



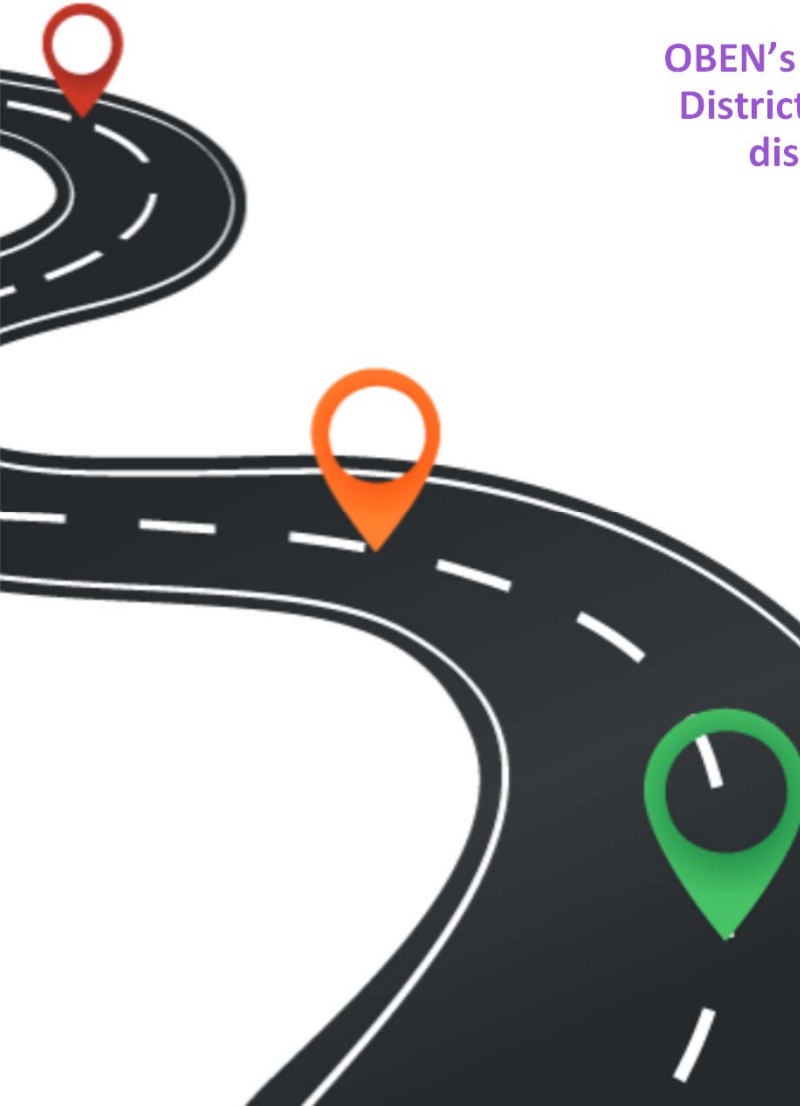
Re-Opening OBEN Schools

Update to Board of Education
August 11, 2020

Guidance Timetable

OBEN's careful and strategic planning, and collaborative efforts put the District ahead of the two-week window Governor Cuomo gave school districts to submit re-entry plans after guidance was released.

- July 8, 2020 - Governor Cuomo announced that he would make a decision on re-opening schools the first week of August.
- July 13, 2020 - Governor Cuomo announced conditions that determine if schools can open safely.
 - Regions with infection rate below 5% using a 14-day average can open; Regions with infection rate over 9% after Aug. 1 must remain closed.
 - Schools were directed to submit re-opening plans by July 31.
- July 16, 2020 - NYSED releases formal guidance
- July 17, 2020 - State FAQ Document with clarifications on guidelines on social distancing: Schools require one of the following: 6 ft. Social Distancing **OR** Barriers **OR** Face Coverings.
- July 22, 2020 - State FAQ Document provides another update: Schools must ensure that appropriate social distancing (i.e. 6 feet/barriers) is maintained.
- July 28, 2020 - School schedule options for first phase of OBEN re-opening approved by Board of Education
- July 30, 2020 - Plans submitted to NYSED and Department of Health



Re-Opening Plan Includes Provisions for:

- Communication
- Health and Safety
- Facilities
- Child Nutrition
- Transportation
- Social and Emotional Well-Being
- School Schedules
- Attendance and Absenteeism
- Technology and Connectivity
- Teaching and Learning
- Special Education
- Bilingual Education and World Languages
- Teacher Principal Evaluation System
- Certification, Incidental Teaching & Substitute Teaching



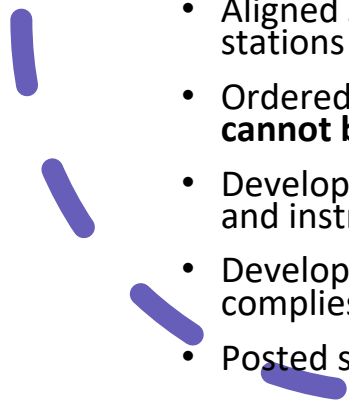
What We Have Done to Date

Communication

- Communicated District's progress and State guidance to stakeholders, staff and community members through email blasts.
- Created and invited stakeholders to participate in surveys addressing virtual learning, social and emotional learning, transportation, health and safety, and learning schedules.
- Posted signage on health and safety protocols in buildings.
- Examined all State guidance including definition of social distancing.

Health and Safety

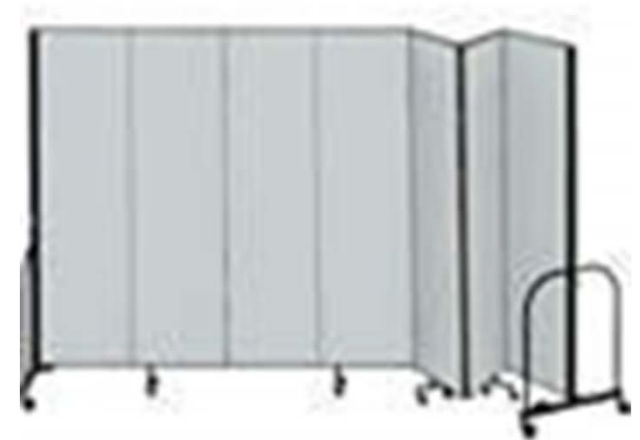
- Aligned school cleaning and disinfecting protocols with CDC and DOH guidelines; additional hand-sanitizing stations installed.
- Ordered PPE and face coverings for students and staff – **Face coverings are required when social distancing cannot be maintained.**
- Developed protocols with health staff for signs of illness, daily temperature screenings, screenings for visitors, and instructions for parents/guardians to observe for signs of illness in their child.
- Developed action plan with health staff for suspected COVID-19 cases detected in school and protocol that complies with DOH and CDC guidelines for returning to school.
- Posted signage on correct handwashing and respiratory hygiene.

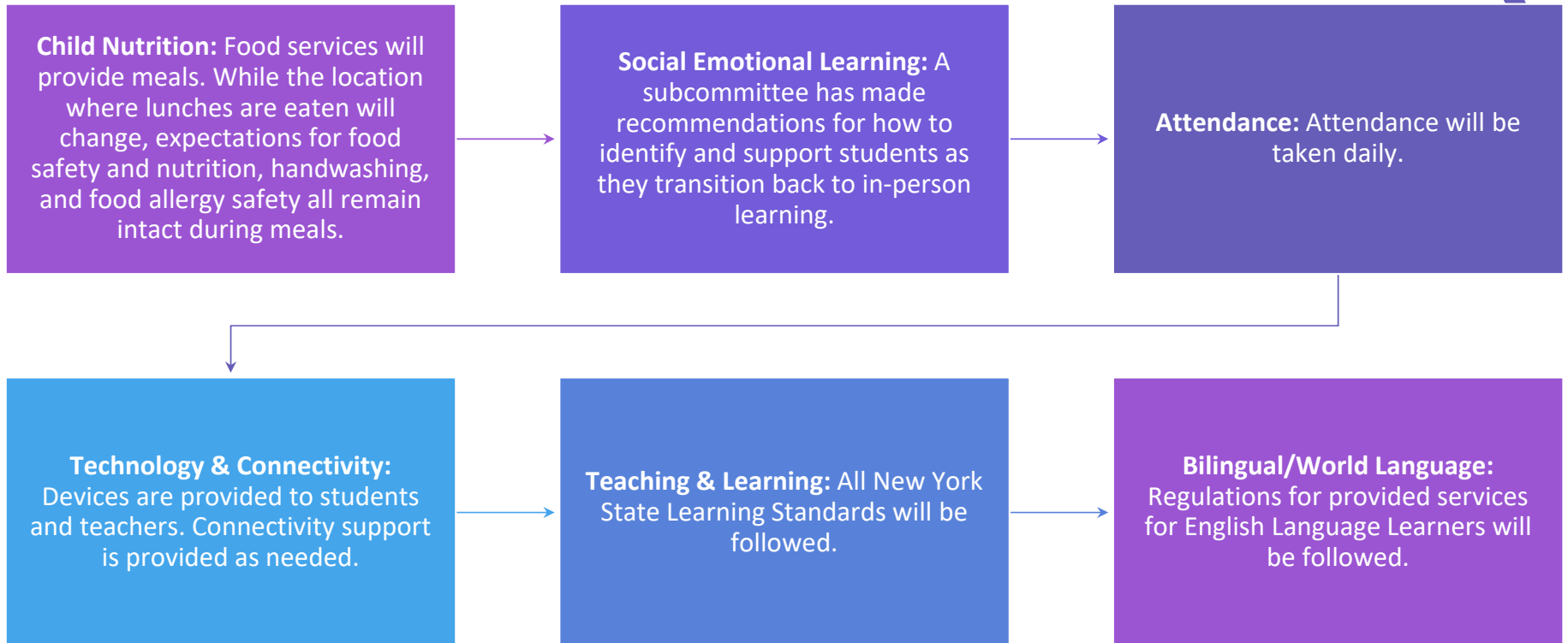




Facilities

- Ordered protective materials for facilities, including three-sided desk guards for student and staff desktops, standing partitions, portable sinks at Vernon for hygiene, and additional hand-sanitizer stations.
- Examined and re-configured areas, such as computer labs and cafeterias, to avoid students touching common areas and spaced out each classroom for social distancing. Tents were ordered for extra space.
- Ordered rolling partitions to divide larger spaces.





School Schedules



In-person Instruction



Remote Instruction



Hybrid Instruction
(in-person and remote)

Schools must create a comprehensive plan for a schedule that includes:

Plans should be clearly communicated with as much advanced notice as practicable to students, families/caregivers, and staff.



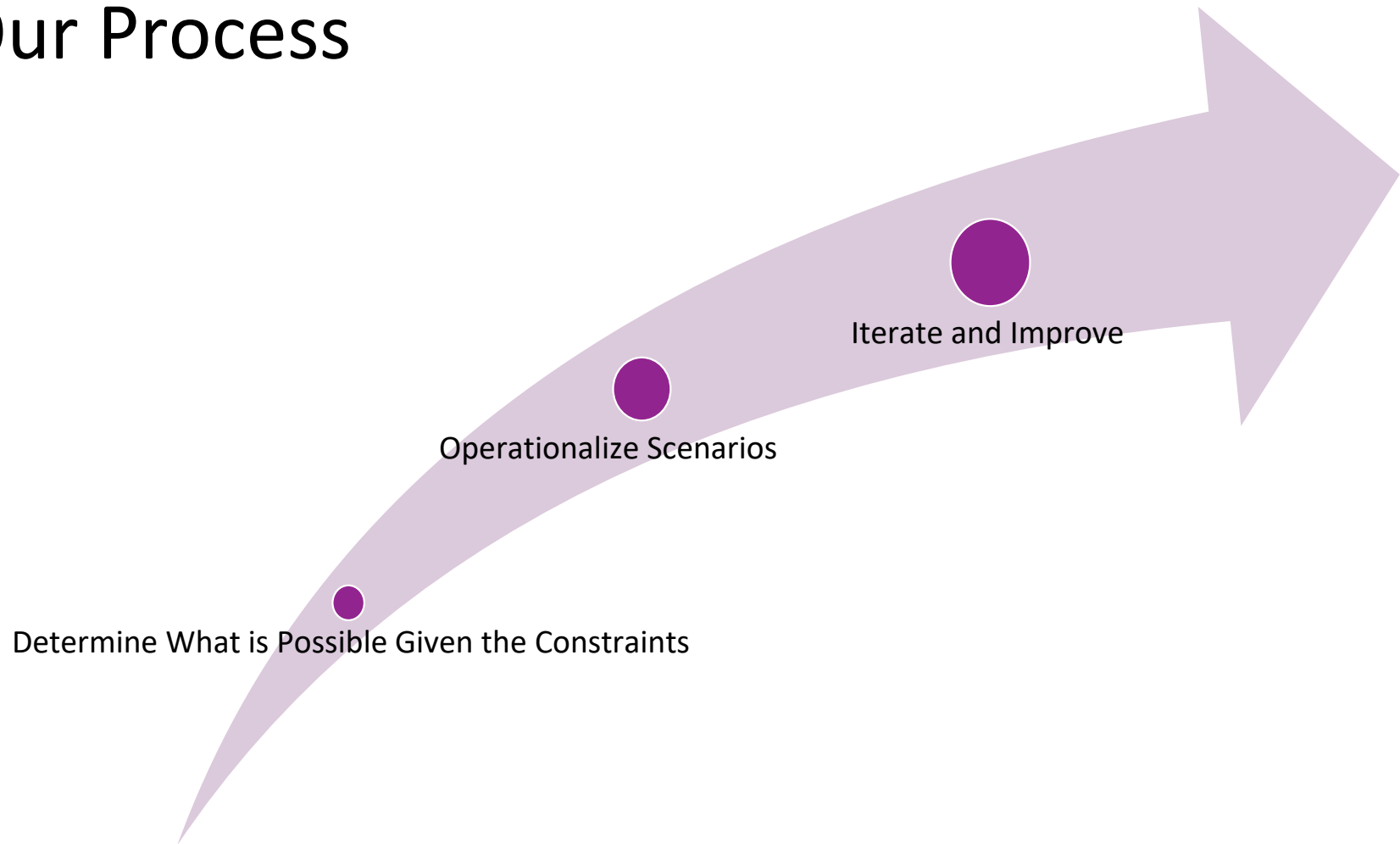
School Schedules:

Our goal is to open our schools safely for students and staff for in-person instruction every day.

Our Goals

- Learners will feel connected to the school, their teachers, and to each other.
- Instructional experiences, when considered as a whole, are comparable in rigor, scope and magnitude to a traditionally delivered education.
- Transitions between in-person and remote learning will be made seamlessly.

Our Process



Elementary Plan for First Phase of In-Person Return (approved by Board of Education on July 28)

- All students, grades Pre-K-6 may return to school daily.
- Students have a full day with their teachers as in a typical year.
- Use of desk guards and face coverings.
- Program continues with modifications (For example: band lessons continue, but ensembles are very different).
- Most specials would be taught in the classroom to minimize student movement around the building.
- Space available to continue music lessons.

Secondary Plan for First Phase of In-Person Return (approved by Board of Education on July 28)

- Students in grades 7 & 8 attend every day, in cohorts to limit movement.
- Students in grades 9-12 attend on an alternating day schedule.
- Maintains master schedule.
- Lessens student density across day.
- Use of desk guards, masks/face coverings.
- Goal: When students are in the building, they would be in the classroom with their teacher.
- Will abide by all legal requirements in meeting needs of identified student sub-groups.
- We will assess and make modifications as needed, with the goal of bringing more OBHS students in daily as soon as practicable and safe.

Remote Instruction Option for Consideration

- Gather data from families regarding plans for student attendance in September.
- Medically fragile and/or students with medical conditions may need additional precautions in school and may be unable to attend school.
- Students who have family members in high-risk groups may need remote instruction.
- Students who may need to quarantine will need remote instruction.
- If parents choose not to send their children back to school, plans will be made for remote learning.
- Families submitted responses to District questionnaire.

What Would Instruction Look Like When Students Are Learning From Home?

When a student is learning from home, he/she will:

- Access the classroom learning via synchronous live engagement for some or all of each class
 - To support the synchronous daily instruction:
 - Utilize asynchronous resources (i.e. pre-recorded materials or online resources)
 - Complete independent and/or collaborative group work



Health & Safety

- Minimize risk
- Protect all members of learning community
- Address health concerns quickly as they arise



Health & Safety

- Daily health screening and non-contact temperature taking
- Face coverings/masks (with breaks)
- Desk protectors & dividers
- Handwashing and respiratory hygiene



Transportation

- Transportation referendum approved in May reducing eligibility limits to zero/universal transportation for grades K-6 and .50 for grades 7-12
- First survey: Out of 500 respondents, more than 75% would be willing to walk or drive their children to school if limited bus transportation becomes an issue.
- Second survey: Out of 867 respondents, approximately 20% indicated need for transportation; remainder willing to make other arrangements.
- For students who will utilize transportation, we are working closely with our transportation company to ensure that the safety protocols in the chart at right are met:

Transportation: Mandatory Requirements



Transportation

- Low-density routing
- Face coverings/masks
- Cleaning and disinfection
- Protocol for parent transportation and student walkers



Arts, Athletics & Student Activities

- Modifications to music ensemble groups
- NYS Public School Athletic Association
 - Fall sports delayed until September 21st
 - Possible 3-season schedule starting in January
- Some student co-curricular clubs may be offered in accordance with health & safety guidelines.

Events & Access to Buildings

- Field trips
- Large group events
- Students and staff
- Community use of schools
- Visitors to schools



In Closing...

- Next Steps/Timeline
- Questions/Discussion
- Thank you!

