

Summary Explanation and Background

On September 25, 2020, the Commissioner of Education (Commissioner) issued formal correspondence to the District expressing his "grave concerns" with the District's decision to delay the option for students returning to the physical campus for instruction, particularly given Broward County had returned to Phase 2 reopening earlier in the month. On the same date, the Superintendent and Board Chair issued a response to the Commissioner stating the District's intent to comply with its original State-approved plan; which specifically outlined a return to the physical campus upon completion of the current quarter ending October 16, 2020.

On September 28, 2020, the Commissioner again issued correspondence to the District suggesting that they interpreted our intent as withdrawing our original reopening plan and proceeding with the statutory framework. This would result in the District no longer being eligible to receive FTE funding for the projected enrollment nor being eligible to receive full FTE for students opting to attend school-based learning using distance learning technologies. The Commissioner's correspondence went on to utilize the District's "gating criteria" and state and local data to justify the need for the District to accelerate students return for the option of "brick-and-mortar instruction" on the physical campus.

The Superintendent and staff now feel there is little option but to recommend the transition to *eLearning: Phase 2* in a phased approach, beginning on October 6, 2020. This new recommendation is largely predicated on the significant financial risks associated with advancing formal dispute with the state over whether the transition dates agreed upon on September 22nd comport to the District's State-approved Innovative Reopening Plan.

Outlined below is the recommendation for phased transition to *eLearning: Phase 2*:

- October 5, 2020 – Reverts to a Teacher Planning Day;
- October 6, 2020 – Grades Pre-k, k, 1, 2, and all self-contained ESE students return to campus;
- October 8, 2020 – Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, and 9 return to the campus; and
- October 12, 2020 – Grades 7, 8, 10, 11, and 12 return to campus.