

DPSCD PRE-K REOPENING PLAN

School Year 2020-2021



Students Rise. We All Rise.

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OUR COMMITMENT TO HEALTH AND SAFETY

Detroit Public Schools Community District is committed to protecting the health of our children, families, staff, and community. The following guidelines were designed in response to guidance from the Michigan Departments of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) and Health and Human Services, in accordance with best practices from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and with everyone's well-being in mind. To limit the potential spread of COVID-19, we will be making some temporary changes to our programming that include robust cleaning and disinfecting procedures and minimizing opportunities for person-to-person exposure (e.g., an infected person spreading respiratory droplets through actions such as coughing, sneezing, or talking). The following plan outlines the recommended practices and strategies that will be used to protect the health of our children, staff, and families while at the same time ensuring that children are experiencing developmentally appropriate learning environments. This plan is in full alignment with the District's Board Approved Plan for a Return to School.

PREPARING FOR FACE TO FACE LEARNING

FACULTY, STAFF, FAMILY AND STUDENT PROFESSIONAL LEARNING AND SUPPORT

To support staff is effectively engaging in best practices and making personal decisions, we will provide learning opportunities to help all of us understand how COVID-19 is transmitted, the distance the virus can travel, how long the virus remains viable in the air and on surfaces, signs and symptoms of COVID-19, and our new procedures as outlined in this plan.

Our reopening plan includes training for employees and students that promote behaviors that reduce the spread of the virus. Staff and families will partner together to support the needs and emotional understanding of children during this time.

We know that after this prolonged closure, many of our students and staff will require social-emotional support to help them reengage and reenter work and school. School counselors and administrators will be equipped with tools and information on how to support students and maintain our whole child commitment. To ensure the well-being of the children, it is also imperative to ensure the well-being of their teachers and caregivers, and to provide them with the emotional and administrative supports necessary during this time of re-integration, and in the months ahead. As essential workers in the COVID-19 pandemic, we understand our staff may have worries about their own physical or psychological health, and the potential risk to their family members at home. Because young children internalize the stress of the adults who care for them, we know it is vitally important to provide supports and services to ensure the emotional well-being of our staff.

Those supports will include resources from an organization already widely used in DPSCD known as TRAILS. Transforming Research into Action to Improve the Lives of Students, coach's education professionals in cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) and mindfulness practices that help reduce

stress and depression in children. These practices are also beneficial to adults working in the school setting. Additionally, all DPSCD employees have access to the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) which offers many free services including face-to-face and virtual counseling. Information about all social-emotional supports will be made widely available to the DPSCD community. We will also continue to offer our social-emotional hotline for families. We will make the following resources available for staff and families to support children: Crisis Parent and Caregiver Guide, from the Michigan Children's Trust Fund Talking with Children about COVID-19, from the CDC Helping Young Children Through COVID-19, from Zero to Thrive (includes Arabic and Spanish translations) Georgie and the Giant Germ, from Zero to Thrive and Tender Press Books, Wearing a Mask to School.

CHANGES TO OUR PHYSICAL SPACE

We will use the following strategies in our classrooms and facilities to minimize the spread of illnesses:

- Where possible, dividing large group spaces to allow more children to safely use the space (e.g., using child sized furniture, such as rolling shelves and kitchenettes, to divide a room and prevent mixing between groups of children).
- Rearranging classroom areas to seat children as far apart as reasonably possible and limiting the number of children sitting together.
- Before re-opening we will ensure all water systems and drinking fountains are safe following CDC guidelines.
- Utilizing support staff such as para-educators to divide students into smaller groups throughout the school day.

All unused material will be stored away out of the reach of children. Cubbies and shelving units will be pushed together or placed along the wall to allow for more space and to limit the use of shared material.

AVAILABILITY OF TOYS AND INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

The District is committed to following CDC guidelines to support the health and well-being of all stakeholders. Early Learning and Montessori Teachers and Staff will follow CDC guidelines for cleaning and disinfecting all Montessori materials. At this time, we will make the following changes to the toys and materials in our classrooms:

- Teachers will remove toys and objects which cannot be easily cleaned or sanitized between use. Cloth toys will be removed.
- Toys will be washed and sanitized before being moved from one group of children to another.
- maintaining consistent groups

During this time, GSRP Preschoolers, 4 years of age until school-age will have class sizes of no larger than – 16.

To minimize student exposure and potential spread of COVID-19, we will engage in the following best practices:

- To the extent possible, classrooms will include the same group of children and providers each day.
- We will limit the mixing of children across groups by staggering times for outdoor play and other activities where children from multiple classrooms are typically combined.
- Canceling or postponing field trips and special events that convene larger groups of children and families.
- Limiting non-essential visitors, volunteers, and activities including groups of children or adults.
- When at all possible, staff meetings will be held virtually. Any in-person staff meetings will be limited to 10 people and social distancing requirements will be followed as much as possible.

All PD, meetings, conferences, and home visits will be conducted virtually.

In general, external partners and volunteers will be limited in buildings to reduce the number of individuals in buildings, offices and classrooms. Only essential visitors, volunteers, and partners will be allowed to regularly engage in District activities, and they must adhere to the same protocol. Any personnel from partner organizations entering school buildings will be required to follow the same guidelines as District staff (e.g. negative Covid-19 test, symptom check, face mask etc.)

TRANSPORTATION

The number of students on one bus at a time will also be limited to allow for as much social distancing as possible. Students will sit apart from each other and only one student will be allowed per seat. Face coverings will be required for all entering the bus (basic masks will be provided for those who do not have them).

FACE TO FACE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

DAILY TEMPERATURE CHECKS

Each morning, students will be screened for fever and symptoms prior to entry and those who are experiencing symptoms may be directed to the isolation area where an administrator, or designee, can confirm further assess the student

- Required face coverings when physical distancing is not possible. DPSCD will provide basic masks for students and staff. Individuals may also bring their own face coverings.

CLEANING AND DISINFECTING

Classrooms, offices and shared spaces have a posted cleaning log. Custodial staff complete the log daily showing that a specific room/area has been cleaned (high-touch hard surfaces disinfected).

All buildings and busses will be cleaned and disinfected prior to staff and students returning.

- Handwashing has always been a focus of attention in Pre-K. Staff will continue to provide daily guidance and more frequent handwashing opportunities.
- Pre-K staff will continue to provide daily cleaning and disinfecting of Pre-K furniture, toys and materials more frequently. Toys/items will be cleaned with soapy water, rinsed, sanitized, rinsed again and air dried.
- All toys and items that cannot be cleaned daily will be removed and stored away from students.
- Cleaning can occur during naptime, outside time, and as always Fridays.

SAFETY EQUIPMENT

Funded through ~\$85 million in CARES Act Federal funding:

Masks are required and reusable masks will be provided to all students and staff. Additional PPE will be available based on specific needs (e.g. face shields for all teachers, KN95 masks for nurses).

Bathrooms will be restocked regularly with soap and hand sanitizer/wipes located in classrooms. Students and staff will undergo training on healthy hygiene practices.

All schools and offices will have a clear process for entry, aligned with CDC guidance, including symptom and temperature checks for students, staff.

Contracted services have been expanded to add a nurse to each school.

HAND WASHING

We will reinforce regular health and safety practices with children and staff and continue to comply with licensing regulations and CDC hand washing guidelines as follows:

- Staff and children will wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Soap and water are the best option, especially if hands are visibly dirty. If hands are not visibly dirty, alcohol-based hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol can be used if soap

and water are not readily available. Staff and children should cover all surfaces of their hands with hand sanitizer, rubbing them together until they feel dry.

- Staff will assist children with hand washing and use of hand sanitizer to ensure proper use and prevent ingestion.
- Staff and children (with frequent reminders and support) will cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or sleeve and wash hands immediately after.
- Wearing gloves does not replace appropriate hand hygiene.
- Hand hygiene is especially important after blowing one's nose, going to the bathroom, before eating or preparing food after (or helping children do any of these actions).
- Adapted hand washing signs will be posted near all sinks.

DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP PROCEDURES

We will use the following recommended practices during drop-off and pick-up times to protect the health of children, families, and staff.

If possible, only one adult per family should be present at drop-off/pick-up. Ideally, this would be the same parent or designated person every day,

- Staggered drop-off and pick-up times to limit contact among parents.
- Staff will greet children and families at designated doors for sign in/out procedures.
- Hand hygiene station will be at the entrance and at sign in/out locations.
- Parents and other visitors will be asked to wear masks while in the building.
- Parents will be asked to avoid congregating in a single space or a large group.

Schools will be understanding of family schedules (e.g. older siblings, working parent). Parent escort to classrooms will only be allowed the first week of school

GSRP Pre-K Only

- Pre-K start date will be one week after regular school - **September 14, 2020**
- During the first week of school for students, parents will be able to meet the teaching teams and tour the classroom. Teachers will stagger appointments to allow for social distancing. Students and parents must adhere to the following guidelines regarding entry: Students and parents will be screened for fever and symptoms prior to entry, face coverings are required.
- mealtimes

To limit opportunities for exposure during mealtimes, we will engage in the following recommended practices:

- We will space seating as far apart as possible (ideally 6 feet apart) by limiting the number of children sitting together and rearranging seating.
- We will serve meals to our face to face students in the classroom instead of group dining spaces.
- Staff and children will wash hands before and immediately after children have eaten.

- We will suspend family style meals in our face to face setting.
- Students participating in online learning will pick up breakfast and lunch at Grab and Go school sites.
- naptime

To reduce potential for viral spread, we will engage in the following recommended practices:

- Using bedding (sheets, pillows, blankets, sleeping bags) that can be washed.
- Bedding that touches a child's skin will be cleaned weekly or before use by another child.
- Storing each child's bedding in individually labeled bins, cubbies, or bags.
- Labeling each child's cot/mat.
- Ensuring that children's naptime mats/cots/cribs are spaced out as much as possible, at least 18 inches apart – head to toe.
- When possible, children will be placed head-to-toe (i.e., one child with their head at the top of the mat, the next child over with their head at the bottom of the mat).
- Items brought from home during this time will be limited. We ask that families refrain from bringing items from home as much as possible. However, a change of clothing should be provided. All bedding and extra clothing will be placed in an individually labeled bag for each child and will be washed by staff using washers and dryers, either on site or by a professional service.

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

SCREENING FAMILIES & STAFF FOR COVID-19 SYMPTOMS AND EXPOSURE

Upon arrival to the program, staff and families are required to report if they or anyone in their household:

- have received positive COVID-19 results
- have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19
- and/or have experienced symptoms such as persistent cough, fever, difficulty breathing, chills, change in smell or taste, diarrhea, and/or vomiting.
- **ESSENTIAL VISITORS** –In general, external partners and volunteers will be limited in buildings to reduce the number of individuals in buildings, offices and classrooms. Only essential visitors, volunteers, and partners will be allowed to regularly engage in district activities, and they must adhere to the same protocols as other DPSCD staff, including daily symptom checks, negative COVID-19 testing, and wearing of face coverings. Essential visitors include:
 - Licensing consultants from LARA (Licensing and Regulatory Affairs)
 - City of Detroit Environmental Inspectors
 - Lead and Fire Inspectors
 - Wayne RESA Consultants

RESPONDING AND TRANSPARENCY TO CONFIRMED CASES OF COVID-19

RESPONDING TO SYMPTOMS AND CONFIRMED CASES OF COVID-19

If a child or staff member has a temperature above 100.4 degrees and/or symptoms such as persistent cough, difficulty breathing, chills, diarrhea, or vomiting, they will be sent home immediately with the recommendation to contact their primary care physician/medical provider. If anyone shows emergency warning signs (e.g., trouble breathing, persistent pain/pressure in the chest, new confusion, inability to wake or stay awake, or bluish lips or face), we will seek medical care immediately. Principals and the Early Childhood Leadership team will be immediately notified (prek@detroitk12.org) – Early Childhood will contact licensing.

If a child develops symptoms during care hours:

- Parents will be contacted for prompt pick-up.
- The child will be isolated from other children with supervision of a Pre-K staff member and nurse.

If a positive case is determined of a staff member or student, the areas within a building that may have been impacted will be closed for disinfecting before students and staff return. Students will continue to engage in regular instruction online with regular assignments, attendance, and grades if a building wide closure is necessary.

- reporting exposure

If a child, staff member, family member, or visitor to our program shows COVID-19 symptoms or tests positive for the virus, we will contact our local health department and licensing consultant. Based on the guidance of the local health department, we will determine whether to close individual classrooms or our facility, the duration of the closure, and other next steps. When communicating with families and staff about any COVID-19 cases, we will respect the privacy of individuals and not share health information of a specific person.

Our local health department can be contacted at: 313-876-4000

Please contact Early Childhood at prek@detroitk12.org and your Principal Immediately – Early Childhood will contact the licensing and health departments.

RETURNING TO THE PROGRAM AFTER EXPERIENCING SYMPTOMS AND/OR A POSITIVE COVID-19 TEST

Before returning to work in person, anyone who has tested positive for Covid-19 must wait at least 72 hours since symptoms ceased (resolution of fever and improvement in respiratory symptoms) AND 10 days since symptoms first appeared. They must also be re-tested and indicate a negative result before returning.

If a staff member or child exhibits multiple symptoms of COVID-19, possible exposure is expected, OR an individual test positive for COVID-19, the individual must stay home until:

- They have been fever-free for at least 72 hours without the use of medicine that reduces fevers
- AND other symptoms have improved
- AND at least 10 days have passed since their symptoms first appeared.

Employees infected with COVID-19 have an unlimited paid sick bank to cover their days out of school due to the infection

As per Executive Order 2020-36, if staff or their close contacts have possible or confirmed cases of COVID-19, staff will be allowed to remain home without penalty of discharge, discipline, or other retaliation. To accommodate for the potential need to quarantine staff or allow for longer absences from work than normal, we will implement the following staffing plan to ensure we can meet the proper adult to child ratios. A 3rd person will be used to ensure adult to child ratios are always met. Because childcare staff members are part of Michigan's essential workforce, they are eligible to be tested for COVID-19.

PARTNERING AND COMMUNICATION WITH FAMILIES AND STAFF

We will actively communicate with staff and families to determine when they will return to work/care if they have been out, discuss concerns or questions, share any new expectations, and confidentially discuss any extenuating circumstances that have emerged and/or any health concerns/conditions that may elevate risk for complications if exposed to COVID-19.

The local principal is responsible for handling questions and outreach for staff and for families.

VIRTUAL LEARNING PLAN

GSRP Pre-K will offer families choice between virtual and face to face learning. As families consider this option it is very important to contemplate how your child can be successful in a virtual learning environment. Pre-K students will not be able to navigate a virtual classroom independently. As a result, families need to consider their personal bandwidth to provide daily support to their child when engaging in learning activities. Finally, families will want to review the virtual daily schedule to ensure that their child can sustain learning virtually for the periods of time outlined in the schedule. Below is some additional information regarding Pre-K virtual learning:

Providing devices to online Pre-K students

- The District will provide loaner devices at the start of the school year for students in Pre-K from their enrolled school.

Virtual Learning Platform:

- Teaching Strategies has prepared mini literacy, math, science, and social studies lessons. Pre-recorded lessons will extend your child's' understanding and experience. There will be singing, dancing and opportunities to interact with rich literature and robust literacy activities while promoting social emotional development.
- Students will participate in virtual instruction and work in the TEAMS and Teaching Strategies platform.
- Our online curriculum is completely aligned to in-person curriculum
- The Creative Curriculum can be accessed online -www.TeachingStrategies.com
- The Family Portal is available & there is a Teaching Strategies App

[Click Here to view DPSCD online daily schedules](#)

APPENDIX

Licensing & Regulatory Affairs (LARA) Guidelines for Safe Child Care Operations During COVID-19

[https://www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/Child_Care_Re-Opening_5-21-20 - FINAL 691941 7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/Child_Care_Re-Opening_5-21-20_-_FINAL_691941_7.pdf)

Michigan Children's Trust Fund – Crisis Parent and Caregiver Guide

https://www.michigan.gov/documents/ctf/CTF_Parent_Guide_687268_7.pdf

TRAILS – Transforming Research into Action to Improve the Lives of Students

<https://trailstowellness.org/>

Zero to Thrive – Resources for Supporting Conversations with Young Children

<https://zerotothrive.org/covid-19/covid-19-kids/>

Wearing a Mask to School



COVID-19 Resources for Montessori Schools & Programs-American Montessori Society

<https://www.amshq.org>

DPSCD Pre-K – Now Accepting Applications



Free, high-quality early learning experience for children who are 4 years old by December 1st of the current school year.

Two ways to apply:

1. Online at detroitk12.org/earlychildhood
2. At any DPSCD Pop Up Enrollment Site
 - Brenda Scott
 - Ben Carson High School
 - Earhart
 - Gompers

08/24/20 – 09/01/20 Hours: 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Required enrollment documents:

- Current Immunization Record
- Health Appraisal
- Original Birth Certificate
- Parent Identification
- Proof of Income (GSRP)



For more information:
(313) 347-8923 | www.detroitk12.org/earlychildhood