

## **Community, Parent, Student and Educator Reopening Demands**

Parents, Students, Community leaders and AFT Detroit requests that Superintendent Vitti meet with labor leaders, community representatives, and medical experts to discuss the districts Preparedness Plan and reopening the Detroit Public School Community School District. Collectively, here are our proposals around reopening schools in Detroit:

### **1). Develop and Implement Plan with Unions**

DPSCD must develop a Preparedness Plan in consultation with educators and their unions and collectively bargain areas of the plan that impact mandatory subjects of bargaining like health and safety!

**2). Allow for In Person instruction for some students, who have essential needs, only if Southeast Michigan is in Stage 5 of Michigan's Safe Start Plan. Only consider in-person instruction as an option for all students if Southeast Michigan is in Safe Start Stage 6.**

### **3). Rely on Public Health Officials to Review Reopening Plans and to Provide Ongoing Support.**

DPSCD must, prior to opening schools for in person learning, share their plan with and incorporate the recommendations of mutually agreed independent local medical health experts with experience in addressing child and school health issues. Consultation with experts must be ongoing.

DPSCD should support the creation of a **"School-Based Health Covid Advisory Committee."**

This committee, created by the City of Detroit, will have two subcommittees. The first subcommittee comprised of Detroit Health Department, Wayne County Health Department, local pediatricians, mental health experts, infectious disease experts and public experts to:

1. Recommend city-wide school-based health strategies including testing, contact tracking, etc.
2. Provide regular and updated advice to schools on the state of the virus and school-based protocols.
3. Review school-based plans for all districts in the city.

The second subcommittee comprised of community partners, school leaders, educators, students, parents, and after-school experts to:

- a. Recommend and coordinate city-wide education support and enrichment strategies for families and students including after school programming, in-home learning strategies, and alternative learning options to meet students' needs.

### **4). Mandatory Testing Procedures and Exposure Mitigation**

DPSCD, in conjunction with the recommendations of medical experts, must work closely with the City of Detroit's Health Department (DHD) and Wayne County Health Department to develop mandatory and regular testing protocols for staff, students and anyone who regularly enters facilities. Similarly, DPSCD must develop clear procedures for monitoring and tracking

symptoms and implement clear policies to mitigate exposure. Schools should remain closed until confirmation from the School-based Health Covid Advisory Committee recommend that the school may reopen safely.

**5). Protect Staff Health by Allowing All Employees to Opt into In-person Work**

Many employees are “high risk” or have “high risk” family members. COVID 19 has also created circumstances that may make in-person work impossible for some. The district should not require any employee to work in-person and provide alternative work options.

**6). Reduce Potential Spread by Encouraging and Supporting Those Who May Have Experienced Exposure to Stay Home**

Those who have contracted COVID 19, show symptoms, or otherwise suspect they experienced exposure, should not be docked a personal or sick day when they isolate themselves from others by staying home from work.

**7). DPSCD Should Provide Increased Compensation ( Hazard Pay) for Employees Who Opt Into In-person Work and Are Considered Essential Workers.** The district and unions should work together to define essential work and establish appropriate compensation.

**8) DPSCD Must Provide Physical Packets and Manipulatives for Parents/Families who want to Opt-Out of Online Learning but Keep Their Child(ren) Enrolled in DPSCD.**

Research continually demonstrates that exclusively online learning is particularly harmful for young children. Recognizing that during this public health crisis, some parents/families want neither in-person school nor online learning, the district must provide these physical alternatives. The district cannot penalize students who opt to engage in physical packets and manipulatives for their learning.

**9) DPSCD must not contract with private companies to outsource school services and/or staff jobs.**

**10) The city of Detroit must commit to ending tax breaks & tax incentives for development projects.** Public schools in Detroit continue to lose public funds as a result of these tax incentives. By ending these tax incentives, we can significantly increase funding for our schools.