



July 21, 2020

Reopen Strong: Staff Townhall

#ReopenStrong means
a safe return to learning for every student.

DC PUBLIC SCHOOLS PLANNING PRINCIPLES



Prioritizing safety through robust protocols



Maximizing learning in school or at home



Promoting equity for every student

We are committed to delivering on three guiding principles for our students, families, and staff as we #ReopenStrong.

We expect DC Health will make a public health determination on the feasibility of the hybrid option on July 31.

Welcome to our Panel



Shanita Burney
Communications & Engagement



Amy Maisterra
Deputy Chancellor

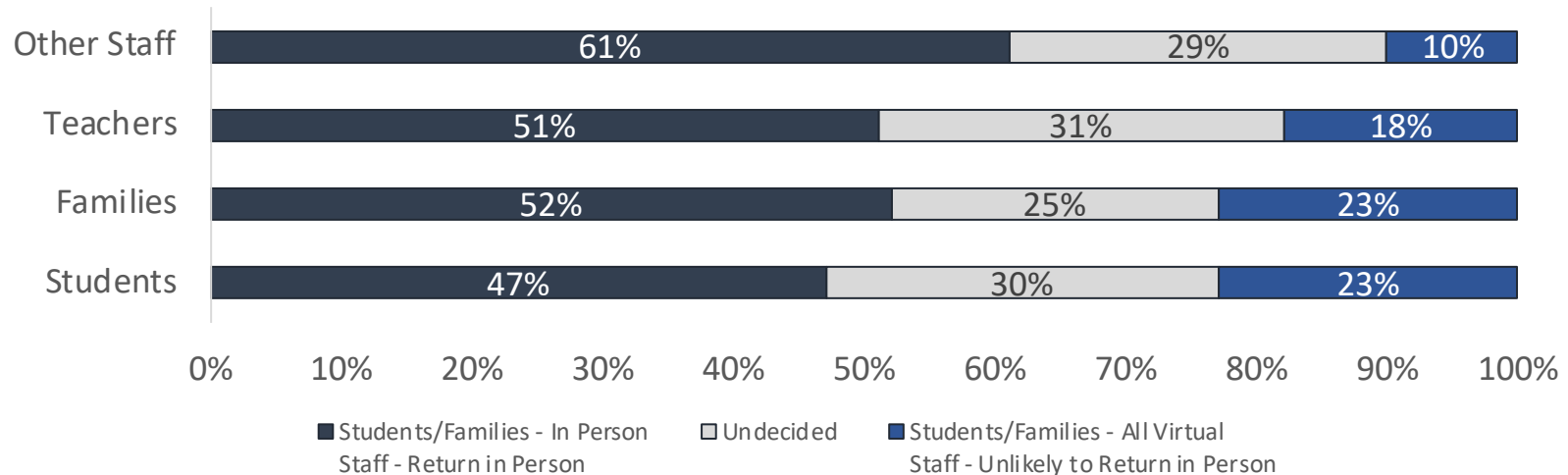


Melissa Kim
Deputy Chancellor

We heard from more than 5,200 Staff Members,
3,400 Students, and 8,600 Families.

- **Students and families preferred the schedule options which have students attending school each week.** School-based staff preferred that students attend two consecutive days per week, with their second choice being alternating weeks.
- We see **significant interest in virtual-only across all stakeholder groups.** The highest interest in virtual-only is among older students, and students in Wards 7 and 8.
- A **quarter or more of staff and families** reported that they are undecided about returning to school in-person.

June 2020 Preferences from Stakeholders



We have engaged with stakeholders throughout the planning process.

DCPS Stakeholders are a critical voice in planning for a successful and safe SY20-21 ReOpening. While not exhaustive of all engagement efforts, DCPS is conducting outreach with key stakeholder groups – parents, students, teachers, and school leaders.

Families and Community Leaders

Five Family Focus Groups (ECE, elementary, secondary; English Learner Families, Specialized Instruction Families)

Ward 7 Education Council

Ward 6 Public School Parents Organization

Citywide Family Survey

DCPS Councils and Boards

Chancellor Advisory Boards (Teacher, Student, Parent)

Chancellor's Task Force on Equity, Excellence and Growth
(ReOpening Planning Group)

Early Childhood Parent Policy Council

Internal Structures

Teacher Curriculum Fellows and Hybrid Learning Think Tank Team

Principal Focus Groups and Small Group Engagements

Student Survey and Student Focus Groups

Special Education Teachers and River Terrace Education Campus

Principle #1: Prioritizing Safety with robust health and safety protocols for staff and students – our 10 commitments.

DC PUBLIC SCHOOLS HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITMENTS



Limit the
size of groups



Reduce class
transitions



Screen and report
symptoms



Require
safe routines



Reorganize
classroom spaces



Adjust meal
routines



Train
staff



Maintain clean
facilities



Adjust arrival and
dismissal procedures



Provide
virtual learning



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WE ARE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DC GOVERNMENT OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

Principle #1: Prioritizing Safety with 10 Commitments

Limit the Size of Groups

1. Limit the Size of Groups



In-person learning will be limited to **small group cohorts** comprised of students and educators and follow DC Health guidelines.

- There will be no more than 12 people assigned to a room, with the ability for a 13th person to briefly enter as needed.
- Students in self-contained programming will be part of smaller cohorts.

Principle #1: Prioritizing Safety with 10 Commitments

Require Students and Staff to Practice Safe Routines

2. Require Students and Staff to Practice Safe Routines



- **Masks:** All employees and students who report to school in-person will be provided with a daily supply of disposable face masks (including smaller masks for our youngest students). Masks are required for adults and students.*
- **Hand washing routines** will become a critical and scheduled part of each day for all students and staff.
- **Building Entry Requirements:** Employees and visitors will not be allowed entry into any facility without using required personal protective equipment (PPE).

**Unique circumstances may apply as outlined in DC Health and OSSE guidance.*

Principle #1: Prioritizing Safety with 10 Commitments

Maintain Clean and Safe Facilities

3. Maintain Clean and Safe Facilities



Enhanced cleaning practices will be a part of our school routines.

- **Frequently touched surfaces** (e.g. sink handles, door handles) will be cleaned and disinfected daily.
- There will also be a **weekly deep cleaning process** in place.
- There is an **evaluation of necessary HVAC enhancements being conducted** across schools; such as additional filter replacements and ways to increase fresh air ventilation into classrooms.
- DCPS is working with the Department of General Services (DGS) to **prioritize work orders that support COVID- 19 compliance** (e.g. plumbing repairs in bathrooms).

Principle #1: Prioritizing Safety with 10 Commitments

Reduce Class Transitions and Time in Hallways

4. Reduce Transitions and Time in Hallways



We know that hallway transition times and routines are not aligned with our commitment to limit the size of groups. Therefore, students will be scheduled with a small group **cohort that will stay in their classroom** for a majority of the day. **Schedules will be modified** to limit transitions and interactions between groups.

Principle #1: Prioritizing Safety with 10 Commitments

Reorganize Classroom Spaces

5. Reorganize Classroom Spaces



Classrooms will look different this fall.

- Desks will be **spaced at least 6 feet apart** and **students will be facing the front of the classroom.**
- **Communal spaces** will have occupancy caps and staggered usage.
- We will **work with students** upon their return on how to navigate their updated spaces, including using reminders such as tape markings on the floor and signs to promote social distancing.

Principle #1: Prioritizing Safety with 10 Commitments

Adjust Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

6. Adjust Arrival and Dismissal Procedures



Our schools will have new **arrival and dismissal procedures**.

- We will have new procedures that incorporate **social distancing, include health screenings, and provide hand sanitizer and masks** for students.
- Family members will be able to help their students check in at their school entry point, but they will not be permitted to enter the building. Visitor access will be significantly limited.

Principle #1: Prioritizing Safety with 10 Commitments

Screen for Illness and Report Symptoms

7. Screen for Illness and Report Symptoms



- Staff and students will be required to participate in a **daily health screening**.
- If a student or staff member develops any COVID-19 symptoms while at school, there will be a **designated physical location** and a process in place that allows the individual to isolate until it is safe to go home and seek medical care.
- Applicable DC Health **reporting protocols** will be initiated.

Principle #1: Prioritizing Safety with 10 Commitments

Adjust Meal and Snack Routines

8. Adjust Meal and Snack Routines



- **Each student's small group will eat meals together.**
- **Meal distribution procedures will prioritize safety and hygiene,** through individualized “grab and go” meals and the use of hand sanitizer and/or hand washing before and after meals.

Principle #1: Prioritizing Safety with 10 Commitments

Train Staff

9. Train Staff



In June, we began training with information on supporting adults and students with trauma, maximizing hybrid learning, and maintaining safety. As a member of DC Government, staff members also completed a basic course on understanding contact tracing.

- Staff will be **trained this August on safety protocols** and on the collective steps we are all taking to ensure the safety of the DCPS community.
- **Certain school-based work environments qualify for enhanced safeguards, PPE, and training** due to the increased likelihood of close contact with students and/or staff. These environments include early childhood classrooms, self-contained special education classrooms serving students with high levels of need, and staff involved with managing students identified as potentially positive during the workday in accordance with DC Health recommendations.

Principle #1: Prioritizing Safety with 10 Commitments

Provide Virtual Learning Opportunities

10. Provide Virtual Learning Opportunities



- Together, we are **dedicated to ensuring learning** continues during this public health crisis and making sure we prioritize family choice and safety for all.
- We will offer an **all-virtual instructional option** for families who prefer the learning at home model.

Principle #1: Prioritizing Safety

Operations Handbook

The draft **Reopen Strong Operations Handbook** is being released to school leaders this week, and the planning process will include key guidance, templates, and supports to help school teams plan for a safe return to learning.



Safe and Healthy School Buildings

- ✓ Safety First Space Design
- ✓ Cleaning Procedures
- ✓ Supplies & Inventory Management



Individual Staff and Student Safety

- ✓ Health Screening
- ✓ Personal Protective Equipment
- ✓ Considerations for Special Populations



Routines and Procedures

- ✓ Arrival & Dismissal
- ✓ Learning Space Design
- ✓ Transitions
- ✓ Meal Services
- ✓ Visitor Management
- ✓ Out of School Time Programming



COVID-19 Response Protocols

- ✓ Incident Reporting
- ✓ Comms

Principle #1: Prioritizing Safety

For staff members, our health screening process includes a commitment to planning, professionalism, and confidentiality.

DCPS will adhere to the following values to ensure a safe, efficient, and non-discriminatory process for employees:

- **Planning:** DCPS will assess and modify routines to facilitate screenings. We will be conducting dry runs of the screening process and making sure managers and any screening facilitators are adequately trained and ready to go.
- **Professionalism:** We recognize that this is a difficult time for many employees. DCPS strives to provide services consistently, cordially, and respectfully.
- **Confidentiality:** DCPS will conduct screenings in a manner that protects the health information of employees being screened.

Principle #1: Prioritizing Safety

Staff members will receive additional information to prepare to return to work.

Return to Work Guidance -- Released 6/30/20

Includes a description of safeguards that will be provided and provisions for leave, including:

■ Universal Safeguards for In-Person Work Environments

- The provision of personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Enhanced health procedures
- Physical and operational workspace adjustments

■ Enhanced Safeguards for Unique Work Environments

■ Health Considerations for Employees Returning to In-Person Work

- The Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA)
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- Considering Risk Factors for Severe Disease
- The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA)

■ Additional Considerations for Employees

In the coming weeks, school staff will receive:

1. **Expanded Return to Work guidance**, including roles and responsibilities for school-based staff, addressing staff needs related to leave and other considerations
2. **On-site operations handbook and planning templates**
3. **Substitute recruitment and placement guidance**
4. **On-site health procedure guidance and trainings**
5. **Return to In-Person Work webinar (mandatory)**

Principle #2: Maximizing Learning Opportunities for rigorous and joyful learning experiences every day – in school or at home.

Instructional Options *to be determined on July 31:*

- 1. Hybrid Instruction** (in-person and learning at home)
- 2. All-Virtual Instruction** (learning at home only)

*Pending staff capacity and space,
on some days, students could engage in virtual learning with custodial care at school or a partner site.*

Principle #2: Maximizing Learning Opportunities

Instructional Options for Grades PK-5 (and PK-8 at ECs)*

To Be Determined (July 31)



LEARNING AT SCHOOL

Students receive core learning, join activities with peers and teachers, attend specials and electives.



LEARNING AT HOME

Students will have virtual teacher support, including live lessons, and independent work.



MON



TUES



WED



THUR



FRI



On Wednesdays, schools will be cleaned. Teachers will have planning time embedded throughout the week.



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

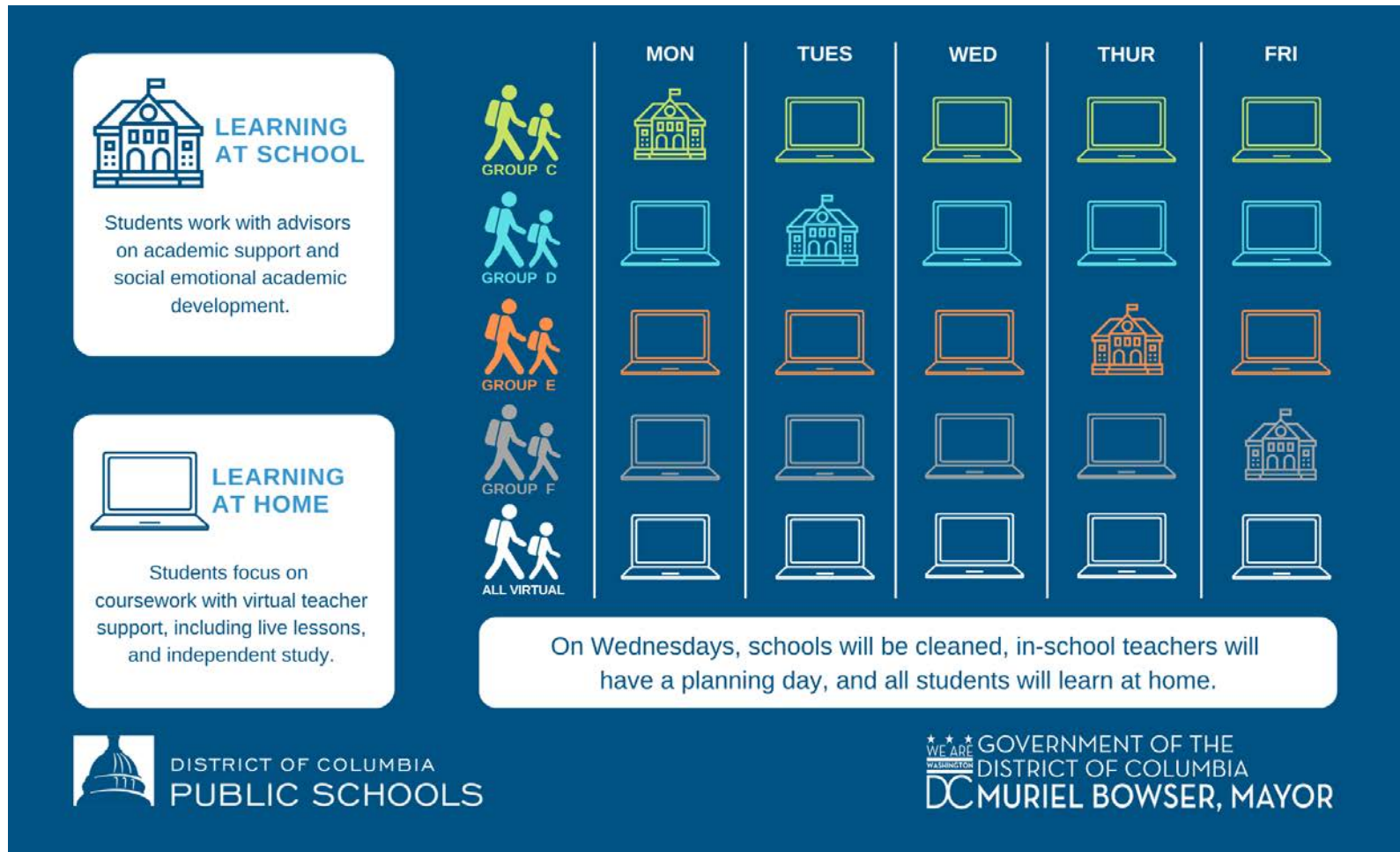
WE ARE WASHINGTON
GOVERNMENT OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DC MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

**All virtual instruction is not currently an option for PK families.*

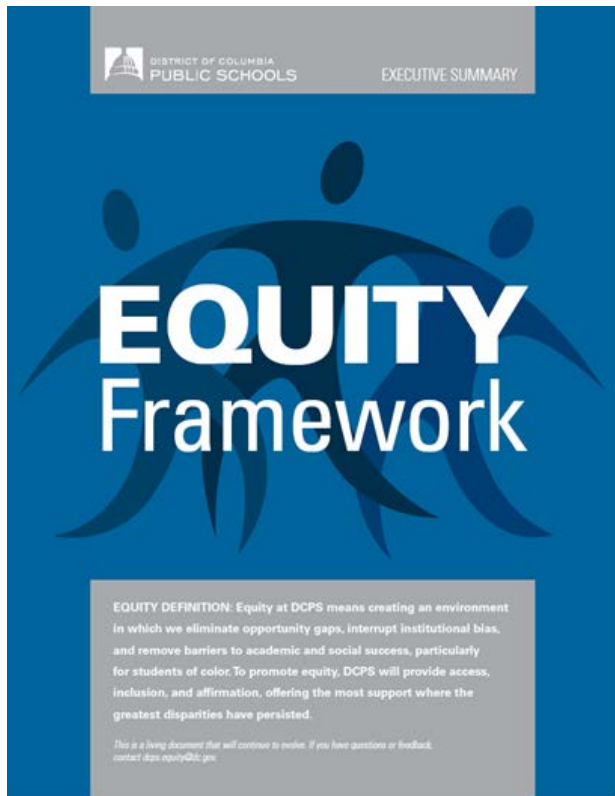
Principle #2: Maximizing Learning Opportunities

Instructional Options for Grades 6-12

To Be Determined (July 31)



Principle #3: Promoting Equity by ensuring every student has the supplies and supports they need for a safe return to learning.



In alignment with our Equity Framework, our proposed approach ensures all students will:

1. Learn from a supportive teacher in synchronous settings.
2. Access rigorous and joyful learning opportunities.
3. Have access to the technology they need to learn in a hybrid or remote setting.

As we plan for next year, we are focusing on ensuring course content is outstanding for both students learning at home and at school. This means that we are making plans for course content to be coordinated and delivered in person and virtually to ensure seamless delivery for all students.

Principle #3: Promoting Equity by ensuring every family who needs technology and support to complete learning at home has it.

Our goal is to ensure that families have the technology, training, and support needed to navigate virtual learning.



- ✓ **Devices** for students who do not have access at home



- ✓ **Live training** for families on how to navigate virtual learning platforms via Parent University
- ✓ **Live training** and self-paced courses on Canvas during pre-service week for teachers and staff



- ✓ **Direct technical support** through a DCPS family-facing call center for issues related to devices (launching fall 2020)
- ✓ **Increased technical support** for DCPS schools and staff

Principle #3: Promoting Equity through the Empowered Learners Initiative – DCPS is providing devices to support virtual learning.



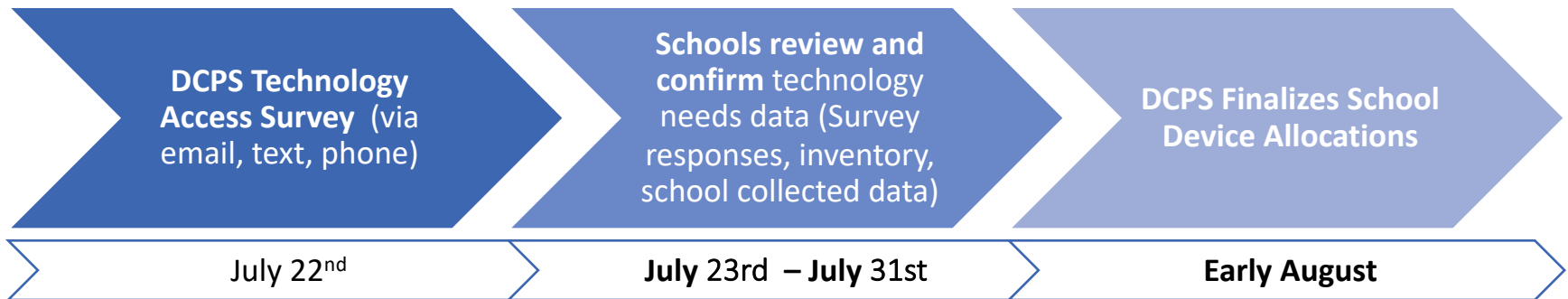
- ✓ The Empowered Learners Initiative (ELi) is a comprehensive, three-year commitment to close the digital divide and empower every learner through technology.
- ✓ DCPS launched ELi in SY2019-20 and used these devices to support learning at home.
- ✓ For SY2020-21, DCPS is investing to ensure that all students in need have access to a device and internet to support learning at home.
- ✓ DCPS is committed to achieving 1:1 across all schools once we return to fully in-person instruction but is shifting to allocating devices based on need in the upcoming year.

Principle #3: Promoting Equity by shifting to LTE-enabled devices to streamline device and internet supports.

	Devices	Internet
SY 19-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ELi Devices • Other laptops in school inventory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hotspots with unlimited data plan
SY 20-21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New! ELi devices (LTE Enabled) • SY19-20 ELi Devices (Microsoft Surface Go) • Other laptops in school inventory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hotspots with unlimited data plans per month (distributed with devices that are not LTE Enabled)

Based on projections, if 40% of students in grades K-12 need a device, we will need approximately **36,000 devices** to meet our needs (including maintaining a 3:1 student to device ratio in schools), and we will have those devices ready.

Principle #3: Promoting Equity by surveying all families on devices needs to support school distribution.



We will ask all families to complete a **“Technology Access Survey”** to let us know about their technology needs.

The Technology Survey asks:

- *Does your student have access to a device for learning at home?*
- *Is the device dedicated or shared?*
- *Does your student have access to reliable high-speed internet connectivity at home?*

Timeline of Next Steps

Other Questions?

Please add your questions to the chat and we will work to address them today or in upcoming communications.

Upcoming Key Dates:

- **July 22 and 23:** Family Townhalls on Reopening
- **July 20 – 24:** New AP Orientation
- **August 3 – 6:** Summer Leadership Institute
- **August 10 – 11:** OCOO Institute
- **August 10 – 20:** Summer Bridge (Virtual)
- **August 19:** New Employee Orientation
- **August 24 – 28:** Pre-Service
- **August 31:** Students' First Day of School
- **August – September:** Reopen Strong Strand for Parent University

Where can I find more information?

In order to streamline communications and ensure timely updates...

DCPS will launch a new Reopen Strong Website!

