



**Grand Ledge**  
**Public Schools**  
*A Community Committed to Excellence*



# Dr. David Chapin

*Interim Superintendent of Schools*



# RECOMMENDED MOTION

**“I move the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education approve the Offsite Distance Learning Plan as presented by the administrative staff as the 2020-21 school year begins on September 8th through the end of the first trimester on December 4th; and, furthermore approve the purchase of the Florida Virtual School (FLVS) Hosted Enterprise License in the amount of \$393,750.”**

# How Did We Get to This Point?

- Actually, we did NOT WANT to get to this point.
- Our profession values in-person, in-classroom, in-school, relationship-oriented, teaching and learning.

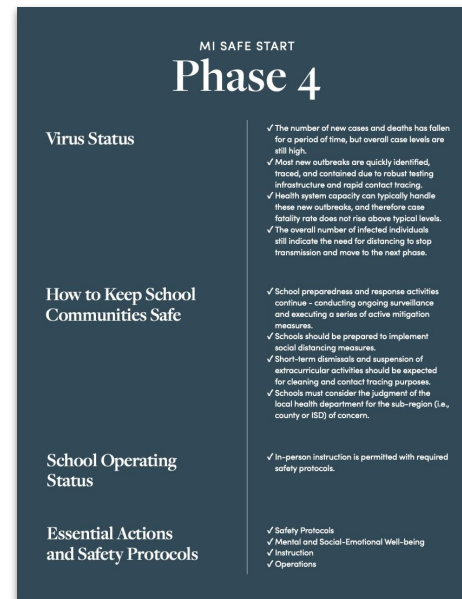
# MI Safe Schools Roadmap Released



## MI Safe Schools: Michigan's 2020- 21 Return to School Roadmap

Governor Gretchen Whitmer  
COVID-19 Task Force on Education  
Return to School Advisory Council

June 30, 2020



## MI SAFE START Phase 4

### Virus Status

- ✓ The number of new cases and deaths has fallen for a period of time, but overall case levels are still high.
- ✓ Most new outbreaks are quickly identified, traced, and contained due to robust testing infrastructure and rapid contact tracing.
- ✓ Health system capacity can typically handle these new outbreaks, and therefore case fatality rate does not rise above typical levels.
- ✓ The overall number of infected individuals still indicate the need for distancing to stop transmission and move to the next phase.

### How to Keep School Communities Safe

- ✓ School preparedness and response activities continue - conducting ongoing surveillance and executing a series of active mitigation measures.
- ✓ Schools should be prepared to implement social distancing measures.
- ✓ Short-term dismissals and suspension of extracurricular activities should be expected for cleaning and contact tracing purposes.
- ✓ Schools must consider the judgment of the local health department for the sub-region (i.e., county or ISD) of concern.

### School Operating Status

- ✓ In-person instruction is permitted with required safety protocols.

### Essential Actions and Safety Protocols

- ✓ Safety Protocols
- ✓ Mental and Social-Emotional Well-being
- ✓ Instruction
- ✓ Operations

# How Did We Get to This Point?

Currently in Phase 4

“In-person instruction is permitted with required safety protocols”

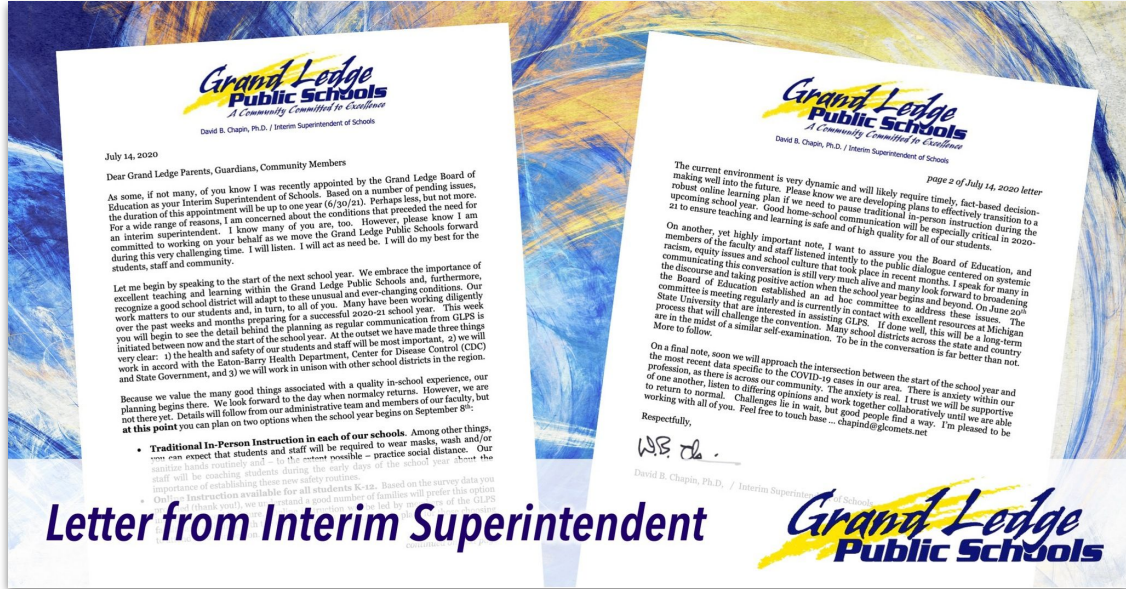
Requirements & Strong Recommendations & Recommendations

- Social Distance - 6 feet
- Masks
- Screening of Students
- Hygiene

# How Did We Get to This Point?

- So, the GLPS administrative team continued working on a plan that would make the most sense for our students and community
- 23 Administrators & Directors
- 96 Faculty and Staff
- Survey Data
- Personal Conversations and Email
- Professional, Thoughtful, Differing Opinions Valued

# Two-Option Model Made Public



## Letter from Interim Superintendent



# Excerpt: We Made Three Things Very Clear



- 1) the health and safety of our students and staff will be most important,
- 2) we will work in accord with the Eaton-Barry Health Department, Center for Disease Control (CDC) and State Government, and
- 3) we will work in unison with other school districts in the region.

# Flyer & Survey for Two-Plan Option



**Grand Ledge Public Schools**  
*A Community Committed to Excellence*

**Our Back to School Plans**  
as of July 15, 2020

**Reopening Plan for the 2020-2021 School Year:  
GLPS plans to offer families TWO OPTIONS!**

**Option 1: IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION**

- Follows requirements of MI Safe Schools 2020-2021 Return to School Roadmap and utilizes recommendations from the CDC, the state, & local health departments
- Emphasizes safety & hygiene including wearing masks, hand washing/sanitizing procedures, & social distancing to the extent possible
- Prioritizes social & emotional elements to help students transition back to school
- Focuses on essential learning standards to help ensure students are prepared for learning this year and in the future
- Integrates routines, procedures, and resources designed to ease the transition to online learning if the state or region moves into a phase that requires schools to stop in-person instruction

**Option 2: 100% ONLINE INSTRUCTION**

- A fully online, rigorous, educational option supported by robust tools & resources
- Designed with flexibility in mind to meet the needs of students & families
- Devices & internet-access assistance provided to student & families needing it
- Instruction by the teachers of Grand Ledge Public Schools who have completed additional training in online teaching & learning
- Prioritizes social & emotional elements to help students stay connected to their teachers, classmates, & school
- Focuses on essential learning standards to help ensure students are prepared for learning this year and in the future
- Follows the same standards & curriculum taught in the in-person instruction option

**Both Options have EXTRACURRICULARS!**

All students – both in-person & online students – are eligible to participate in all available extracurricular activities & athletics. All extracurricular activities will follow the strict safety, hygiene, & cleaning protocols used for in-person instruction at Grand Ledge Public Schools. Athletics will also follow MHSAA guidelines.

Indicate your preference now at [GLcomets.net/Options](https://GLcomets.net/Options) to help GLPS plan!

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### Preferences for Planning Purposes

\* Required

Which Option?

IF YOU HAD TO DECIDE TODAY, WHICH OPTION WOULD YOU SELECT FOR THIS STUDENT FOR THE FALL TRIMESTER? This is "not" a final selection; we are collecting your preference only for planning purposes (staffing, training, etc.). We plan to ask you to register a final decision for the Fall trimester beginning August 3 and no later than August 7. You can view the flyer about the two options at <https://GLcomets.net/TwoOptions>.

**Option 1: IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION**

In-Person Instruction

**Option 2: 100% ONLINE INSTRUCTION**

100% Online Instruction

Back Next

# Guidance from Barry-Eaton Health Dept.



## Back to School during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Planning for the 2020-2021 school year  
in Barry and Eaton Counties, MI

Presenter: **Anne Barna, MA**  
Public Information Officer  
Planning and Health Promotion Director



# Guidance from Barry-Eaton Health Dept.



## When Opening Schools, Keep in Mind...

- There is no perfect plan
- Look for the “less bad” option
- Compliance will never be perfect
- Learning will be different
- There will be disruptions
- Schools may need to reclose unexpectedly

# Guidance from Barry-Eaton Health Dept.



BUT...

- Reopening is important
- School closure in spring is expected to lead to increase in high school drop-out
- Worldwide increases in abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence toward children were seen during lockdown measures
- Students see increase weight gains and are more sedentary the longer they are on school breaks
- School closures effect parent's ability to work, including up to 30% of healthcare providers

# Guidance from Barry-Eaton Health Dept.



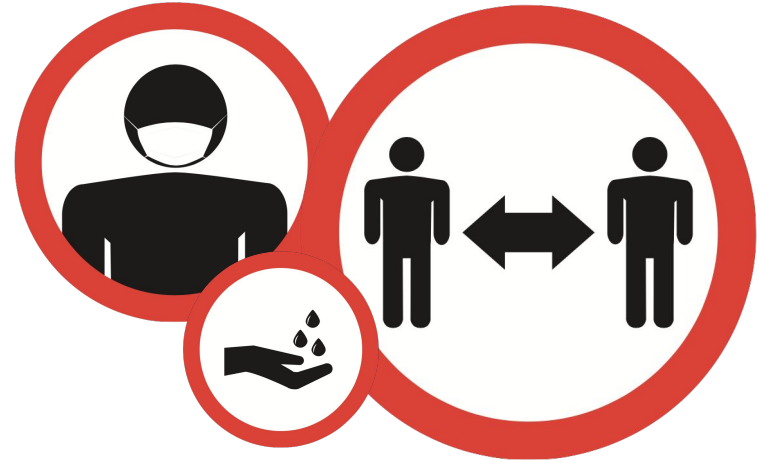
## Screening of Students

- All students should be screened for signs of illness prior to arrival to school each day
- Recommendations from AAP, Harvard, CDC all discuss options of **delegating screening to parents**
  - AAP: School policies regarding temperature screening and temperature checks must balance the practicality of performing these screening procedures for large numbers of students...and the possible lost instructional time to conduct the screenings... Parents should be instructed to keep their child at home if they are ill.
  - Harvard: Students, school staff, and parents should be made aware of the symptoms of COVID-19. Schools should consider a daily declaration, via electronic means, that each person heading to school that day is free of symptoms

# Listening to Educators & Health Pro's

Moving from making decisions in a conference room to working with and listening to veteran educators ... these practical issues surface as most problematic

- Masks
- Social Distance
- Student Screening Prior to Arriving at School
- Ongoing Hygiene, Handwashing
- Testing Results Turnaround
- Tracking Proximity of One Student to Another
- Chronic Absenteeism



# COVID-19 Testing Delays



Some Michigan coronavirus test results take 'so long that it doesn't matter'

*July 23, 2020*

## Bridge

Michigan COVID-19 labs are again seeing delays as more people are tested

*July 22, 2020*



# More COVID-19 Considerations

- Various Youth Sports Quarantines, Summer 2020
- School Districts in Our Region of Similar Size Beginning 100% Online (CAAC Blue)
- Pressure on Health Systems w/ Return of Students



# Sept. 8 - Historic, Unique School Year Start



- Our students need us to be ready, helpful, and prepared.
- Our teachers will need to adapt their vast skill set to new conditions
- Our administrators will need to find new ways to lead



# Dr. Bill Barnes

*Asst. Superintendent of Academic Services*



# Timeline for Planning - May & June

- Week of May 3rd - District-wide meetings to discuss fall planning
- End of the School Year - PD and resources survey to determine teacher needs and interest in being a part of the implementation teams
- Week of June 10th - Leadership teams took part in restorative justice, trauma, and Youth Mental Health First Aid training in preparation for fall; this was the first opportunity for teachers to attend a training in person with safety protocols in place.
- June 18th - Administrative leaders of implementation teams began meeting
- Last Week of June - GLPS sent out a staff and parent survey AND the state task force for reopening schools released its roadmap

# Timeline for Planning - Early July

- July 1st - First implementation team meeting with teachers involved
- Mid July - Regular meetings with GLEA leadership
- July 14th - Announcement made that GLPS is considering two options; parents asked their preference
- July 20th - Board approves the purchase of IXL, an virtual curriculum tool, based on teacher recommendation

# Timeline for Planning - Late July/August

- July 22nd - GLPS PD plan is released, reflecting requests from the end of the year PD survey
- July 23rd - Countrywide meeting with the Eaton/Barry Health Department to inform plans; the return to school roadmap requires coordination with local health departments.
- July 27th - Online implementation team meets for the last time, all three implementation teams wrap up
- Weekly meetings with other Eaton County districts, central office, and administrative teams
- July 28th - All staff town hall meeting with staff questions and feedback
- July 31st - Communication to parents and staff
- August 3rd - Recommendation released

# Off-Site Learning IS ...

- The safest way to educate our students during this pandemic
- Focused on new, essential learnings that will help students succeed in their current grade levels, future grades, and standardized assessments
- School that takes place outside of our buildings, and includes daily attendance, grades, regular teacher feedback, and an expectation for full teacher/student participation

# Off-Site Learning IS also ...

- Centered around daily activities in all classes/subject areas
- A combination of synchronous (teacher interacts with students) and asynchronous (students complete activities) lessons
- Rooted in best practices for online instruction and online curriculum tools
- A system that creates opportunities for students to receive additional support and extracurricular opportunities in person if all Phase 4 guidelines can be followed



# Off-Site Learning IS NOT ...

- A decision we reached without exhausting all feasible possibilities
- The online review we utilized in the spring
- A permanent educational solution for all students
- Designed to create an “easier” educational option for students/teachers

*This will not be the same experience we had in April & May!*

# District, Teacher, Parent, & Student Expectations

The following slides contain information about expectations for all stakeholders in this process. Details will follow in the coming weeks as we continue to work with our employee groups to determine the best way to implement our system.

# District Expectations

- Grand Ledge Public Schools will provide support and assistance with technology for online students and parents who need it.
  - Students who need it will be provided a computing device
  - GLPS staff will work with families to ensure adequate internet connection if needed
- Teachers, administrators, counselors, and support staff will be available and fill roles to help ensure students have the opportunity to learn and support they need to be successful
- Plans will be implemented to allow students to safely be in buildings

# Teacher Expectations

- Record daily attendance
- Provide daily synchronous and/or asynchronous learning activities
- Provide daily/weekly whole group instruction (video and/or live)
- Provide regular small group learning opportunities, as needed
- Document a minimum of one two-way communication with each student each week
- Respond to all student phone calls/emails in a timely manner

# Teacher Expectations (cont.)

- Be aware of students' social and emotional well-being
- Make contact with students who are not engaged/participating and make recommendations to counselors for students who need additional support.
- Regularly update grades:
  - Elementary (K-3) teachers will complete standard grades at the end of the trimester.
  - Elementary (4-6) teachers will keep grades current in PowerSchool.
  - Secondary (7- 12) teachers will keep grades current in PowerSchool.

# Teacher Expectations (cont.)

- Secondary teachers will provide a weekly agenda/schedule for students at the beginning of each week.
- Elementary teachers will provide a weekly and/or daily agenda/schedule for students.
- Teachers at each level will use the same learning platform for online learning:
  - K-2 BUZZ Learning Management, and/or Seesaw or Google Classroom
  - 3-6 BUZZ Learning Management, and/or Google Classroom
  - 7-8 BUZZ Learning Management, and/or Google Classroom
  - 9-12 BUZZ Learning Management, and/or Google Classroom

# Parent Expectations

- Identify learning mentors to help students throughout the day; these could be parents, grandparents, older siblings, or any adults able to help students with their school work.
- Help develop the student's learning schedule.
- Communicate clear expectations and guidelines for attendance, work completion and quality of work.
- Review instructor feedback with the student.
- Review the student's Grand Ledge email account with their student.
- Track online progress and communicate regularly with teachers

# Parent Expectations (cont.)

- Monitor student progress daily/weekly to help the student stay on track
  - Elementary
    - Work side by side as needed
    - Be present and available as students are working
    - Encourage students to be good self-advocates by asking for help when needed.
  - Secondary
    - Support and encourage
    - Help students become organized, self-directed, independent learners
    - Encourage students to use the resources available (directions, materials, office hours) to help them succeed.
- Ensure weekly two way communication with teachers.



# Student Expectations

- Students are expected to fully participate in all class activities online, including regularly scheduled “live” lessons.
  - If absent, students are expected to demonstrate mastery of standards for the assigned work. Multiple absences will be subject to the district's attendance policy.
- Students will be good self-advocates by asking for help when needed; students will participate in office hours if the teacher has requested to meet with the student.
- Students will work toward mastery of grade level/subject area Common Core and Michigan Content Area Standards.

# Student Expectations (cont.)

- Take all standardized assessments (M-STEP, NWEA, PSAT, SAT, etc.).
- Completing all work assigned in online classes and communicating regularly with teachers.
- Expect to do up to six hours of core and specials/electives learning activities each day, as developmentally appropriate per grade level; these may include, but are not limited to:
  - Brain Breaks
  - Recess/Movement
  - Reading or Read Alouds
  - Life Skills
  - Outdoor Exploration
  - Free Play/Creativity/Family Choice

# Curriculum and Resources

- Current curriculum materials (Journeys, Everyday Math, STEMScopes, etc.)
- IXL for all students, K-12
- Google Classroom and Seesaw
- Recommended purchase of Florida Virtual content and Buzz learning management system, K-12

# Teacher Training

- Michigan Virtual blended/online transition courses
- IXL and Florida Virtual/Buzz specific training
- Restorative practices
- Trauma informed instruction
- Teacher collaboration



# Dr. Steve Gabriel

*Asst. Superintendent of Human Resources & Operations*



# Human Resources

## Impact on faculty and staff

- Teaching Staff
- Administration
- Support Staff
  - Secretarial
  - Para-Professionals
  - Food Service
  - Transportation
  - Custodial
  - Grounds/maintenance



Provide for the continued employment of school employees while redeploying staff to provide meaningful work in the context of the Return to School Plan

# Operations

## Impact on Departments

- Food Service
  - Continue to serve meals to our students who qualify for free meals or reduced-price meals
- Transportation
  - Some “special” runs
- Custodial/Grounds Maintenance
  - Continue to operate and maintain buildings and grounds

*slide updated August 4, 2020*

# Operations

## Preparations for opening building

- Cleaning/Sanitizing
  - Specific to Opening
  - Ongoing
- Supplies
- PPE
- Signage
- Air Quality







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