



OHIO LEGISLATIVE CHILDREN'S CAUCUS

JULY 2020

COVID-19 WEBINAR SERIES

EDUCATION EQUITY AND REOPENING OHIO'S SCHOOLS

**Welcome to the
Ohio Legislative Children's Caucus
webinar on education equity
and reopening Ohio's schools**

Opening comments from our caucus co-chair

Senator Peggy Lehner

Melissa Cropper

*Executive Director,
Ohio Federation of Teachers (OFT)*



Ohio Federation
of Teachers AFT, AFL-CIO

A Union of Professionals

Children's Caucus Presentation

Ohio Federation of Teachers

Considerations for a safe reopen

- **Containment of virus**
 - **Decline in new cases and hospitalizations for at least 14 days**
 - **Positive test rate of less than 5%**
 - **Low rate of transmission rate**
 - **Availability of testing, contact tracing, and isolation capacity in a given region**
- **Safety protocols in schools – CDC guidelines including:**
 - **6 feet social distancing**
 - **Face coverings**
 - **Soap, sanitizer, hand washing stations**
 - **Protocols for how to handle cases and space for isolation**

Federal Needs

- **HEROES ACT**

- **\$2.1B for K-12**

- **Targets money to most disadvantaged schools**
- **Allows funds to be used for PPE, infrastructure improvement, supplies, additional staffing, devices, other needs to safely reopen schools**

- **Provides funding for other resources that are critical to children and families**

- **Rental Assistance, child nutrition programs, broadband, unemployment insurance, FMAP, rural healthcare, etc.**

State Funding Needs

- **Funding – Important to note that schools were underfunded prior to COVID-19. Foundation funding formula has been frozen and an additional \$300 mill was cut creating a new baseline for this year’s budget.**
 - **Increased state funding for schools– adequate staffing (nurses, teachers, support staff, custodial staff, bus drivers, etc), devices for remote learning, PPE, cleaning supplies, etc**
 - **Estimated that it will cost approximately \$2,300 per student to safely reopen**
 - **Funding for other student needs – Remaining CARES Act money could provide for foodbank assistance, rental assistance, and utility assistance**

State Policy Needs

- **Statewide policy on when schools can provide face-to-face instruction**
- **Investment in broadband – broadband needs to be treated as a public utility**
- **Protections for workers – reasonable accommodations, guaranteed sick leave time,**
- **A commitment to equity**
- **Alignment between what our students need and how accountability is being measured**

John Richard

*Deputy Superintendent,
Ohio Department of Education*

Ohio | Department
of Education



Reopening Schools: Reset & Restart



John Richard, Ed.D.
Deputy Superintendent



Three-Prong Approach

- Reset & Restart Planning Guide (with link to Ohio Department of Health Guidance)
- Dedicated Webpage of Resources
- Networking



Important Principles

- Flexibility – no “one-size-fits-all”
- Nimbleness – plan to adjust quickly
- Meet each student where she/he is
- Support educators
- Support social, emotional and physical health needs
- Equity Focus
- Effective Communication



Challenges

- Operations and Logistics
- Equity (access in remote environment)
- High-Risk (disengaged) Students
- Educator Support



Peter Voderberg

Chief, BroadbandOhio

Ohio Development Services Agency

Ohio

**Development
Services Agency**

Questions & Answers

Moderated by our caucus co-chair, Representative Allison Russo

For legislators and legislative staff, please feel free to unmute yourselves to ask questions or share feedback.

For all other participants, please use the chat feature.

Thank you for joining today's webinar!



For more information on upcoming Ohio Legislative Children's Caucus webinars and meetings, please contact Alison Paxson at apaxson@childrensdefense.org