



LCSC RESPONDS TO IDOE GUIDELINES FOR RE-OPENING SCHOOLS

Today, Dr. Jennifer McCormick, Superintendent of Public Instruction, shared preliminary guidance to re-opening public schools in Indiana for the 2020-21 school year. She will provide additional clarification of this preliminary guidance to superintendents during a COVID-19 Response Webinar on June 9.

We welcome this early guidance to school districts. It shows the state's commitment to provide information as soon as possible and shows the state's understanding of the many and complex decisions that will result from it.

It is important for all to realize, while we would like to have immediate and concrete answers, even with this information, we must be deliberate in our decision-making process. It will take some time for us to formulate a plan for LCSC.

I am confident in sharing that our plan will include services for **all** LCSC students. Under any re-opening strategy, students may not be able to physically attend school. Among our preliminary planning work, I have made clear our commitment to honor each student situation and parental decision by providing for both the academic and social-emotional needs of our students.

Below are the steps that LCSC will take when planning for our school community based on this guidance:

1. Complete and Review Community Survey

The [LCSC COVID-19 response survey](#) closes today. We are committed to considering the voices of our stakeholders prior to making final recommendations and decisions. We have been pleased with the overwhelming response to this survey. We need to honor those that took time to provide feedback by weighing the comments and data in our decisions.

2. Compare State Guidance to Advance Scenarios Created by LCSC

The LCSC Administration has been working on several scenarios in anticipation of state level guidance. Each school district has unique needs and challenges when implementing any re-opening strategy along a continuum of potential strategies.

3. Consult with school districts in Boone County

We maintain consistent dialogue with our friends in Western Boone and Zionsville Schools.

4. Provide LCSC plans to the Local Health Department for Review and Revision

No decisions or plans will be shared with our school community without a thorough review from the local health department. We expect revisions from the local agencies as we will be required to follow any requirements or restrictions currently in place within the LCSC school boundaries.

5. Discuss the plan with the Exclusive Teacher Representative Group

All Indiana public school districts are required to discuss items related to calendar and working conditions with the exclusive teacher representative group. We will discuss the plans with this group and consider any suggestions they may have.

6. Share the Plan with the School Community

Only after steps 1-5 are complete will we share our plans with the school community.

I am confident that the preliminary guidance from the state will spark much conversation, speculation, and reaction from school communities across the state and on social media platforms.

I cannot caution people enough to:

- **Avoid assuming school district A will follow the same exact plan as school district B;**
- **Avoid assuming the required use of PPE or screening of students, staff, or visitors;**
- **Avoid assuming the daily class schedule, or calendar;**
- **Avoid assuming the method of instructional delivery.**

Until LCSC shares official communication to our school community, please allow us the time to work through the details of such a plan. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work toward our official plan.

I want to close with a reminder that I give our faculty, staff, and students often: **Every. Moment. Matters.** Daily, the average individual has over 20,000 thoughts and decisions that provide us with the opportunity to spend our moments wisely. Our thoughts become our words, our words become our actions, our actions become our habits, and our habits shape our character.

Abraham Lincoln once said, "I do not like that man. I must get to know him better." I believe he was not literally saying he didn't like a man; rather, he was acknowledging that his personal biases and emotions clouded his view. By stepping back and learning why the man had a different opinion, by learning about his life experiences that shaped his perspective, Lincoln showed humility. We could learn a great deal from his thoughtful acceptance of the fact that in all situations, he may have been right or he may



have been wrong, or maybe, if he got to know the man better, the two of them would find the best solution... together.

As we navigate these next several weeks, I challenge you to consider Lincoln's wisdom. We would benefit from all of us getting to know each other a little better right about now.