

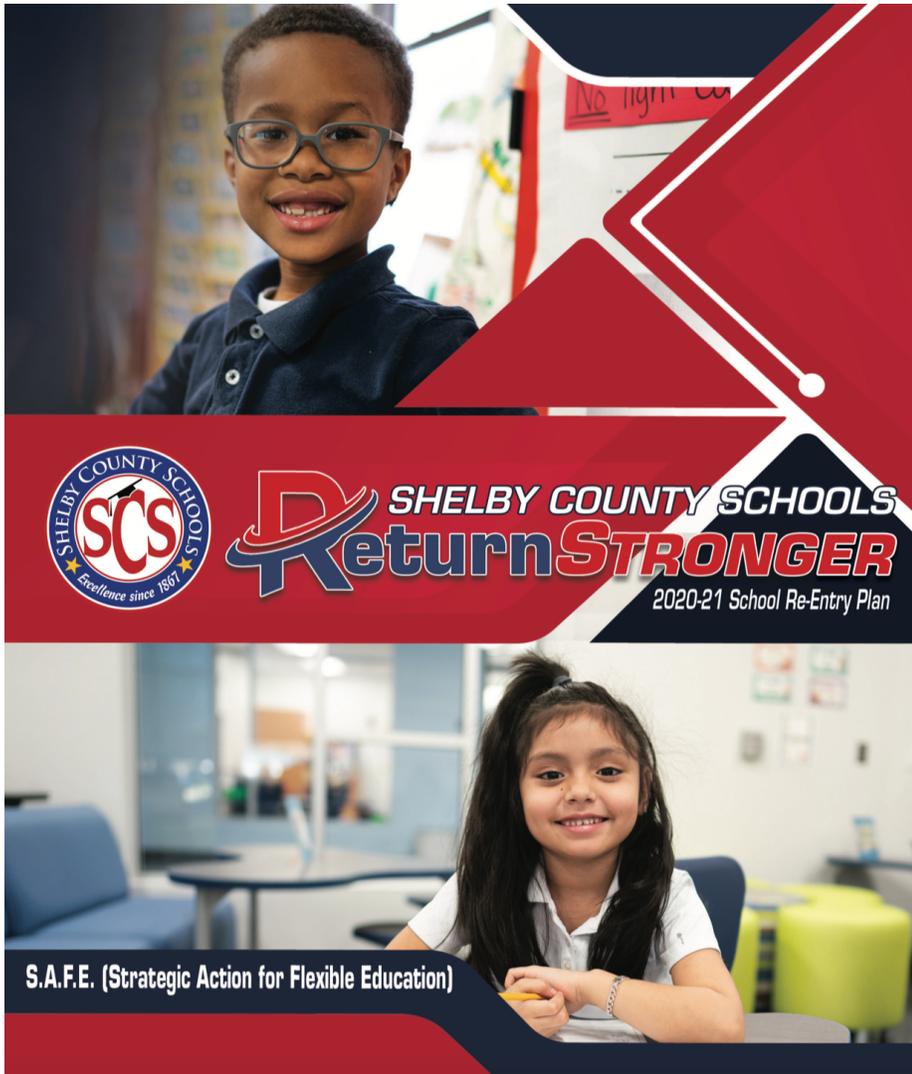
# A Discussion About Returning to In-Person Learning

**D**Return **STRONGER**





# S.A.F.E. REOPENING FACTS



- Shelby County Schools was the first to shutter schools – before the State of Emergency and before any Safer at Home order.
- This decisive and quick action undoubtedly saved lives of our at-risk, aging teachers, and our vulnerable student population.
- We are re-evaluating strategies to return to school buildings by expanding upon our initial S.A.F.E. Re-Entry Plan.
- Largest device distribution in shortest timeframe, served more than 1M meals, teamed up with local community childcare partners, and garnered \$1M for headsets for learning



# What We Know

- To address learning loss, the District has hosted Virtual Summer Learning Academy, Fall Break Academy and Saturday Academies. We have completed the grade level benchmark assessments and diagnostics
- We will soon share more information about learning loss during our Data Nights with families
- Recently, the Governor and TDOE announced assessment and evaluation accountability measures would be temporarily suspended and would not count against school districts. However, student assessments will still be conducted.
- WIDA testing (n~12,000) begins in February 2021 (must be in-person)
- State testing (Grades 3-8) begins in April 2021 (must be in-person)
- Grace and flexibility are still important for our work



# What We Know

- We acknowledge that there is no “right answer”
- We acknowledge that people may get sick and that we have protocols to address that eventuality
- We are prepared for the possibilities of school rolling closures
- We will update and honor the choices of parents and teachers



*continued*

# What We Know

- All students will keep their current classroom teacher/teacher-of-record providing daily instruction
- For this to be true, the District will continue to use one modality (Microsoft Teams) for all instruction whether at-home or in-person
- We will need a list of adults to serve as classroom facilitators (subs, etc.)
- Both teachers and students will have the option to select in-person or virtual instruction
- Students will be socially distant in buildings to the extent possible
- PPE and signage is in place
- Buildings have been sanitized and will be routinely cleaned
- We will review policies before we begin (e.g., dress code)



# Guiding Questions

- What is your unreadiness – if any – for a return to in-person learning?
- When do you think the District should begin optional in-person learning?
- Do you think that teachers should have the option to return to schools for in-person learning?
- Which students should we bring back first? Next?



# Guiding Question #1

What is your unreadiness – if any – for a return to in-person learning?

- Several Board Members said they are concerned with the recent increase in the number of COVID-19 cases across Shelby County
- A few Board Members said they were concerned about the time that it will take to get re-started; the general feeling was that SCS needs a long runway to ensure students, teachers, and staff are safe
- There are some Board Members who do not feel any unreadiness at this time, but all are concerned about students and teachers



# Guiding Question #2

When do you think the District should begin optional in-person learning?

- A majority of Board Members indicated support for in-person learning beginning in January
- A few Board Members said that they believe January should be the start time, but think the data should lead the decision and modify the date if the situation is unsafe
- Some Board Members favored starting optional in-person learning as soon as possible (end of October/early November)



# Guiding Question #3

Do you think that teachers should have the option to return to schools for in-person learning?

- A majority of Board Members think that teachers should have the option to return to in-person instruction or remain teaching virtually
- A few Board Members wanted teachers to be safe back in their buildings to support work with students and families, but should not have the option to remain virtual



# Guiding Question #4

Which students should we bring back first? Next?

- A majority of Board Members believe that optional in-person learning should start with PreK–5 and Special Education
- A few Board Members recommended first limiting the return to only PreK–3 and Special Education
- One Board Member recommended bringing high school students and teachers back first



# Additional Concerns

Board Members wanted us to know that they:

- Are aware that each family is making school choices based on their individual needs
- Want to ensure the plan for in-person learning be clearly communicated to ensure parents understand the choices
- Are concerned about teachers having responsibility for both in-person and virtual students at the same time



# A Working Timeline for Re-Entry

## October

- Monday, Oct 19: Discussion at Academic Committee meeting
- Oct 21-30: Surveys of parent and teacher choices

## November

- Monday, Nov 2: Winter/Spring sports considerations

## January

- Monday, January 4: In-person learning option for PreK-5 and Exceptional Children
- Tuesday, January 19: In-person learning option for grades 6-12

**Note:** We are working with the City of Memphis to provide optional nasal swab testing for students and teachers as they return.

We must remember that each of the dates listed is contingent on favorable health data and positive experiences in the steps that precede it.



# Metrics to Help Guide Reopening (ALL STUDENTS)

## CHARTING THE RE-ENTRY PATH FOR SHELBY COUNTY SCHOOLS

The following indicators are offered for consideration as conditions to require ALL students return to in-person learning:

Indicator	Threshold	Current State	Current Recommendation
Number of new confirmed coronavirus cases	Fewer than 100 per day for 14 consecutive days	287 new cases as of 10/19/2020	Parent or Teacher Choice
<b>AND</b>			
Case positive rate	Less than 5% for 14 consecutive days	6.3% as of 10/19/2020	Parent or Teacher Choice
<b>AND</b>			
ICU bed occupancy	Less than 80% for 14 consecutive days	87% as of 10/19/2020	Parent of Teacher Choice



# Thank You



**R**eturn **STRONGER**