How will you ensure a staff member who has a COVID-positive family member self-quarantines?
19. What mental health supports will be available EVERY DAY for students and staff during this frightening and uncertain time? SST can't do their jobs already because of all the discipline issues in schools!
20. What kind of guidelines will you have for students traveling during dismissal or switching periods? Directions to and from classes? Limited entryways into buildings? How are you going to do fire drills and active shooter drills?
21. How can you even begin to address the issues with infected people who are completely asymptomatic? You won't know if someone asymptomatic has it until someone else gets it and shows symptoms. By then, there could be a serious outbreak.

**From:**  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 16, 2020 3:01 PM  
**To:** Lupe Sauer  
**Subject:** Reopening Concerns/ Questions

Opening schools? There are too many unanswered questions:

- If a teacher tests positive for COVID-19 are they required to quarantine for 2-3 weeks? Is their sick leave covered, paid?
- If that teacher has 5 classes a day with 30 students each, do all 150 of those students need to then stay home and quarantine for 14 days?
- Do all 150 of those students now have to get tested? Who pays for those tests? Are they happening at school? How are the parents being notified? Does everyone in each of those kids' families need to get tested? Who pays for that?
- What if someone who lives in the same house as a teacher tests positive? Does that teacher now need to take 14 days off of work to quarantine? Is that time off covered? Paid?
- Where is the district going to find a substitute teacher who will work in a classroom full of exposed, possibly infected students for substitute pay?
- Substitutes teach in multiple schools. What if they are diagnosed with COVID-19? Do all the kids in each school now have to quarantine and get tested? Who is going to pay for that?
- What if a student in your kid's class tests positive? What if your kid tests positive? Does every other student and teacher they have been around quarantine? Do we all get notified who is infected and when? Or because of HIPAA regulations are parents and teachers just going to get mysterious "may have been in contact" emails all year long?
- What is this stress going to do to our teachers? How does it affect their health and well-being? How does it affect their ability to teach? How does it affect the quality of education they are able to provide? What is it going to do to our kids? What are the long-term effects of consistently being stressed out?
- How will it affect students and faculty when the first teacher in their school dies from this? The first parent of a student who brought it home? The first kid?
- How many more people are going to die, that otherwise would not have if we had stayed home longer?

My son who is 3 has preexisting conditions that make him high risk, what do I do? I have an autoimmune disorder. I have elderly parents. I cannot risk bringing Covid home to them. Will I be eligible to teach from home?

30% of the teachers in the US are over 50. About 16% of the total deaths in the US are people between the ages of 45-65.

Why are they choosing to put our teachers and kids in danger?

**From:**  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 15, 2020 5:49 PM  
**To:** Lupe Sauer  
**Subject:** Re: "Reopening" Teacher Input

We have innumerable concerns. Many of us are literally afraid for our lives and the health and safety of all involved and believe it would be unethical and fatal to open schools physically during a worldwide pandemic.

1. Those of us who are caring for compromised family members are terrified that if we open physically, we will get sick at work, then pass it along to those compromised loved ones- making them sick with tragic consequences. Are accommodations going to be made for those of us caring for compromised loved ones? FMLA eligibility?

2. What leave-of-absence options are there for teachers that we can use if we must keep our families safe? With teachers out on leave, out sick, self-isolating, etc....how will there be enough staff?

3. Antiquated ventilation systems in schools that everyone will be breathing in for approx 7 hrs daily- will they be updated?

4. Will PPE be provided for all? Including visitors to the school?

5. What is our response to parents and students who refuse to wear a mask? Will parents/visitors be allowed in to the building?

6. How will we ensure social distancing on the bus, in the classroom, cafeteria, etc.?

7. Liability issues- Can legal action be taking if the illness is contracted on school grounds?


8. How will high-touch areas be sanitized frequently when all areas are high-touch in a school?

.....and MANY more.

There is simply NO way we can keep our students, our families, or ourselves safe if school opened physically in the fall.

Thank you.



**From:**                              
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 15, 2020 7:35 PM  
**To:** Lupe Sauer; sculm@buffaloschools.org  
**Subject:** Reopening

Concerns:

1. I am a teacher who has a rare lung disease. I may not have a greater risk for getting COVID, but if I get it I'm at a greater risk of being hospitalized and having serious problems. Do I have any options? What happens if I am written out by my doctor? Will there be an option for me to teach virtually?
2. I was told I am being moved to a different grade this year. I was told not to move my room during the week of close out in June since it is undecided if we're returning. I was told I'd do it the week of August 24th. Can I get paid? What if I don't do it and then don't return? Are they allowed to move my stuff? It's not even packed yet. I'm worried we'll get this new plan and it'll be a lot to reimagine at the last minute and on top of that I'll have to pack up a classroom and move rooms.
3. If they'll be shields of some sort for between desks will teachers have to assemble them all?
4. Will good masks be provided to teachers?
5. Who is providing masks for students if they break theirs, lose it, get it filthy, or it's not up to par? What will the procedure be. I'm concerned because if they have an accident and they are sent to the nurse there is never any new underwear/ clothes for them and we have to contact parents during class while the student sits in our class. Will the same thing happen with masks?
6. Will there be hot water in all faucets students may use? There is only like 2 plumbers in the district or something. I've been waiting on hot water for years.
7. Will we have some good old fashioned Lysol type hand sanitizer and wipes provided regularly to us as opposed to that foamy stuff that I feel has zero alcohol in it? If so how often will we get it? What will the procedure be?
8. I hear things like daily temperature checks. Who is checking 800 plus kids temps? How long will that take? I don't feel comfortable with saying parents take temps at home. How am I to believe that's actually happening and or accurate?
9. If kids come only certain days of the week, what are they doing at home the other days? Am I providing in class lesson plans a few days a week and online lesson plans the other days?
10. If kids can't share whiteboards, books, devices, erasers, gluesticks, crayons, etc. who is providing it to students who don't come to school with it all?
11. Will there be built in time into our schedules for 20 plus kids to be washing hands numerous times a day? It can't be done in a 2 minute transition period.
12. How will it be decided who comes on certain days and who stays home on certain days if a hybrid happens? Will pre-K-2 have iPads?
13. How will students socially distance on the bus and get to school on time? Is that how it will work or will times kids arrive be staggered?

14. If younger students are to be self contained how will they receive their services and specials? Will there be more aides and or assistants to cover when teachers need to use the bathroom and have a break or lunch?

Those are some of my concerns.



Sent from my iPhone

**From:**  
**Sent:** Friday, July 17, 2020 9:43 PM  
**To:** Lupe Sauer  
**Subject:** Concerns for Reopening Schools

Hello,

I am writing my concerns for reopening schools in September. I am a grade 6 teacher who is in a school that departmentalizes.

1. Our building was "renovated" but most of our classrooms are the old ones that are extremely small. We are a school in good standing and can have over 30 kids in a class. In my room, I don't even have enough space to separate desks let alone socially distance. How could this be possible?
2. Two of my four windows don't open. How can I be provided proper ventilation?
3. There are many staff and STUDENTS and PARENTS/GUARDIANS with compromised immune systems. It seems ridiculous to expect anyone to put students, faculty or the students' family members in danger!
4. There's no possible way to socially distance on our buses with the amount of kids on them! And the governor says anyone without a mask can't be refused a bus? Well what do we do in that case?
5. Our building is filthy. I can't imagine sanitization efforts being followed through on... ever. Especially now!
6. Who is checking temps and monitoring students to come in when you are in a billing with 1,000 students?
7. We are a late school. How will this impact our times? Half the time we wait on "late" buses because of early schools.
8. What if we have family member at home with compromised immune systems? If we are exposed, we can bring this home! It's dangerous for those in our home!
9. If we are exposed and have to quarantine, how does that impact our sick time? What if a student or students' family members are exposed, do we quarantine too? Does this mean we use our sick time?
10. We already struggle to find subs and co-teachers, guidance counselors, ENL teachers and special area teachers cover classes when staff are out. What is the plan for this during a pandemic?
11. Some of us have small children at home who are young. We aren't 100% sure how the impacts the very young and we often aren't sure when very young if there are underlying conditions. This is very dangerous for us to be exposing or carrying home to the little ones.
12. Families of ours with chronic underlying contortions and often may struggle with health Insurance. I am genuinely concerned students may be exposed and bringing this to their homes.

These are just a few concerns I have. I really appreciate it.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:**  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 15, 2020 5:37 PM  
**To:** Lupe Sauer  
**Subject:** Concerns about reopening

Dear BTF:

I am sure there are so many concerns right now but I feel as a Pre-K teacher in the district, I have so many it's mind boggling. I will just name a few:

1. This is a universal concern but I have to bring it up again; our schools/classrooms were so unsanitary before this pandemic there will have to be a major overhaul of the Engineer's department/responsibilities/personnel to be able to keep our rooms cleaned on a regular basis. My assistant and I did our best without taking away from instructional time, but this is the problem. Should we help out more and take time away when we could be instructing or can we have additional staff to come in and clean more thoroughly and regularly?
2. With regards to 3 and 4 years old starting school; they will not understand 6 ft. of separation; they will be crying ( we can't really touch or hug them ), they will be having accidents ( we can't change their clothes ) and they will be playing with toys and manipulatives all throughout the day ( we can't clean all of the toys after each child).
3. Smaller class sizes will help, alternate or half days ( and teachers/assistants ) can do some cleaning on off days or times of day. \*\*\* Excluding 3 year olds would help as they are younger and more immature.
4. How can we ask 3 and 4 year olds to wear and keep track of their mask all day long? Will the teachers have to run around picking them up and trying to figure out who's it is? That won't be sanitary! And, It is hard enough to keep track of jackets, boots, mittens, etc.
5. Will custodial staff come in after breakfast and lunch to sanitize tables, chairs and clean floors? They really should!
6. PreK Administration has said in the past that we are to help students become toilet trained; so they may enter wearing diapers. It has always been a gray area that no one wants to take responsibility for— some say the nurse will help and change, but some nurses will not; some say teachers should, but others say it takes away from learning time and we both ( teacher and ass't. ) have to watch to make sure there are 2 sets of eyes monitoring for safety concerns and then who is watching the class? Some say call your administrator but they are so busy that this often leads to excessive waiting time with a child who is soiled. This guideline should be revamped for health and safety concerns to say " all children entering this year must be able to toilet themselves ".

This is just a small sampling from one teacher, this is going to be an unusual year. I do want to go back so badly but we really need firm guidelines with the youngest students so parents/teachers know what to expect. The students won't really understand it until they are living it.

Respectfully,

/

What will be the requirement for Physical education? We have up to 70 students in the gymnasium at a time w outdoor green space. Will NYS standards/minutes still be recognized?

Consider 30 7th graders in a classroom where social distancing (6 feet) is not capable. Are we going to reduce class size to follow guidelines?

What happens if a teacher is considered high risk due to pregnancy/cancer/diabetes/etc & is afraid to come to work & they lose their sick days for fear of contracting Covid?

How do we handle taking temperatures, ensuring soap is refilled, and providing masks to everyone when there is little funding?

Air hand dryers should not be used because it circulates old air... probably not the best idea to get these installed. Back to paper towels?

Lunches? Kids sit by class with 8 children at small tables. How will this be handled?

- If a teacher tests positive for COVID-19 are they required to quarantine for 2-3 weeks? Is their sick leave covered, paid?

If my child has been exposed or infected and needs to be quarantined is my sick day balance going to be charged?

- If that teacher has 5 classes a day with 30 students each, do all 150 of those students need to then stay home and quarantine for 14 days?
- Do all 150 of those students now have to get tested? Who pays for those tests? Are they happening at school? How are the parents being notified? Does everyone in each of those kids' families need to get tested? Who pays for that?
- What if someone who lives in the same house as a teacher tests positive? Does that teacher now need to take 14 days off of work to quarantine? Is that time off covered? Paid?
- Where is the district going to find a substitute teacher who will work in a classroom full of exposed, possibly infected students for substitute pay?
- Substitutes teach in multiple schools. What if they are diagnosed with COVID-19? Do all the kids in each school now have to quarantine and get tested? Who is going to pay for that?
- What if a student in your kid's class tests positive? What if your kid tests positive? Does every other student and teacher they have been around quarantine? Do we all get notified who is infected and when? Or because of HIPAA regulations are parents and teachers just going to get mysterious "may have been in contact" emails all year long?

1. Those of us who are caring for compromised family members are terrified that if we open physically, we will get sick at work, then pass it along to those compromised loved ones- making them sick with tragic consequences. Are accommodations going to be made for those of us caring for compromised loved ones? FMLA eligibility?

2. What leave-of-absence options are there for teachers that we can use if we must keep our families safe? With teachers out on leave, out sick, self-isolating, etc....how will there be enough staff?

3. Antiquated ventilation systems in schools that everyone will be breathing in for approx 7 hrs daily- will they be updated?

4. Will PPE be provided for all? Including visitors to the school?

5. What is our response to parents and students who refuse to wear a mask? Will parents/visitors be allowed in to the building?

6. How will we ensure social distancing on the bus, in the classroom, cafeteria, etc.?

7. Liability issues- Can legal action be taking if the illness is contracted on school grounds?

8. How will high-touch areas be sanitized frequently when all areas are high-touch in a school?

.....and MANY more.

There is simply NO way we can keep our students, our families, or ourselves safe if school opened physically in the fall.

Thank you.

**From:**  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 16, 2020 2:20 PM  
**To:** Lupe Sauer  
**Subject:** reopening concerns

1. Masks will students be wearing in class?
  2. How do we socially distance during arrival and dismissal? 1100 high school kids going to lockers and getting on Metro buses in 4 minutes is chaotic on a good day. Will the bus schedules be changed to allow for staggered release of kids. How do we keep kids safe on public transportation? Will they have student only specials in the mornings to collect kids?
  3. How will change of classes work in high school? Our halls are very narrow.
  4. Who will sanitize rooms between classes?
  5. Who will provide sanitizing supplied?
  6. What do we do if the sanitizing requirements are not being met?
  7. How do we socially distance in a building that is already bursting at the seams?
  8. I am in a high risk group, what accommodations can or will be made to keep me and others like me safe? Will be able to work from home if conditions in the building can't be made safe for us? Can plexiglass be installed around my desk to protect me?
  9. How will they determine the numbers of people that can occupy a given space ( students, teachers and teacher aides and assistants must all be part of the equation when determining max occupancy.
  10. What do I do when max occupancy limits are violated?
  11. Will the district be providing masks? How do we handle non-compliant students? Can I refuse them entry to my room due to the risk to my health? Can I require kids to wear masks at all times in my room?
  12. Our lunches are already overcrowded, how is that going to work?
  13. Will non teaching assignments take into account teacher risk status?
- I probably have 100 more concerns or questions. But here is a start

PS Lupe how are you doing? Sorry to hear about your sister.

**From:**  
**Sent:** Friday, July 17, 2020 6:10 PM  
**To:** Lupe Sauer  
**Subject:** Back to school concerns/issues

I teach at school #32.

1. Our building is never clean under normal circumstances.
2. If a child/teacher/aide tests positive for Covid do we all quarantine?
3. How do you "make" kids wear masks and what happens if they refuse it just continuously takes them off?
4. Getting subs (and bus drivers) have been issues for years, we never have subs and teachers have to split classes...how can you split a class if you don't have the room for that many kids in a classroom?
5. While doing distance learning last spring, there were some teachers that did nothing for 3 months(never even reached out to kids)...how do you hold all teachers accountable?
6. While the distance learning in the spring was an adjustment and most went with the flow, the district is always changing things or adding things last minute...for ex. We were an hour away from leaving for what would be the rest of the year, the SPED dept sent an email with new rules they wanted done before leaving... also the SPED dept required 3-5 times a week contact with students a month and a half into distance learning...it's like they didn't know what they were doing or asking?
7. Distance learning can be very difficult for students who not only struggle with the academic material, but also struggle with comprehension and using technology.
8. Bathrooms only have hand dryers and studies show while hand dryers are great for the environment they spread germs. We need paper towels! Bathroom sinks also don't have warm water and don't stay on long enough to "sing happy birthday" as an acceptable amount of time.
9. If temperature are taken before entering buildings and a student has a temp, where do they wait for parent pick up? What if parents don't pick up student?
10. I hand delivered work and arranged hot spots for students and parent support just wasn't there...no blame, it just wasn't there.
11. Idea... If I'm at school teaching lessons I could teach kids there in person and could have kids sitting there virtually.
12. Idea... maybe kids need to go to neighborhood schools so they could walk and then there would be less kids on the busses.

Thank you,



Sent from my iPhone



**From:**  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 16, 2020 9:47 PM  
**To:** Lupe Sauer  
**Subject:** Re: "Reopening" Teacher Input

Questions continued:

If a teacher tests positive for COVID-19 are they required to quarantine for 2-3 weeks? Is their sick leave covered, paid?

If that teacher has 5 classes a day with 30 students each, do all 150 of those students need to then stay home and quarantine for 14 days?

What if someone who lives in the same house as a teacher tests positive? Does that teacher now need to take 14 days off of work to quarantine? Is that time off covered? Paid?

Where is the district going to find a substitute teacher who will work in a classroom full of exposed, possibly infected students for substitute pay?

Substitutes teach in multiple schools. What if they are diagnosed with COVID-19? Do all the kids in each school now have to quarantine and get tested? Who is going to pay for that?

If a student in your kid's class tests positive, does every other student and teacher have to quarantine? Do we all get notified who is infected? Or do HIPAA regulations mean parents and teachers just get "may have been in contact" emails all year long?

What is the stress going to do to our teachers? Their health and well-being? Their ability to teach? How does it affect the quality of education they are able to provide? What is it going to do to our kids? What are the long-term effects of consistently being stressed in the school building?

How will it affect students and faculty when the first teacher in their school dies from this? The first parent of a student who brought it home? The first kid?

We should have the right to keep ourselves, our families, and our students safe. We can not open when distance learning is an option.

Thank you

On \_\_\_\_\_  
We have innumerable concerns. Many of us are literally afraid for our lives and the health and safety of all involved and believe it would be unethical and fatal to open schools physically during a worldwide pandemic.

Lupe Sauer

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**From:**  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 15, 2020 10:16 AM  
**To:** Lupe Sauer  
**Subject:** Re opening concerns

Hello,

Below are my top concerns for re-opening...

1. The district needs to have a plan to provide students with face masks. Many students currently come to school without supplies and proper clothes (hats gloves etc). So it is assumed this will happen this year with face masks. One box of 50 masks will NOT be sufficient!
2. What is the procedure for students refusing to wear a face mask/face shield? Can teachers refuse the child in his or her class because it's putting us and others in danger?
3. Will staff be given more time to disinfect the room & supplies DAILY?
4. Will there be more staff to cover lunches and prep in the classroom? We have to pee sometime!
5. If we stay virtual will there be a required amount of time for live teaching? Will there be a required amount of time we need to have recorded lessons?
6. Will there be one required platform to post assignments on? Can the district require this?

There are so many more but these are my top six.

Thank you for fighting for us!

**From:**  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 15, 2020 8:42 PM  
**To:** Lupe Sauer  
**Subject:** concerns about schools reopening

Hi, ENL teacher, School ...

1. Student to teacher ratio in classrooms; how many will be allowed? What will my job look like? Will pull-outs still happen?
2. Lunch in classrooms... what will happen to teacher lunches? Specials?
3. All staff meetings online? When? Still in the hour before or after school?
4. Bussing... will there be enough time to clean the buses between each run?
5. Will all teachers be responsible for maintaining an online platform on Schoology? Will this be accepted in place of lesson plans? If not, will we be given more time to upload materials?

Lupe Sauer

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**From:** 1>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 15, 2020 9:57 PM  
**To:** Lupe Sauer  
**Subject:** Re-opening concerns

Hi,

I am sure this has come up several times, however, my concern with being an itinerant teacher is specifically that I would at 84 and I am the librarian at both schools. Of course I would be concerned with disease spread with any split position, but I am very worried about the kids at 84. Does the District have any plan for those of us who work with the medically needy? I do not want to put those kids at risk.

Thanks,

/

Lupe Sauer

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**From:** [\[Redacted Email Address\]](#) <[Redacted Email Address]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 16, 2020 2:32 PM  
**To:** Lupe Sauer  
**Subject:** opening concerns

I am a prek teacher. I am concerned about how we will provide developmentally appropriate instruction in a center based classroom when students will not be able to share materials.

INTERIM GUIDANCE FOR IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION AT PRE-K TO GRADE 12 SCHOOLS DURING THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY page 14 "Shared Objects • Responsible Parties should put in place plans or measures to limit the sharing of objects, such as lockers, cubbies, laptops, notebooks, touchscreens, writing utensils, chalk and dry erase boards, musical instruments, tools, and toys, as well as the touching of shared surfaces, such as conference tables and desks; or require students, faculty, and staff to perform hand hygiene before and after contact."

Lupe Sauer

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**From:**  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 16, 2020 7:43 PM  
**To:** Lupe Sauer

Students who come to school sick and can't get picked up(fairly common occurrence)  
Someone in a class becomes sick-whole class quarantines for 14 days?  
Cruel to keep kids in the same class all day-no lunchroom, art,music pe except in the class  
Who provides masks? Every day, at least 1.  
Who sanitizes bathrooms multiple multiple times a day?  
Who wipes down all classroom surfaces, books, switches.  
Who provides zillions of gallons of sanitizer?  
Who enforces mask wearing.  
Cruel to make little kids wear a mask-impossible at times no doubt  
Who provides teachers masks.  
What about kids with asthma  
3 teachers in AZ classroom all wore masks, 6 feet distancing, hand washing. All 3 became infected. One died.  
So many unknowables. Ones I don't even know yet.

Lupe Sauer

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 19, 2020 7:00 AM  
**To:** Lupe Sauer  
**Subject:** School re-opening concerns for speech teachers

Hello, I am a speech evaluator and I have concerns regarding the re-opening of schools for speech teachers and speech evaluators in the district. I have done research to see what other districts around the country are doing to keep speech pathologists safe in their practice. The nature of the speech therapy interaction is close contact and face to face interactions with students when doing therapy and evaluating and of course it requires talking. At times we even touch the student's faces. In order to be safe I believe continued telepractice with a good platform like Zoom or Google Meet ( Lifesize was not a good platform) with headphones and the appropriate materials would be the safest option. We provided therapy during the closing in that manner but could not reach every child. It does not work with every student and sometimes face to face therapy is preferred. In that case there should be a plexiglass shield separating the student and therapist/evaluator. A kidney style table to separate the students and teacher with plexiglass dividers is recommended. Therapists should be provided with hand sanitizer and time between groups to sanitize the table and materials and wash their hands. Traveling therapists/evaluators should have either access to shields or portable shields to use and testing materials should be laminated to clean between student interactions. I would also like the union to consider CSE meetings and how they will be conducted. Thank you for allowing us to have a voice in this process.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:**  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 19, 2020 8:50 AM  
**To:** Lupe Sauer  
**Subject:** School Re-opening concerns

Hello,

These are just a few things that are going through my head right now. I am the art teacher at [redacted] My art room has 7 giant tables that 4-6 kids sit at and share materials. How do students still have art, do they no longer share materials? And if they don't share, how is each child supposed to have their own set of materials, who is paying for that? Will they be coming into the artroom and changing classes? Who will be cleaning in between each class of students and materials? If it is the art teacher, will I be given adequate time in my schedule between each class to allow for proper cleaning and class set up? Normally, I have 5min in between each class to get things ready, with classes always being late/early for pick-up, how would this work? Who will give me the supplies to clean, will I have to buy everything and spend hundreds of dollars of cleaning supplies for the year?

Art is very hands-on, some students are coming into an art room for the first time, never seen or used some of the art materials, how am I supposed to teach/help/guide them with projects when I can't get close to them? What about special ed students that need that close-up step-by-step visual learning?

What about special ed students that are not able to control their body secretions such as drooling?

What if I do catch COVID from someone at school and I do die, I am the main provider for my family, will the school district be held accountable financially in any way besides wishing hopes and prayers?

Will all school districts be on the same kind of schedule?

If I have to quarantine for 14 days, does this take away from our sick days? If you are exposed multiple times and have to quarantine each time, I will no longer have any sick days left.

Will I be subjected to being tested every 2weeks?

If someone does test positive for COVID will we know who it is? The nurse can never tell us who has lice because of HIPPA Laws, how does this work?

Parents send their kids to school sick very often, they end up waiting in the nurses office all day/go back to class and end up going home on the bus because no one comes to pick them up. How will this change now? Will they give temperature checks before coming into school? Make students wait outside and not be allowed in building if they have a fever?

Thank you



Lupe Sauer

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**From:**  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 15, 2020 5:27 PM  
**To:** Lupe Sauer  
**Subject:** COVID Reopening concerns

Good afternoon,

I consider myself a risk being 56 years old, pre-diabetic and having high blood pressure. Not only is it my concern since there is no vaccine, or no preventative other than social distancing and wearing mask when not 6ft apart. I work in a program where we rotate to 5 different buildings during the course of the week which increases my exposure not only to the number of individuals, but that each school is taking the appropriate measures in sanitation. I can easily keep myself confined and not travel within the building and we are kind of separated, but that still I feel put me and some of my other colleagues at a higher risk. We are also responsible to enter passwords into the computer in order for students to take their post tests. This will put both parties at risk. Will there be enough PPE to protect. I just want to make everyone aware that it is not just being in the same building day in and day out. Please put this into considerations when discussing our side of this.

**From:**  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 15, 2020 7:02 PM  
**To:** Lupe Sauer  
**Subject:** Teacher Input For Reopening

Hello,

I am writing to provide feedback in regards to the issue of reopening schools. I am a K-8 Music teacher in the district. My class load entails from 200-400 students per cycle every year.

I am vehemently for continuing distance learning until this virus is under control. I am terrified to be exposed to this virus because of a rush to reopen schools. All it takes is one point of contact. I am a caretaker for elderly parents, one of whom is recovering from a heart transplant surgery. He requires continual care, and will be immunocompromised for the rest of his life.

I believe that distance learning, while not being ideal, was safe, effective, and allowed us to give quality instruction to our students during this pandemic. COVID-19 is far from over. It makes little sense to risk the lives of teachers, students, staff, and everybody's families for the sake of rushing to a pre-COVID normal that is just not realistic at this time.

Also, from an economic standpoint, the district could save money from the cost of running buildings if we continue with distance learning. We got into a good groove with distance learning and we should stay the course until this pandemic is resolved. It is the right thing to do.

Please strongly consider all of these aspects. It is far too important that we safeguard all of our lives until this pandemic is done.

Thank you.

Get Outlook for iOS

7/17/20

To the "Reopening" Committee,

I am a teacher in the Buffalo Public Schools and am also an individual in the high risk category for contracting the Coronavirus. The following are my very serious concerns about any plans that involve in-person teaching and therefore, a remote option should be offered.

- \* How can schools make special protections for teachers who would most likely die if getting the virus? I don't believe this can be done. Our students/faculty and staff are basically experimental guinea pigs because there are no assurances.
- \* How can there be appropriate social distancing when room, class and school sizes do not allow it?
- \* How will music classes be handled? There can be no singing with masks, not to mention research shows singing sends droplets further into the air. The same can be asked of band programs where masks cannot be worn and droplets are expelled through and air saliva runoff when producing sound on woodwind and brass instruments. All music ensembles also require students in a close proximity because of the larger size of most music ensembles and ensemble needs.
- \* What about students/faculty/staff that are asymptomatic and bring the virus in with them undetected?
- \* What about the myriad of students who already don't follow directives on the bus? (my husband was a bus driver) Who will keep them distanced on the bus while making sure everyone comes on board with a mask and keeps it on?
- \* Will there be a system to track family members for the virus? How will we know if someone in the child's family is sick but it is not made known. Of course, this applies to adults in the schools as well.
- \* How would there be enough maintenance staffing to sterilize (and not just do the usual light cleaning) after each class? My desks don't ever get cleaned unless I do it or it is done over the summer. I cannot be disinfecting after my classes simply because of the risks involved in coming in contact with potential virus. Again, safety issues such as this do not have solid, effective and proven solutions.
- \* There absolutely needs to be a remote teaching option for teachers whose physicians give them release to remote teach, but not teach in person due to underlying medical conditions.
- \* I absolutely love my job and have always had highly effective APPR's. I have built a strong relationship with my students and a program I am proud of. It would be absolutely negligent and wrong for teachers like myself not be given options in how they teach (remotely or in-person) in this unprecedented time (as well as students who don't even get to make any of their won decisions about their safety). How can you ensure our/my safety without risking our very lives?

Thank You for your Time and Attention.

Lupe Sauer

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 18, 2020 8:56 AM  
**To:** Lupe Sauer  
**Subject:** Reopening Concerns

Are students (highschool aged or otherwise) allowed to remove mask in the classroom?

What are consequences if they remove mask when they are not allowed to remove it?

Early in the school year, some classrooms heat up to over 90 degrees F. Masks should always be worn, but this will make it very difficult.

Guidance regarding offices states that there should be no more than 50% of staff present. Can I assume no more than 50% of a classroom should be present or will attendance be determined by how many students can be spaced 6 ft apart in the classroom?

Thank you,

Lupe Sauer

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**From:** .  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 16, 2020 4:22 PM  
**To:** Lupe Sauer  
**Subject:** Concerns re opening

Hi,

I have a unique concern. I am a NYSSA teacher and have an intermediate group. One of my students has Autism (level 3) and has been on an agency waiting list for 2 1/2 years. He is non-verbal and very self-directed. One of his goals is to get him to sit in a chair when asked. He is 10 years old and big for his age. He will be a fifth grader this year, and has not mastered sitting at a desk.

This child spends the day wandering the room, licking objects and people, and hanging on adults. He is unpredictable when redirected- especially when he wants to lick your shoulder. He will hit the adult if you try to stop him from licking your shoulder.

This past December, his parents kept sending him to school despite him being visibly ill. He insisted on hanging on my shoulder because he wasn't feeling well - all the while coughing and sneezing directly on my face. The nurse called home, but the parents did not come, so he was sent back to class.

I ended up getting the flu and double pneumonia. I felt like I was on death's door. I was in bed from the time I got home on Dec. 20 to Jan. 1. I was not fully recovered until the beginning of Feb. How will this be addressed?

This child will be incapable of social distancing and wearing a mask. What will the district do to ensure my safety?

Thanks,

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

Lupe Sauer

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**From:**  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 16, 2020 4:06 PM  
**To:** Lupe Sauer  
**Subject:** Reopening

Good Afternoon,

I wanted to address my concerns about our districts reopening. I work at School #45. For the past three years our building has lacked basic, consistent cleanliness. We don't have consistent hot water, paper towels & soap continually stocked. I am very concerned about schools being sanitized daily, because I know basic cleaning wasn't done pre COVID-19. We've had numerous building committee meetings, meetings with the district and have seen zero improvement. I would also like to know if sanitizer with alcohol will be allowed because as it stands not the sanitizer that is provided (yet not consistently replaced) does not kill the corona virus.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** >  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 16, 2020 12:37 PM  
**To:** Lupe Sauer  
**Subject:** Reopening concerns

As a teacher, my primary concerns are as follows:

Is the district willing to give an example giving preference for 100% virtual instruction positions to the teachers considered high risk versus those who are healthy but choose to stay home out of an abundance of caution or fear. The algorithm of ranking individuals by their level of risk seems impossible, but how else can we prioritize safety? It doesn't seem appropriate to rank such a list by seniority.

I myself have multiple documented autoimmune conditions which compromise my ability to fight off infection in normal circumstances. I have colleagues who are undergoing continued cancer treatment and follow up care. Not to mention teachers who are pregnant or those who have infants, small children, or immunocompromised or elderly family members in their care with weak or underdeveloped immune systems.

2) What provisions are being made to give families a choice for the mode of instruction? It is not only teachers who should have a choice, but families of students as well. Fully in person or fully online instruction seem like the preferred options to provide for our students and families safety and continuity of instruction. Asking classroom teachers to provide both in person and virtual instruction to multiple cohorts of students would be to double or triple our workload. Even if the # of students "in person" is the same each day or week, we would still be responsible for the progress of two or three times as many students if you include virtual learning on an alternating schedule (every other day or every other week).

3) How have the nutritional assistance and social emotional support programs been functioning from March until now? Do we have feedback from our families to help us improve on the services they have been provided. How can we do better for our students and families?

4) How will students be earning credit for physical education or is NYSED willing to waive the PE requirement for the periods of at home instruction? It seems foolish to require written or online assignments in place of physical activity. Anyone can make up a physical activity log or copy one from the internet. In the meantime what will physical education teachers be asked to do in their job description?

5) The idea of placing students in cohorts to be self contained in the same room all day with the same schedule seems to be the safest I have heard yet. Rotate the teachers and serve meals in the classrooms. No lockers and keep student belongings in the classrooms as well. Temp kids on entering the building and stagger dismissal as much as possible.

However, self contained classes could turn into a powder keg depending on the students in the room. How are transitions handled when it is teachers moving and leaving the classrooms unsupervised. How are bathroom privileges handled and how are restrooms to be sanitized? Where will teachers have a home base to keep their belongings/ supplies/textbooks if they are moving all day long. It seems to lend itself to virtual instruction with all materials online using student devices so teachers aren't pushing carts around all day. It's not like there would be enough carts to go around anyway.

Also, is the district planning to provide PPE for faculty staff and students? It seems an undue burden to ask people to provide it on their own.

I am sure I will think of more concerns but for now this is at the forefront.

Sincerely,

Lupe Sauer

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**From:**  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 16, 2020 2:46 PM  
**To:** Lupe Sauer  
**Subject:** January

They should really put it out there to start slowly In January.... it's way to early to be in a room with anyone at this point.  
Online learning is fun and manageable I'm teaching summer school and schoology is going great.



Lupe Sauer

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**From:**  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 15, 2020 8:43 PM  
**To:** Lupe Sauer  
**Subject:** Suggestions about reopening

I think that teachers should have the option of working at home or in the school building, I

Sent from my iPhone

Passing



**From:**  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 15, 2020 6:02 PM  
**To:** Lupe Sauer  
**Subject:** Returning to Buildings

Good evening.

I am concerned about returning to the buildings for a number of reasons.

Both of my parents and one of my sons are immuno-compromised, as am I. While my parents don't live with me, both of my sons do, and my parents often help me with care when I have to work and the younger one doesn't have school. (He'll be in 8th grade at #32 this year.) Several of my colleagues are also immuno-compromised.

There are many students in the district who live with immune disorders or caretakers and other relatives who have them.

Many older students work in nursing home/hospital dietary settings where they could expose others in compromised populations to the virus.

There are older siblings, parents, and other caretakers who work with vulnerable populations in various settings. If someone in their household tests positive for the virus they would be forced to quarantine.



Who will be responsible for making sure the rooms are sanitized and disinfected? How often?

What happens if, heaven forbid, a teacher or someone in their household contracts the virus and they don't have the sick days to cover quarantine or hospitalization? (I'm still trying to re-accumulate days after the births of my sons and a number of surgeries, including a kidney transplant.)

If we assume that there will come a time when we have to close buildings again because of a spike in cases/hospitalizations, what about students with no internet service? There were several students who "vanished" and did no assignments since they found out they weren't going to count anyway. (Which is unrealistic in some ways if we are still expected to prepare students for college and career. My older son is in college and all of his professors still counted every assignment. In fact, most of his assignments were computerized even before college campuses closed to students. Combine that with the fact that jobs that are essential or can be done from home still have deadlines and having everything be "extra credit" doesn't make sense except in the context of the digital divide in Buffalo.)

What about students who don't pick up materials?

Buses will be problematic whether they're yellow or metro.

Children and teenagers are presenting with "atypical" symptoms.

I would be more than happy to go back into the classroom to teach students in person so long as NO ONE would be endangered.

Lupe Sauer

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**From:**  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 15, 2020 5:32 PM  
**To:** Lupe Sauer  
**Subject:** Reopening of schools

. I have concerns with reopening because I am a high risk person. I have several chronic illnesses and take immunosuppressive medication. Will staff or students have the option to continue distance learning if they are high risk? Also, who is responsible for the constant cleaning that will be necessary in school? Will teachers be the ones cleaning the surfaces in between classes?

Thank you for the work you do. Stay safe and healthy.

**From:**  
**Sent:** Friday, July 17, 2020 12:41 PM  
**To:** Lupe Sauer  
**Subject:** Reopening concerns

Hello,

I am sure I share the same concerns for many but in case there is a need for the number of teachers with concerns I would like to add mine.

1. Since the closing of schools my family and I have rigidly stayed isolated with only my husband leaving the house for essential items. If I catch Covid-19 during the school year after having a colleague or student test positive, will I need to use my sick days or sick bank when truthfully I didn't catch it anywhere but work?
2. If my child (a BPS student) catches COVID19 from a classmate who has tested positive, will I need to use my sick time to take care of her? Again my family has kept our risk of catching it so very low.
3. If we go to a distance learning mode where teachers will teach from the building (as some districts in other states have) will I be allowed to bring my school-aged child with me to monitor her distance learning (as those districts will allow) as there is no childcare available to her? The places that is happening are various districts in Maryland (Prince George's County, Charles County) and Virginia (Prince William, Loudoun, not sure about Fairfax)
4. Can I enforce the use of masks inside my classroom? What are my recourses for a student who refuses to wear a mask?
5. In addition to proper daily cleaning and sanitizing of classroom by the custodial staff, can the district provide me with disinfecting spray and paper towels and hand sanitizer for my classroom so that I can do some light cleaning in between classes?

If any of my questions need clarification please feel free to contact me via email or phone ;

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** mitzi standard <mitzistandard@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 16, 2020 1:32 PM  
**To:** Lupe Sauer  
**Subject:** reopening concerns

As an older teacher (61) I want to protect myself from getting something as well as prevent me from passing on something. I want to wear an N-95 mask, which is medical grade. We happened to have a box of them, due to my husband's work, but my personal supply may run out before a vaccine is found.

Also Scott - my classroom on the third floor registered 86 degrees last year. Now add wearing a mask to that? There is no air flow in the stairwells, they are always hot and stuffy. I repeat---there seems to be no air flow in the stairwells. I am not a trained HVAC expert, but I know oppressive stuffy environments. I know we have brought this excessive spring & fall heat problem to you in the past.

Questions for School Openings:

- If a teacher tests positive for COVID-19 are they required to quarantine for 2-3 weeks? Is their sick leave covered, paid?
- If that teacher has 5 classes a day with 30 students each, do all 150 of those students need to then stay home and quarantine for 14 days?
- Do all 150 of those students now have to get tested? Who pays for those tests? Are they happening at school? How are the parents being notified? Does everyone in each of those kids' families need to get tested? Who pays for that?
- What if someone who lives in the same house as a teacher tests positive? Does that teacher now need to take 14 days off of work to quarantine? Is that time off covered? Paid?
- Where is the district going to find a substitute teacher who will work in a classroom full of exposed, possibly infected students for substitute pay?
- Substitutes teach in multiple schools. What if they are diagnosed with COVID-19? Do all the kids in each school now have to quarantine and get tested? Who is going to pay for that?
- What if a student in your kid's class tests positive? What if your kid tests positive? Does every other student and teacher they have been around quarantine? Do we all get notified who is infected and when? Or because of HIPAA regulations are parents and teachers just going to get mysterious "may have been in contact" emails all year long?
- What is this stress going to do to our teachers? How does it affect their health and well-being? How does it affect their ability to teach? How does it affect the quality of education they are able to provide? What is it going to do to our kids? What are the long-term effects of consistently being stressed out?
- How will it affect students and faculty when the first teacher in their school dies from this? The first parent of a student who brought it home? The first kid?
- How many more people are going to die, that otherwise would not have if we had stayed home longer?

30% of the teachers in the US are over 50. About 16% of the total deaths in the US are people between the ages of 45-65.

We are choosing to put our teachers in danger.



**From:**  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 16, 2020 1:01 PM  
**To:** Lupe Sauer  
**Subject:** Reopening concerns

Good afternoon,

Amid the dozens of concerns I have regarding the reopening of schools, I would like to add the following:  
What will the protocol be if a teacher gets sick / has a fever...? Will we be mandated to take a coronavirus test? Be out for two weeks? Use our sick time? Shut the classroom down? For how long? I'm worried that sick time will be depleted every time we have an elevated temp... forcing people to report to work when sick.

Thank you for hearing this concern Any response or discussion would be appreciated.

**From:** >  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 16, 2020 1:01 PM  
**To:** Lupe Sauer  
**Subject:** Reopening concerns

Good afternoon,

Amid the dozens of concerns I have regarding the reopening of schools, I would like to add the following:  
What will the protocol be if a teacher gets sick / has a fever...? Will we be mandated to take a coronavirus test? Be out for two weeks? Use our sick time? Shut the classroom down? For how long? I'm worried that sick time will be depleted every time we have an elevated temp... forcing people to report to work when sick.

Thank you for hearing this concern Any response or discussion would be appreciated.

2



Lupe Sauer

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**From:**  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 16, 2020 5:06 PM  
**To:** Lupe Sauer  
**Subject:** concerns about teaching in the fall

I am a reading teacher.

I have Type 2 Diabetes  
Asthma  
High Blood Pressure

I am concerned about going back into a school situation with my little virus sharers. I love teaching. I love working with the lower grades. I am in my final year of teaching. I would like to make it to retirement alive.

According to the Q and A in the newspaper, students with the first 2 conditions will be allowed to learn from home. Will they do the same for me?

S

**From:**  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 18, 2020 8:28 PM  
**To:** Lupe Sauer  
**Subject:** Reopening Concern

I'm sure this has already been brought up but to quell my nerves, I just want to express my concern for those of us who even though do not have any underlying health conditions ARE in the 65+ age bracket (yes, I am still at it at 69<sup>(6)</sup>) returning to the classroom and working with 5-6 year olds. I would hope that the district will provide us with face shields that we can wear in addition to our own face masks.

I truly appreciate all that BTF is doing to advocate for our safety.

Sincerely,

Lupe Sauer

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**From:** Joe [mailto:joe@jacksonville.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 15, 2020 5:12 PM  
**To:** Lupe Sauer  
**Subject:** Opening

I am nervous about opening schools because I am 59 and have lung issues. I would hate to get COVID. It would do me damage. Thanks for your ear.

Sent from my iPad

Lupe Sauer

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**From:**  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 15, 2020 7:04 PM  
**To:** Lupe Sauer  
**Subject:** Opening question

Good Evening,

I have some serious health concerns. I am a cancer survivor . I had chemotherapy as well radiation which damaged my lungs. I'm considered high risk. What will be offered for teacher like myself? I will get medical documentation.

Thank you for your time

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

**From:**  
**Sent:** Friday, July 17, 2020 1:11 PM  
**To:** Lupe Sauer  
**Subject:** Teacher Concerns about Re Opening

Hello,

I have an autoimmune disease, **Hashimoto's Hypothyroidism**. This puts me in a high risk category for contracting the Corona Virus. Those of us with this condition have compromised immune systems and we are at risk of complications and death from COVID-19. I work hard every day to stay healthy, boost my immune system, and keep my antibodies down. Even so, exposing myself to classrooms, hallways and common areas with groups of individuals who carry the Corona virus would be reckless.

Those of us with this condition, other autoimmune conditions, and other pre existing conditions **need to be permitted to work from home** this September. **Hashimoto's Hypothyroidism needs to be on the list of conditions** which teachers may provide medical documentation to be reviewed and approved for work from home status. Forcing us to place ourselves in harm's way is unethical and irresponsible on the part of the state government. I can't teach if I'm hospitalized long term or die from complications that have not been fully researched and documented yet, given the recent nature of the virus.

I thank you in advance for including my concern on the agenda of teacher concerns about reopening to be submitted to the state in the Buffalo School District's proposal for re opening.

Best regards,

Lupe Sauer

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**From:**  
**Sent:** Friday, July 17, 2020 8:05 PM  
**To:** Lupe Sauer  
**Subject:** Covid concerns for reopening

To whom it may concern,

I am 61 years old and want to work one more year. My wife is 63 and has asthma. Will I be able to teach from home (until a vaccine is approved and distributed.)

Sent from my iPad



**From:** lupe.sauer@grinnell.edu  
**Sent:** Friday, July 17, 2020 7:55 PM  
**To:** Lupe Sauer  
**Subject:** Re-opening Concern

**Hello,**

**I am hoping that this issue has already been brought up, but my biggest concern is how to work while also being a parent whose children will most likely have staggered schedules or who may be in school only a couple days a week. How are we supposed to be in our schools when we have young children at home? My children are elementary school-aged. I have no family in the area. I have no child care. Even if child care was an option, this would be an expense my family hasn't budgeted for. Also, why would I place my kids in a childcare facility with it's own potential risks with other children/adults, when they can't be in school? If children are not in school due to COVID-19 concerns, why would I put my children in a facility-if they are not allowed in school for safety reasons? This doesn't make sense to me. I don't know how, but faculty needs to have flexibility to do our jobs and support our students, but also take care of our own**

**children in the event they are must stay home. Thank  
you!**

Sent from my iPhone

Lupe Sauer

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**From:**  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 18, 2020 4:13 PM  
**To:** Lupe Sauer  
**Subject:** Re-opening with Underlying Conditions

Good Afternoon, I saw in the states reopening guidelines that there were alternatives who have medical conditions to teach remotely. How are those going to be in acted for someone like me, who is a consultant teacher and has both asthma and a heart condition? Due to both of these conditions my family has spend the summer in lockdown. My son has not participated in travel hockey or baseball or seen any of his friends and neighbors to keep us safe.

Thank you,

Sent from my iPhone