



# **Planning and Priorities Committee (Special Meeting)**

## **Report No. 11**

PPC:012A

Friday, May 7, 2021

Electronic Meeting

**Members Present** Trustees Alexander Brown (Chair), Michelle Aarts, Rachel Chernos Lin, Stephanie Donaldson, Trixie Doyle, Parthi Kandavel, Shelley Laskin, James Li, Dan MacLean, Christopher Mammoliti, Chris Moise, Patrick Nunziata, Zakir Patel, Robin Pilkey, Yalini Rajakulasingam, David Smith, Anu Sriskandarajah, Jennifer Story, Chris Tonks and Manna Wong.

**Regrets** Trustees Harpreet Gill and Alexander Lulka

Trustees participated by electronic means in accordance with [amendments to Section 7 of Ontario Regulations 463/97, Electronic Meetings](#)

### **PART A: Committee Recommendations**

No matters to report

### **PART B: Information Only**

#### **1. Call to Order and Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands**

A special meeting of the Planning and Priorities Committee was convened electronically on Friday, May 7, 2021 from 4 to 7:42 p.m. with Alexander Brown presiding.

The purpose of the meeting was to consider a presentation from staff on September guidance and funding announcements from the Ministry of Education and a private legal matter.

**2. Declarations of Possible Conflict of Interest**

No matters to report

**3. Delegations**

No matters to report

**4. September Guidance and Funding Announcements From the Ministry**

The Committee heard a presentation from the staff providing information on recent announcements from the Ministry of Education on the return to school in September 2021 (see attached).

**5. Resolution Into Private**

At 6:08 p.m., the meeting resolved into private to consider a private legal matter.

**6. Adjournment**

On motion of Trustee Kandavel, seconded by Trustee Pilkey, the meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

**PART C: Ongoing Matters**

No matters to report

Submitted by: Alexander Brown, Committee Chair

## Agenda

- Ministry Direction for Planning (2021-22)
  - Highlights
  - Elementary and Secondary In-Person
  - Health and Safety
- GSNs and Staffing (2021-22)
- COVID Outbreak Maps
- Mental Health, Well-being and Re-engagement
- Learning Recovery and Renewal
- Selection Form for In-Person or Virtual Learning (2021-22)
- Student Loaned Device Retrieval Strategy
- Next Steps



## Ministry Direction: Highlights

- Continue to offer remote learning options consistent with PPM 164 (Requirements for Remote Learning)
- School boards to delay deadline for parents to indicate either in-person or remote to June 1, 2021 at the earliest
- Students will continue to be supplied devices to access remote learning
- Local school board public health guidance to be followed





## Ministry Direction: Elementary In-Person

- Cohorting of classes to continue
- Specialized teachers, such as French, are still allowed to support multiple classrooms to provide educational programming to students
- Students may be pulled into smaller groups for supports and/or programs based on local health advice



## Ministry Direction: Secondary In-Person

- Cohorting of students to continue to limit number of student to student interactions
- Limit of two classes per day when possible
- Planning for pivoting to fully remote must be planned for



# Equity Focus

- \$6.45M province-wide to support equity initiatives (TDSB's portion of this allocation to be confirmed at a later date)
- Commitment to support equity initiatives, focused on Black, Indigenous, racialized students and underserved communities
- Continued focus on ensuring equitable distribution of staff and financial resources to support our most marginalized learners and communities
- Engage with Indigenous education partners to improve access to equitable, culturally appropriate and culturally safe education for all Indigenous students



## Ministry Direction: Health and Safety

Full health and safety guidance will be released this summer, including:

- Masking
- Cohorting for clubs and other extracurriculars
- Daily Health Screening
- Timeline for returning to full classes in secondary



## **GSNs and Staffing (2021-22)**

Ministry announced funding in the following areas:

- Staffing
- School Operations
- Transportation
- Special Education Supports
- Mental Health and Well-being Supports
- Re-engaging Students and Reading Assessment Supports
- Technology
- ESL Newcomer Supplement

A complete report and financial impact for TDSB will be presented at the May 12 FBEC meeting where additional funding supports (PPF) will be outlined in detail.



## **GSNs and Staffing (2021-22)**

The Ministry of Education has instructed school boards only to budget ½ of the following allocations and will inform school boards in the fall if the balance of the allocation is to be planned for based on the status of the pandemic.

### **Staffing**

- Total TDSB allocation \$31.5M (budget for first ½ year \$15.75M)
- To support staffing in the areas of teaching and classroom support staff, caretaking and school administration

### **School Operations**

- Total TDSB allocation \$3.72M (budget for first ½ year \$1.86M)
- To support increased utility costs of running ventilation and changing of filters more frequently



## **GSNs and Staffing (2021-22)**

### **Transportation**

- Total TDSB allocation \$3.95M (budget for first ½ year \$1.98M)
- To support enhanced cleaning, PPE and staff costs for additional time or drivers

### **Special Education Supports**

- Total TDSB allocation \$1.09M (budget for first ½ year \$0.55M)
- To support additional staffing, learning resources and professional development

### **Mental Health and Well-being Supports**

- Total TDSB allocation \$1.23M (budget for first ½ year \$0.62M)
- To support additional staffing, training and resources





## GSNs and Staffing (2021-22)

The Ministry of Education has informed school boards that the following allocations are to be budgeted for the full year.

### Re-engaging Students and Reading Assessment Supports

- Total TDSB allocation \$2.21M
- To support school boards customized plans to support students including Black, Indigenous, special education, socially and economically challenged, and those disproportionately impacted by the pandemic

### Technology

- Total TDSB allocation \$1.7M - permanent increase to GSN
- To support replacement and purchase of devices for students

### ESL Newcomer Supplement

- Total TDSB allocation \$25M
- To provide support to programs as a result of decline in newcomer enrolment during the pandemic





## **GSNs and Staffing (2021-22)**

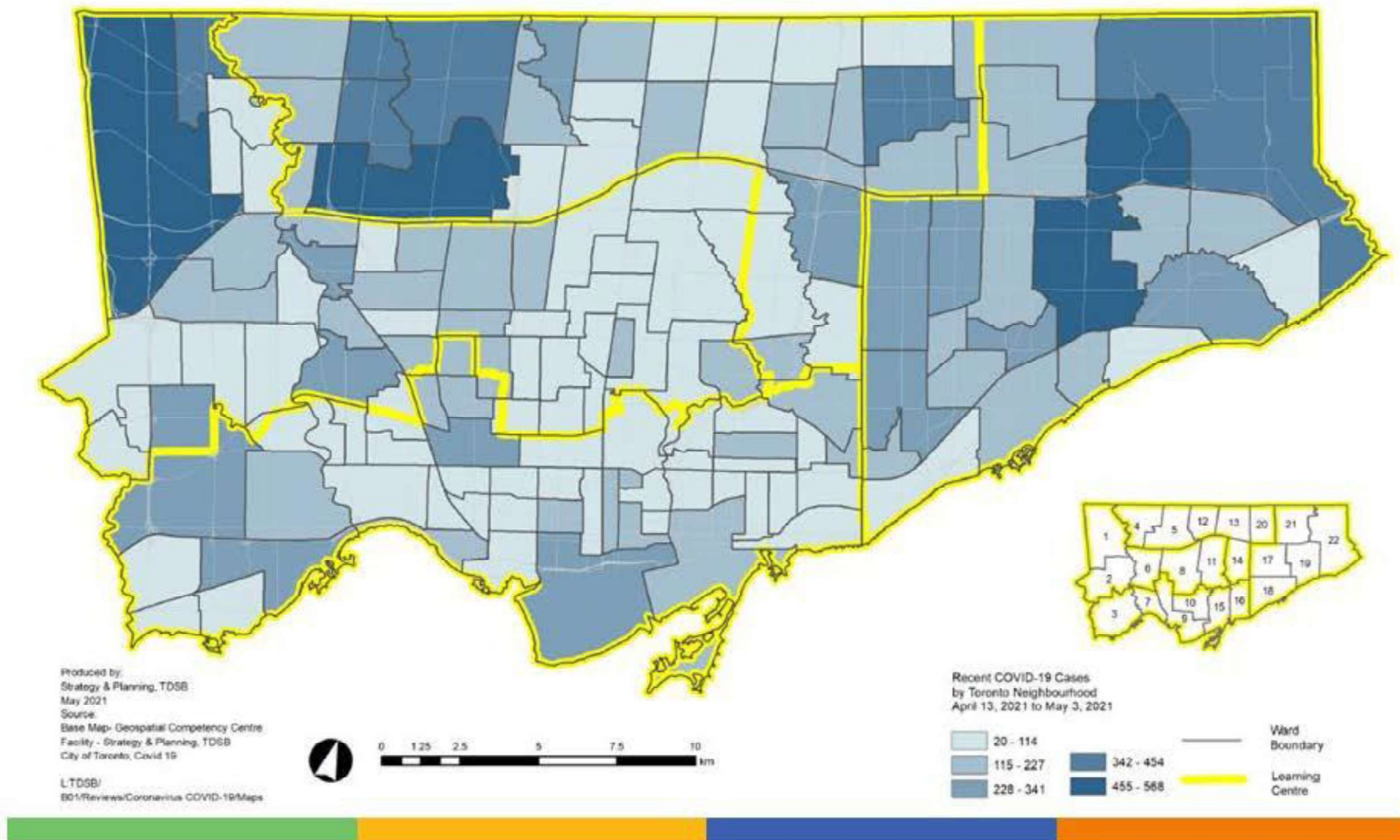
### **Change in Funding for Secondary Teachers**

#### **Online Learning**

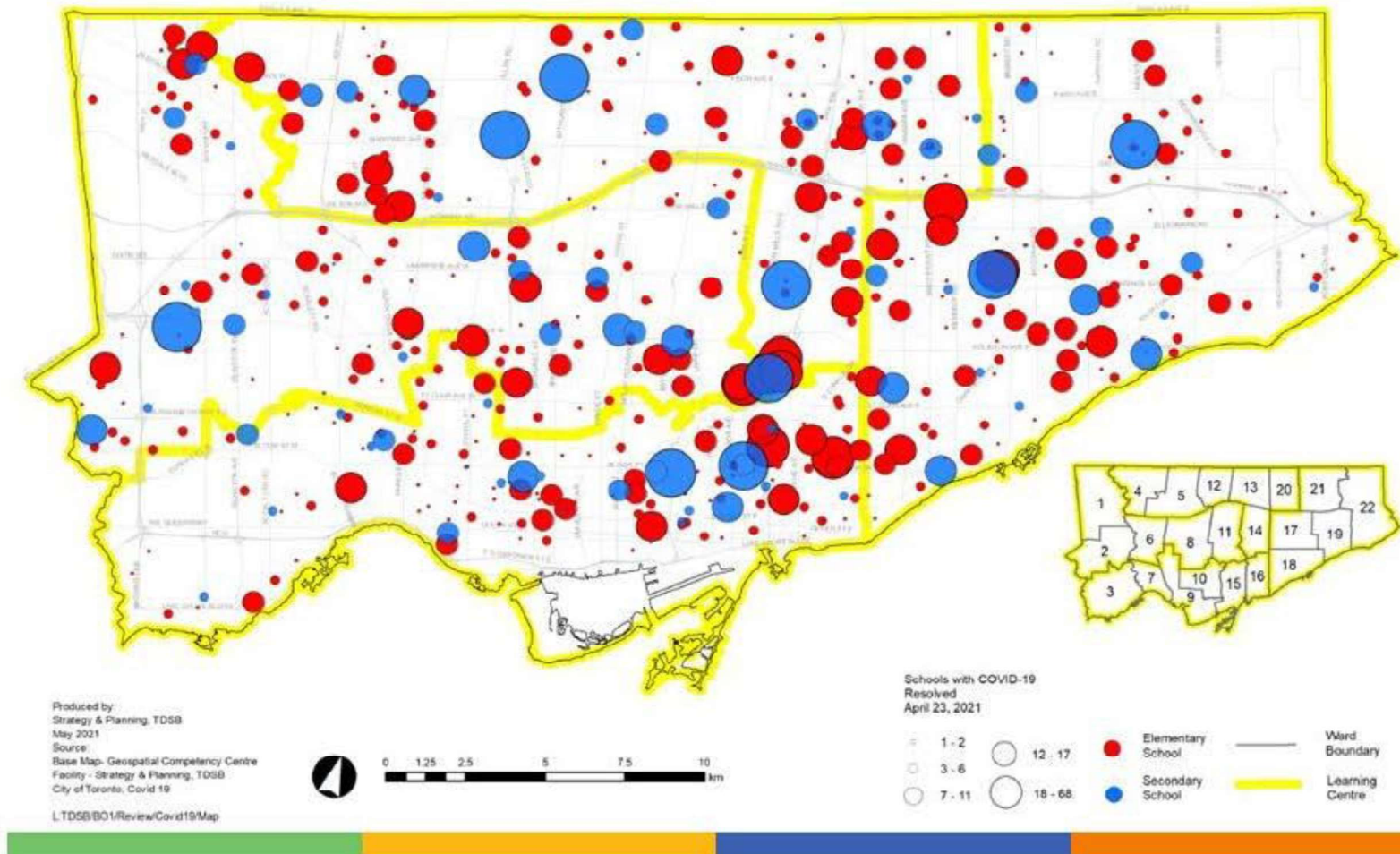
- Based on Ministry direction that students starting Grade 9 in 2020-21 will be required to earn two credits online as part of the graduation requirements
- Ministry has updated the funding methodology for online courses by adjusting benchmark funding for classroom teachers
- Beginning in 2021-22 funding will assume 8% of secondary students will take online courses which will grow to 16% in 2022-23 and 26% in 2023-24
- The impact of this is a funding reduction of approximately \$2.9M or 26 teachers for 2021-22



# COVID Cases by Neighbourhood Since the April Break April 13, 2021 to May 3, 2021 From City of Toronto's COVID Website



**Cumulative Resolved COVID Cases in Schools**  
**November 10, 2020 to April 23, 2021**  
**From TDSB's COVID Advisories Website**





## Mental Health, Well-being and Re-engagement

- Mental health support funding is similar to funding in 2020-21 at \$1.2M
- In 2020-21 TDSB received \$0.83M related to reading intervention and no funding was provided for re-engagement during this school year. For 2021-22 TDSB is projected to receive \$2.2M for both re-engagement and reading assessment support
- Spend time to develop and strengthen relationships, connections and community
- A whole school approach to student engagement through activities
- Outreach to students and families targeting those who had limited participation this year
- Professional Support Services (PSS) staff will support staff mental wellness throughout the 2021-22 school year



# **Mental Health, Well-being and Re-engagement**

## **Understanding Well-Being and Mental Health Literacy**

- Ease into school routines
- Flexible with time to support students in practicing skills to manage emotions
- Utilize PSS staff to strengthen mental health literacy for students and staff throughout the school year

## **Learning About Your Students**

- Learn about your students' emotions and feelings about being back in school, fears and apprehensions
- Focus on assets and strengths of the students
- Mindfulness activities as we anticipate students may feel fatigued and worried about schooling



# **Mental Health, Well-being and Re-engagement**

## **Teaching and Learning**

- Re-establish routines/class structures
- Be patient and re-iterate routines/expectations often
- Re-assure students/caregivers you will support any concerns with gaps in learning/schooling

## **Partner with Support Staff/Community**

- Collaborate with Professional Support Services staff and community partners to continue supporting well-being in classrooms and school communities



## **Learning Recovery and Renewal Early Development Instrument (EDI)**

In 2021-22, Early Development Instrument implementation will resume:

- The EDI is a short questionnaire completed by kindergarten teachers across Canada and internationally which measures children's ability to meet age appropriate developmental expectations
- The EDI has been collected across the province in three-year cycles
- In the previous school year, EDI was postponed and in 2021-22, the EDI will be implemented in the winter of 2022 in all Kindergarten classes across the province



## Learning Recovery and Renewal EQAO Assessments

In 2021-22, regular EQAO assessments will resume, with the following adaptations:

- All students in Grade 3 and 6 attending in-person learning will participate in the online EQAO math, reading, and writing assessments.
- All students enrolled in Grade 9 math attending learning in-person will write the Grade 9 math assessment. Results of this assessment may count towards up to 10% of the student's final mark.





## **Learning Recovery and Renewal**

### **Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)**

- Students graduating in the 2021-22 school year are exempted from the literacy graduation requirement
- The literacy graduation requirement will be restored for students graduating in the 2022-23 school year
- Students in Grades 10 and 11 and non-graduating students, including those who are learning virtually, are required to work towards the literacy graduation requirement
- EQAO will provide a Fall 2021 administration of the OSSLT in addition to a Spring 2022 administration



## **Learning Recovery and Renewal**

### **Online Learning Graduation Requirement**

- As announced in November 2019, it is planned that, starting with the Grade 9 cohort for the 2020-21 school year, students will be required to earn two credits online as part of the graduation requirements of the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). While online courses will be a mandatory graduation requirement, exemptions may be made for students on an individual basis.
- Further information will be provided regarding the opt-out process as well as the extent to which credits earned during virtual learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic can be counted toward the online learning graduation requirement



## **Learning Recovery and Renewal**

### **Community Involvement Graduation Requirement**

- In 2021-22, the required number of hours for community involvement activities will be reduced from 40 to a minimum of 20 hours for graduating students. This is consistent with changes made in the 2020-21 school year.
- The community involvement graduation requirement of 40 hours will be restored in 2022-23
- At the principal's discretion, additional activities have been deemed eligible for all secondary students for their community involvement activities in the 2021-22 school year including duties normally performed at home, up to 10 hours of paid work and activities that may take place during instructional time



## Learning Recovery and Renewal Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting

- *Growing Success: Assessment, Evaluation, and Reporting in Ontario Schools, 2010*, provides that thirty per cent of the final grade for secondary courses is based on a final evaluation administered at or towards the end of the course.
- For 2021-22, school boards will continue to have flexibility to determine final evaluation for up to 30% of a student's final mark.
- Final evaluations are based on evidence from one, or a combination of, the following: an examination, a performance, an essay, and/or another method of evaluation suitable to the course content.



## Learning Recovery and Renewal Numeracy Assessment and Support

- Math Strategy funding for the 2021-22 school year has been released to support student performance in mathematics, educators in implementing the new Grades 1-8 Mathematics Curriculum and begin the process of ending early streaming of math for students in Grade 9 through the new De-streamed Grade 9 Math Course
- Plans to support curriculum implementation, training and coaching as well as educator professional learning opportunities will be finalized
- The Professional Activity (PA) days for the 2021-22 school year will include learning on mathematics





## **Learning Recovery and Renewal**

### **Support for Students With Special Education Needs**

- Special Education Grant funding for the 2021-2022 school year will support After-School Skills Development (ASSD) programs, including the purchase of resources or evidence-based programs or interventions to support learning for students with special education needs and may also be used to support summer 2021 programs.
- Funding for 2021-22 is available to school boards to support students with special education learning needs by providing additional staffing resources, additional learning resources such as assistive technology, interventions that can be used to address learning gaps, and/or professional assessments based on local needs.



## **Learning Recovery and Renewal**

### **Support for Students in ESL/ELD Programs**

- Funding to offer the same level of support to students requiring English as a Second Language/English Literacy Development (ESL/ELD) programs despite significant decreases in the number of newcomer Canadian students.
- ESL staffing will be reflective of 2019-20 newcomer numbers
- Offering of summer English Language Learner programs for 2021, as well as tutoring programs, with a clear focus on supporting engagement, well-being, literacy and numeracy development



## **Selection Form for In-Person or Virtual Learning (2021-22)**

### **Planning for September 2021: Work Underway**

#### **Elementary Plan**

- Feb/March: Transfer Grade 8 students from VS to Secondary School for September 2021
- May 3-7: 103 classes connecting to In-Person School (K-4)
- May & early June: Communication to local school (list of students in elementary VS in Kindergarten to Grade 8), students following pathway (e.g., French, optional attendance)
  - Trillium transfer back to appropriate receiving school for September 2021
  - Identify students who have never been to a school in person or only attended for limited days in 2020/2021 before transferring to VS from receiving schools

#### **Secondary Plan**

- Feb/March: Transfer students from VS to local school for September 2021 and Course Selection Completed for next year
- Year Structure (current plan): Quad 1/Quad 2/Quad 3/Quad 4





## **Selection Form for In-Person or Virtual Learning (2021-22)**

**May 17:** Communication to Parents/Guardians/  
Caregivers that Selection Form is  
coming, supported by translations

**May 25:** Selection Form sent out

**June 1:** Selection Form closes at midnight



## Selection Form for In-Person or Virtual Learning (2021-22)

TDSB requires your selection for In-Person Learning or Virtual Learning for the 2021-22 school year. We are planning for September 2021 and are seeking your input.

All students will be registered in a TDSB home school for 2021-22. In-Person Learning and Virtual Learning will be offered through home schools and/or groups of schools.

**All parents/guardians/caregivers or students (if 18 years old or older) must complete this form to indicate your selection decision for In-Person Learning OR Virtual Learning for your child or yourself in the 2021-2022 school year. This is not a survey. This is your decision for 2021-2022.**



## Selection Form for In-Person or Virtual Learning (2021-22)

Significant movement of students between In-Person Learning and Virtual Learning may create considerable disruption (including a change in teacher and classmates) to students, including students who are not changing learning models themselves. To support stability in classrooms, there will be one opportunity to request a switch between In-Person Learning and Virtual Learning.

- For Elementary students, the switch will take place for Term 2 in February, 2022. Your child's teacher and/or class may change at this time.
- For Secondary students, the switch will take place for Quad 3 in February, 2022.

If you have more than one child in a TDSB school, you will need to complete a form for each child. Please complete only one form per child.

If your response is not received by the deadline of June 1, placement will be In-Person Learning at the home school.

Further information regarding this Selection Form is available on the TDSB website.

<http://bit.ly/TDSB2021-22>



## **Selection Form for In-Person or Virtual Learning (2021-22)**

Summary of Questions included in Selection Form:

- Indicate decision around In-Person or Virtual Learning
- Provide Parent/Guardian/Caregiver Name and Email address
- Student Name, Student Number and/or OEN, Date of Birth, Name of current school, current grade
- Indicate if there is a need for a device



## Student Loaned Device Retrieval Strategy

- **75,000+** devices loaned to TDSB students for remote learning during Spring 2020 and over the course of the 2020-2021 school year
- These loaned devices need to be retrieved & returned to schools to support 2021-2022 school year programming and student needs
- Replacement costs for 75K devices
  - Chromebooks = **\$15M**,
  - iPads = **\$12.5M**
- Students attending summer school will not have to return and re-request a device.
- Devices must be returned by the first week of July
  - Cleaning, technical inspection, necessary repairs and data wiping will occur before devices are re-distributed to the schools initially borrowed from.
  - This work will be done over the summer by IT Services staff and students hired from the Focus on Youth program.



# Student Loaned Device Retrieval Strategy

## Device Return Dates

- Begin accepting device returns June 14
  - Summer School students can return their devices starting **August 23**
  - Remaining devices accepted early September
- Devices returned to schools beginning August 30
- Wrap up the returns at school level:
  - Elementary: **July 2**
  - Secondary: **July 9**



## Next Steps

- FBEC - May 12, 2021
- Regular Board - May 26, 2021





# Questions?







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