



Executive Summary

Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly disrupted multiple facets of everyday life. Public education has been no exception. ConVal School District has worked to respond to the evolving circumstances surrounding the pandemic by consistently being aware of the present context of public health in the District, State, and Country and planning, revising, and implementing adaptive school programming.

The planning for the 2020-21 school year, even though we learned a lot from our previous experience, is significantly more complex and far reaching. No longer are we confined to a few months of disruption, we must now look to long-term solutions based on multiple reopening phased scenarios.

This reopening process began before the 2019-20 school year ended. Then, starting June 1st, all staff participated in a ten day evaluation of the remote learning experience and how we must address the future, knowing that it is critically important to develop flexible strategies that can be revised and adapted depending on the level of viral transmission throughout the community.

To address these scenarios, ConVal administration has developed a comprehensive and detailed approach involving over 110 individuals representing internal and external stakeholders formed into a multi-faceted committee structure as follows:

- Governance/Steering
- Wellness
- Instruction
- School Operations
- Technology
- Facilities

The result of this work is presented in the guiding document, the ConVal Reopening Framework. The following is an executive summary of the [ConVal Reopening Framework](#).

Purpose of the Reopening Framework

Our Framework provides guidance for a strategic and phased approach that is scalable and can be used to guide the detailed plans that will be necessary to reopen our ConVal schools. While there are significant amounts of school operation information that must be reviewed and planned, it is important that our Framework clearly considers the intersection between public education and public health. This Framework, based upon the guiding beliefs noted below, has been developed as a planning tool and is designed to be fluid between the identified phases of reopening in the key areas of Wellness, Instruction, School Operations, Technology and Facilities.

Guiding Beliefs

- Safety first – the safety of our students, faculty, and community is our highest priority.
- An in person learning environment is preferable for most students and families.
- Schools play a critical role in supporting students’ academic, social, and emotional growth.
- This Reopening Framework must support educational equity for all students.
- This Framework needs to be fluid. The ConVal Framework for Reopening acknowledges that it may be necessary to progress or regress through the Phases as public health conditions change.
- Any remote instruction will focus on providing students with learning opportunities, excellent instruction and the purposeful use of technology.
- Reopening schools is an important factor to support economic recovery because it will facilitate parents returning to work.
- The ConVal Framework for Reopening will establish precautionary measures to minimize exposure where possible using scientifically supported guidelines.
- During the pandemic, we will adjust class sizes and the use of all school buildings and district facilities to support the overall health and well being of students, staff, and the community.
- Reopening decisions and movement between phases in this Framework will be based on epidemiological data and guided by public health officials and local emergency management partners.
- This Reopening Framework must support the personalization of learning for all students.
- The plans for reopening need to be developed so that they can be operationalized within the limitations of the current pandemic.
- The plan will include maximizing grant opportunities and federal and state funding resources.
- ConVal will use this opportunity to reenvision and implement an improved model for providing the children in our communities a robust PK-12 public education.
- Educational services will be consistent with the values and expectations of our stakeholders (students, families, staff, community members and partners.)
- It is imperative that we retain our present student enrollment and this must be a priority.
- Stakeholders will be engaged in the process when and as appropriate through surveys and feedback opportunities.

Phases Defined

The phases are not a step by step progression, but instead are responsive phases that we can move in and out of based on public health guidance and circumstances particular to the ConVal School District, the Southwest Region, and the State of New Hampshire.

<p>Phase 1 – Significant Restrictions (Fully or mostly remote instruction)</p>	<p>Phase 2 – Restrictions (Combination of remote and on-site instruction)</p>	<p>Phase 3 – Limited Restrictions (Fully on-site with safety precautions in place)</p>
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Governance/Steering

The Governance/Steering committee is responsible for overseeing the development of the Reopening Framework, communicating the Framework, being sure that the Framework is integrated, complete, and aligns with the guiding principles, as well as articulating a vision of what school may look like at each phase. Additionally, the Governance/Steering Committee is responsible to gather information from stakeholders and oversee and guide the work of the other committees.

The Governance/Steering Committee portion of the plan addresses several topic areas specifically related to the oversight, integration, communication, and alignment of the overall Reopening Framework.

- Articulate a vision of what school may look like for each phase.
- Assess necessary additional capacity.
- Determine stakeholder expectations.
- Communicate the Reopening Framework.
- Ensure the establishment of a COVID-19 Reopening Committee at each school level to operationalize the Reopening Framework.
- Develop a Reopening Communications Plan.
- Work with the NEA/CVEA on contract implications for the implementation of the Reopening Framework.

Wellness

The Conval School District is dedicated to helping students, parents and staff safely return to school. Through planning and considering interventions, the school district will be prepared to address a wide range of mental health and social emotional wellness needs of children and staff when we reopen. The collaboration with community support and organizations is essential to provide the students, parents and staff with the tools necessary to offer the additional support that will be needed. Staff professional development will be provided to focus on the key topics identified in the Wellness section of the Guidance Document.

The Wellness portion of the plan addresses several topic areas specifically related to student and staff wellness.

- Continue the Social Emotional Learning curriculum integration into the instruction at all levels.
- Review and develop resources that may need to be increased in the areas of school counseling and nursing.
- Establish a District level crisis response team to support students, staff and families to deliver resources and support to those in need.
- Partner with community based organizations (Mental Health, Family Resource Center, Grapevine, etc) to provide information and referral to resources, therapy and educational support.
- Determine staff readiness to return and implement resources as well as training and support that needed to develop building level support groups for staff.
- Provide resources to families in the areas of social emotional learning, resilience, trauma, COVID-19 tips, returning protocols and other communications that are necessary.

- Provide educational series to middle and high school students, staff and families that include the films *Angst, Like, Upstanders*; provided by Webinar with a live panel discussion.
- Identify the requirements and best practices regarding COVID-19 related issues and follow the established protocols to monitor and respond to the health needs of students and staff.

Instruction

The Conval School District is dedicated to helping students, parents and staff safely return to school. Our goal is to ensure that every student is on track for success academically, socially and emotionally by the end of the 2022 school year. Through planning and considering priority standards as well as developing a system of support at all phases of instruction, the District will ensure success for all.

The Instruction Committee portion of the plan addresses several topic areas specifically related to remote and in person instruction:

- Provide an Education Delivery Model that allows for both in person, remote instruction and learning at each school level. The model allows for flexible movement from in-person to remote instruction/learning as circumstances require. When developing the model, key actions and considerations include but are not limited to:
 - Identify priority standards for each level for all models.
 - Ensure that schools and teachers are engaging in intentional curriculum planning and documentation, inclusive of curriculum maps, pacing plans and calendars, and lesson plans to ensure continuity of instruction.
 - Create a schedule that ensures effective instruction that is developmentally appropriate and ensures mastery of standards.
 - Utilize staff intentionally and efficiently.
 - Provide options when the model is not effective for individual students.
- Based on communication and feedback from staff, students, families, community members and partners, ongoing training and support will be provided (e.g. online platform training.)
- Ensure coverage for both short- and long-term staff absences.
- Determine how classes and courses offerings may be impacted by the educational delivery models identified in each of the phases.
- Develop expectations around attendance, grading, and healthy hygiene.
- Develop a process for schools to create and implement individualized plans for each student based on their needs.
- Develop a plan for assessing students' learning progress and loss when students return that includes multiple forms of assessment (e.g. diagnostics, formative assessments, student work, conferences, advisories, and parent feedback.)
- Connect and coordinate with NH DOE about changes to testing, grading, report cards, promotion policies, and outline decision points.
- Assess the capacity of structures outside of the regular school day, such as summer learning options, extended day, and after school programming to potentially be leveraged to support students in need of learning recovery.

School Operations

The School Operations Committee was responsible for looking at typical school procedures and protocols that we may have to update and/or change in order to support best practice at each phase of reopening related to attendance, hiring practices, transportation and schedules and will make recommendations about reallocation of resources based on necessary changes. Additionally, school operations will interface with our municipal insurer and legal counsel regarding our implementation plans related to the following key areas:

- Provide breakfast and lunch options to all students.
- Develop protocols for sharing and ordering of classroom supplies, materials, technology and food service items.
- Maximize and maintain existing before- and after-school programs.
- Provide guidance for the consistent grouping of students and staff to enable contact tracing in accordance with CDC and privacy guidelines.
- Screening, personal protective equipment and hygiene protocols in place for all staff, students, service providers and visitors.
- Establish protocols for athletics and co-curricular activities.
- Update staff and student handbooks to support identified expectations.
- Establish student transportation safety guidelines and procedures.

Technology

The Technology Committee focus was on providing students, families, and staff with the technology tools and training to be successful in creating a safe and effective learning environment both virtually and in person. The committee used feedback from staff and families to identify hardware, software, and training needed to increase our capacity to implement, access, and support remote learning. The committee will continue to identify tools and training needed to connect the in-person and remote learning.

The Technology portion of the plan addresses several topic areas specifically related to student, staff, and family technology use:

- Device availability to support remote learning – expanded device program for families without dedicated student devices – evaluate the need to support families with limited internet connectivity.
- Identify specialized software and equipment that cannot be accessed from home or via Chromebook.
- Remote support to be expanded within remote instruction or a hybrid model.
- Develop protocols to safely use shared technology – copy machines, printers, time clocks, intercoms, phones, etc.
- Technology training for staff, students, and parents.
- Identifying needs of assistive technology.
- Develop virtual social expectations for teachers and students.
- Identify teachers/staff that can provide tech coaching/help to other teachers.
- Determining common technology platforms to be used and provide training for all stakeholders.

Facilities

The Facilities Committee reviewed our current practices to provide clear guidance for maintaining high air quality, as well as a safe sanitized environment for our students and staff. The Facilities group has also made recommendations for use of our campuses, including procedures for entering buildings and how students move and access space inside the buildings. The Facilities group will continue to guide these processes through the changes that may occur based on recommendations at the Federal and State level.

- Develop and communicate a process to ensure safe access and use of buildings and fields.
- Review and strengthen current sanitization and cleaning schedules.
- Identify structural enhancement needs such as plexiglass barriers, isolation rooms, hand sanitizing stations and signage for use of water bubblers/ bottle fillers and bathrooms.
- Review current practices for HVAC maintenance and air circulation and identify which systems are digitally controlled and can be easily adjusted for maximum benefit and air quality.
- Identify a higher quality filter to use on HVAC and an air purifier system to implement.
- Make recommendations on the flow of traffic in parking lots and foot traffic within buildings.