M E M O R A N D U M

**TO: Matt McIntire, Chairman**

**Board Members**

**FROM: Matthew Turner, Superintendent**

**DATE: July 13, 2020**

**RE: Re-Opening Plan for Boone County School District**

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented our community with many complex challenges, including how we will safely educate our 21,000 students. The priority of safely and effectively educating our students must be balanced with the safety of our 3,600 employees and also the financial impact of the pandemic on jobs and our families.

After gathering initial feedback from our stakeholders, our school and district administrators have worked diligently and with great care to develop a reopening plan for the Boone County Schools. Our goal of providing a quality education for ALL our students has not changed, however, we must accomplish this task with the safety of our students and staff at the forefront of our plans. The Guidance on Safety Expectations and Best Practices for Kentucky Schools, developed by the Kentucky Departments of Public Health and Education and consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other federal and state guidance, provides guidelines for re-opening our schools for in-person instruction in August 2020 while minimizing and containing the spread of COVID-19.

Providing in-person instructional services to our students will require all students, faculty, and staff to practice social distancing, wear a face-covering or mask, conduct daily temperature checks, and assist with contact tracing. Additionally, we should all expect that returning to campus will require a shared commitment to daily hygiene practices including frequent handwashing and symptom-checking.

Trying to balance the health of students, families, and staff along with the need to return to school for the academic, social, and emotional development of our children is challenging.

We recognize that each family must make decisions based on what is best for their own family.

While we cannot eliminate risks altogether, we believe that by following the state and federal guidance listed above we can together significantly reduce the risk of potentially spreading COVID-19 on our campuses. Doing so, however, will require a shared commitment by each of us to take care of ourselves, our families, and everyone in our schools.

The Reopening proposal for consideration is:

Parents/Students will have a choice of 2 different options:

**Option 1:**  In-Person Instruction

*Students choosing In-Person Instruction will return to the building with appropriate health and safety measures for the current state of the pandemic.*

*The schedule could include:*

* *Full return to the building on a regular schedule.*
* *Return to the building on a hybrid or blended schedule that consists of in-person instruction and virtual instruction. Examples of a hybrid schedule could include an alternating day or alternating week type of in-person schedule.*
* *Full remote learning until in-person classes can resume.*

**Option 2:**Virtual Instruction

*Students choosing Virtual Instruction will not return to the building and will complete an approved curriculum remotely over the span of one semester with the support of a certified teacher and a required schedule of contacts with teachers.*

After approval from the board of education, the district will be sending detailed information to the parents/guardians on both options.  Once the parents/guardians review the two options, the district will ask for a confirmation of your choice so the logistics of these choices can be completed. The District understands the anxiety and the complications caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the closure of in-person instruction in March and we ask for your patience as we maneuver through this process. Our aim is to provide a safe learning environment with the In-Person Instruction option while offering the opportunity for a different approach with the Virtual Instruction option.

I recommend the board approve the 2020 Re-Entry Plan for the Boone County School District, as presented.