

Reopening Questions Checklist

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1. What are state requirements for social distancing on your buses? Is the distance different than the classroom, lunchroom, or hallways?
2. What is the number of bus riders for each school?
3. What is your maximum capacity for social distancing? Keep in mind your seating capacity is likely reduced by one student per seat, up to a student every other seat. The standard route bus may be anywhere from 10 to 20 students when you normally might transport 60 to 80 elementary students on the same bus.
4. Are there expectations or precautions for students that may become sick while being transported?
5. What programs are still expected to request service and which of those programs are paramount for instruction? If you have other programs and activities, what happens to those? For example, do you bring in music students (band and orchestra) early and shuttle back to their home school? Do you run shuttles for advance placement, career technical/vocational, or occupational therapy, or students in special needs classes that have partial days?
6. What is your plan for adult riders that support students and their social distance?
7. What personal protective equipment (PPE) materials will you need to protect your staff and drivers?
8. How will your drivers safely report to work?
9. Are there limitations on the number of students and staff congregating?
10. What are your state department of education guidelines for COVID?
11. Will there be any bell time changes? (If your district is expecting kids to be at school every day with the current bell times and new capacity limitations, you will not be able to meet the demand for service. The district may be asking for a staggered start for their bell times. If the district is looking at the arrivals being staggered by classroom you know you cannot achieve that level of service without running the same route at least two or three times. If you already have tiered bell times — high school, middle school, elementary, etc. — you cannot accomplish this request for staggering arrivals without a large influx of more buses and drivers.)
12. How many kids will be allowed at school at a time?
13. Who on your staff is returning or not returning?
14. If your mechanics have not been working, how many buses are past their service due dates? How many hours are needed to get the fleet compliant?
15. How many drivers need training hours?
16. Are you keeping in contact with your drivers over the summer?
17. If you do route selection each year, what does that look like?
18. What are your plans for the students that qualify for McKinney Vento and foster services and live greater distances away?
19. What precautions are you taking? Who are you involving in developing the protocols?
20. What are your cleaning protocols and frequency? Are the chemicals you plan to use approved for application in the school bus? Have you allowed for the additional time

required to apply, clean, and dry after being applied? What type of time adjustments does this mean in your routes? Have you had your cleaning or protection plan approved by the applicable agency, health department, department of education, etc.?

21. Who is offering suggestions? What is their background/credentials? Have they ever been on a bus to see if their ideas will work? Have you applied an equity lens to ensure the suggestions meet a variety of individual needs?