



BALTIMORE CITY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Update on Second Semester: In-Person Learning and Vaccines

Baltimore City Delegation Briefing –
January 22, 2021

Roll-Out of In-Person Learning Opportunities

Summer 2020

Summer School Programming

200 students attended summer school at 6 sites

Prioritized Student Groups:

- Students not engaged in virtual learning in the spring
- Students who are 2 or more grade levels behind

September 28, 2020

Student Learning Centers (SLCs) Special Education classes ESOL classes

SLCs: 900 students at 13 sites
Special Education: 55 students at 8 sites
ESOL: 100 students at 4 sites

Prioritized Student Groups:

- Students struggling with virtual learning (includes high population of homeless students)
- Students with disabilities
- ESOL students

November 9, 2020

Separate Public Day Schools Pre-K/K specialized programs*

Separate Public Day Schools: 100 students at 3 sites
Pre-K/K specialized programs: 50 students at 5 sites

Prioritized Student Groups:

- Students with disabilities
- Early learners

November 16, 2020

Additional Traditional and Charter Schools

Approximately 25 schools opened for in-person learning

Prioritized Student Groups:

- Students with disabilities (*esp. LRE-C*)
- Early learners (*esp. K*)
- English learners
- Students struggling with virtual learning
- Homeless students
- Transition grades (6th/9th)
- CTE

February 2021

Additional Traditional and Charter Schools

Expand opportunities for K-5 students in more schools and provide opportunities for high school freshmen and seniors

Families will continue to have a choice on whether they want to come back in-person or remain all virtual.



Second Semester: In-Person Learning

- We know there are groups of young people who desperately need the support they can only receive in person, growing numbers of our families want this option, and we've proven we can do it safely.
- We will launch this effort in three phases:
 - Kindergarten through grade 2 begins Tuesday, February 16.
 - Grades 3-5 begins Monday, March 1
 - 9th grade and 12th grade begins Monday, March 1
- Families will continue to have a choice to remain virtual if they so choose.





Why add more classrooms now?

- **Drastic action is required:** The achievement levels and attendance rates of our students are plummeting.
- **Vaccine access** and expanded on-site testing at in-person sites.
- Installing more than **8,300 air purifiers and upgrading air filters** across the district: Cost - \$5.4 million. Data will be available via **a new dashboard** by the beginning of February.
- Small classrooms and limited options **are in line with state health metrics guidance.**
- **Since September 28, just one transmission event** at our in-person locations and meal sites



The number of students failing one or more courses in the first quarter has increased.

Grades	Q1 2019-20	Q1 2020-21
PK-1	29%	39%
2-5	30%	55%
6-12	38%	60%

Charter schools, alternative schools, and separate public day schools were not included in this analysis.

For the school-level analyses, only schools that are open in the SY2020-2021 school year were included.

EWI Quarter 1 Snapshot – First Time 9th Graders

Almost half of first-time 9th graders are Tier 2/3 (attend <90%) and 61% have a Course Flag (Core Course Failure and/or GPA <2.0).

The UChicago Consortium found that when freshmen suffer from high absence rates and course failure, many never recover. In fact, these students are much more likely to drop out even if they entered high school with high grades and test scores. On the other hand, students who are On-Track at the end of freshmen year are four times more likely to graduate from high school.

High school student GPAs are falling

The percent of students with GPAs below 1.0 by high school grade:

Grade	Q1 2019-20	Q1 2020-21
9th	29%	49%
10th	18%	41%
11th	12%	30%
12th	11%	26%

Other student groups also experienced an increase in the percent of students with GPAs below 1.0.

- 32 percentage point increase for English Learners
- 42 percentage point increase for homeless students
- 19 percentage point increase for students with disabilities

BOY Reading Assessment (Grades K-5)

Grades K-5 (Assessed on Amplify DIBELS 8)

- Student readiness for core reading instruction has **declined** from prior year across grades K-2, and most **significantly** in **grade K**. This mirrors national trends.

Grade	SY 1920 - % at/above	SY 2021 - % at/above	Percentage point change
K	43%	25%	-18 pct pt.
1	35%	26%	-9 pct pt
2	34%	31%	-3 pct pt

- **Black and Latinx** students experienced **more learning loss** than White students in grades K-2.

Social and Emotional Impact

- When schools reopen, many students will still be recovering from the pandemic and may still be reeling from trauma, grief, and anxiety.
- There are many reasons to believe the Covid-19 impacts might be larger for children in poverty and children of color.
- Teachers will need to focus on relationships first. Fear and anxiety about the pandemic—coupled with uncertainty about the future—can be disruptive to a student's ability to come to school ready to learn.



Our Planning for 2nd Semester In-Person Learning

- Learn from experiences of other districts
 - PSSAM
 - CGCS
 - Chiefs for Change
 - Learn from our experience with in-person learning from summer and fall that we are building on gradually
 - Gathered feedback on specific components of the plan from principals and teachers, especially those who have been implementing in-person learning from the summer and fall
 - Health Commissioner and Health Advisory Committee
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- Will continue to engage on planning with:
 - PSASA Executive Committee
 - Teachers Advisory Council members & other teachers who have been teaching in-person
 - BTU (weekly meetings)
 - PCAB

2nd Semester In-Person Programming

- All traditional schools will offer in-person learning for grades K-5, 9, and 12 with a staggered start
 - Tuesday, 2/16: grades K-2
 - Monday, 3/1: grades 3-5, 9, and 12
- Charter/contract schools will have the option to offer in-person learning-families should reach out to their charter/operator school for more information
- We will make an announcement about bringing back the remaining grades (pre-K, 6-8, 10, 11) by March



February

In-Person Calendar

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8	K-2 teachers and other support staff return to schools	9	10	11	12
K-2 teachers teaching virtually from their classrooms and setting up classrooms					
Half Day for K-2 Students					
15	Schools Closed	16	17	18	19
Start In-Person Learning (K-2)					
22	3-5, 9, 12 teachers return to schools	23	24	25	26
3-5, 9, 12 teachers teaching virtually from their classrooms and setting up classrooms					
Half Day for 3-5, 9, 12 Students					
March 1	Start In-Person Learning (3-5, 9, 12)	2	3	4	5

March



Vaccines and Testing

1,078 registered**

Staff members that have signed up thus far for the City Schools/Johns Hopkins Vaccine Program

Make sure you respond to the invitation when you get it.

500 vaccinations

Number of vaccinations planned this week. At least 500 more each subsequent week.

Working with partners

Examples include: University of Maryland Medical System, through, the UM Medical Center, has a partnership with a group of schools and has committed to vaccinating the staff at those schools beginning this week.

More on-site testing

In-person COVID-19 testing is available at all in-person learning sites. Exploring asymptomatic testing options.

**BALTIMORE CITY
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***registrations as of 1/21/21.*

The CDC has identified **5 key mitigation strategies** for reducing risk of transmission of COVID-19 in schools



City Schools meets all five mitigation strategies, which puts us at the lowest risk for transmission. Additionally, the district utilizes in-person COVID testing for symptomatic staff and students.

- Consistent and correct use of masks
- Social distancing to the largest extent possible
- Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette
- Cleaning and disinfection
- Contact tracing in collaboration with local health department

Air purification and ventilation

8,336 air purifiers ordered

- Installation is underway. On schedule to be ready when more classrooms open.
- Units will be installed before students and staff use a room. If this does not occur before the first day of class, the room will remain closed.
- A dashboard with regular updates will be launched soon



Air purification dashboard

Coming first week of February

Building Air Ventilation Status Dashboard

**BALTIMORE CITY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

147

of Schools Assessed

Program Name
John Ruhrah EM

Council
All

PlanArea
All

John Ruhrah EM

Yes

Building Assessed (Yes/No)

79

of Classrooms

No

Filter Upgrade or Purificati...

0

Total # of classrooms with ...

Filter Upgrade

Permanent Plan

Programs

Room Number	Primary Usage	Classroom Ready (TBD)	Filter Upgrade (TBD)	Air Purifier (TBD)	Unit Ventilator	Supply Fan	Exhaust Fan	Windows - Please See Guidance	Wireless Access
001	Student/Staff Space				✓ Yes- Fully Operational	○ No- System not utilized in this space	✓ Yes- Fully Operational	✓ Yes - at least 1 window/ exterior door can open	
101	Student/Staff Space				✓ Yes- Fully Operational	○ No- System not utilized in this space	✓ Yes- Fully Operational	✓ Yes - at least 1 window/ exterior door can open	
106	Student/Staff Space				✓ Yes- Fully Operational	○ No- System not utilized in this space	✓ Yes- Fully Operational	✓ Yes - at least 1 window/ exterior door can open	
Total									



Following state guidance & metrics

The State of Maryland encourages schools to consult with the local health department and review its school reopening metrics to make reopening decisions.

Based on local data, the state's metrics allow limited in-person learning

- Many of our families will choose to remain with the virtual learning option, and many of our classrooms will have small groups initially. Fewer students mean fewer teachers will be needed to support in-person learning.

We are consulting with the local health department and others

- We follow the appropriate steps outlined by Baltimore City Health Department and our Health Advisory Committee.

We are implementing the CDC's five mitigation strategies for schools

Staff and Family Engagement

- **District Level:**

- Staff Town Hall (Wednesday, 1/20/21)
- Family Town Hall (Thursday, 1/21/21)

- **School Level:**

- Principals will receive information to respond to the most common questions staff will have about returning in-person
- Schools will receive materials and be responsible for outreach to families on returning in-person
- Schools will host “open houses” for parents to see what a classroom and health and safety protocols will look like

- **Planning Engagement:**

- Principals who have already returned for in-person learning to provide continued feedback and to mentor principals who are starting in-person learning 2nd semester
- Teachers (Teacher Advisory Council and other teachers teaching in-person) to provide insight on implementation of schedules, teacher/student time, etc

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