

**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY**  
**INFORMATIONAL REPORT**

**ON**

**HCPS RECOVERY PLANS FOR FALL 2020**

**JULY 18, 2020**

**Background Information**

The Coronavirus Pandemic (COVID-19) in the spring of 2020 forced all Maryland schools to close for the end of the 2019-2020 school year. Following the closure announcement by Dr. Karen Salmon, State Superintendent of Schools, immediate planning and discussion began around the eventual reopening of schools. The Maryland State Department of Schools (MSDE) has published a guidance document, *Maryland Together: Recovery Plan for Education*, to outline thirteen non-negotiables to include in local school system's final recovery plans. Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) will ensure that all thirteen points will be included in the final version of the *HCPS Recovery Plan: Continuity of Learning 2.0* to be published in early August 2020.

**Discussion**

As we move forward, HCPS is following the decisions and announcements made by Governor Hogan and State Superintendent of Schools Karen Salmon. As Maryland and Harford County progress and restrictions are lifted, HCPS will adjust the course of action while maintaining the highest level of safety for the health and well-being of all students and staff. It is important to note that plans need to be consistent and somewhat prescribed to allow for any needed transitions among stages due to the fluid nature of COVID-19 response. The efforts outlined in this plan illustrate a proactive approach to both virtual and in-person learning.

The foundation of this plan is the assurance of four key elements:

- **Equity:** Assuring equity has been addressed as a component piece of each planning element.
- **Special Student Populations:** Providing intentional supports and plans for meeting student learning needs for targeted student populations.
- **Technology and Professional Learning:** Providing specific, ongoing support for staff, students, and families in the use of new devices, enhanced curriculum resources, and instructional pedagogy
- **Stakeholder Input:** Providing multiple opportunities for stakeholders (students, staff, families, community members) to provide input throughout the planning process

MSDE established a plan for returning to school buildings, in line with Governor Hogan's Roadmap to Recovery. The following options are being explored by HCPS, and will shape classroom instruction for the Fall of 2020:

- **Stage 1 – Distance Learning**  
All school activities are to be conducted online and through distance learning platforms.

- Stage 2 – Hybrid Model  
Some in-person school activities may commence, in accordance with the Governor’s gating and social distancing measures.
- Stage 3 – In-Person Learning  
In-person activities may fully resume, and schools can begin normal operations consistent with additional safety measures.

Input and feedback are important in developing a thoughtful and responsive plan. Various teams, comprised of HCPS staff, community members, and key stakeholders, are meeting regularly to work through differing stages for the 2020-2021 school year. Some of the topics of this work include:

- Essential health and safety measures for students and staff
- Logistics for student schedules and transportation for alternating days in the Hybrid Model
- Supporting social/emotional wellness for students and staff

### **Superintendent’s Recommendation**

The Superintendent recommends the Board accepts this report.