



# LITTLE ROCK

## SCHOOL DISTRICT

### **Bullet points from comments referenced in Supt. Mike Poore's video – 7.30.20**

We promised to follow up with you on our Ready for Learning Plan and that document will go out this afternoon.

Before we talk about the document, I want to share a couple of other things. Tomorrow is the final day that people can register who may have interested in running for LRSD's Board of Education. We have nine (9) seats that will be open and have maps on our website to understand exactly where you live in relationship to a board zone. We hope that many of you are giving consideration to serving, but in order to do so, you will need to register with the county and gather 25 signatures to be eligible to make the ballot. That has to be done this week.

Secondly, it was a momentous week for the Little Rock School District with the grand opening for Little Rock Southwest High School (LRSWHS). That's an accomplishment of which we are very proud. As soon as I came into this community people asked, "When are you going to build a school south of the interstate?" LRSWHS has everything. We ask that you visit our [Facebook page](#) to see the grand opening and photos of the school. You will also see a virtual tour of the campus. Our students participated in the event with wonderful speeches, as did community members. Our mayor was there and we had President Clinton and Governor Hutchinson give tribute to our new school, and we're very proud of it. So please check it out when you have a chance. We will also be rebroadcasting the grand opening on LRSD TV (Comcast Channel 4 and U-verse Channel 99) this weekend.

Today we are releasing the Ready for Learning plan. We have reached out to all of you and appreciate the feedback you've provided to us- in terms of giving us information and/or submitting questions: guidance about what we need to do. This included everything from safety measures to mental health support to educational delivery.

I am very proud of our plan; it is extremely comprehensive. But I also understand that someone may find fault no matter what we present. We understand that, because when you are dealing with a document that is so complex and a delivery that is so important, there are going to be people who don't necessarily agree with it

We still have two options from which parents may choose, one is a traditional in-school setting; the second is a virtual option. Parents still have the chance to make a decision on those options until August 7th. We have well over 13,000 students who have registered to indicate their choice. We need those of you who have not indicated your choice to please do so on [the survey](#).

As we've shared the plan will be fluid based on guidance we receive. We received information yesterday from the State that changed our plan, and changes could still occur in the coming weeks. The State shared that we would not be able provide a virtual delivery for pre-K. I wish that was something different but that is a decision that was made at the State level and I believe it ties into a federal funding element. It

was complex and it is what it is. We also know if the District has to ever go to an all- virtual setting, we would then be able to enact a pre-K delivery in the future.

As you review the plan, please don't hesitate to contact us if you have questions. But please do look at it, and pay particular attention to the area where we ask for support from you as parents.

We have had a lot of our PTAs ask what they can do. I want everyone to understand that this District has invested heavily in protective equipment for our students and staff – 3.5 million masks have been ordered. We have also ordered product for sanitization; not only for the immediate time that students are moving through the school - there are hand sanitizer stations everywhere - we also bought product so our custodians are equipped and ready to clean. We even bought foggers - before we were using a contracted service. Now we will have a machine in each building so we can do a thorough job of cleaning whenever it is needed. We've purchased items that will assist us with food and we're doing everything within our power to make sure we are ready to go. But we still can use extra help, and buildings have the options through their PTAs to buy additional masks. But please know that this District has purchased the equipment necessary to start the school year and we feel like we're in a good place to get that equipment and product in.

Tied to that, we've bought additional laptops, we've also bought additional laptops for every one of our teachers and we're working with community partners on a broadband solution that we hope will be available and understandable in a week or two.

So, we're not done with announcements, but you now have a structured plan that is in front of you that you can look at and refer back to. And it might evolve based on Department of Health Guidelines or from the Department of Education. Want to thank everyone again for your participation and your willingness to support us and help us - whether it was through surveys or focus groups. We've had a tremendous amount of input from a lot of different community members, student staff and parents.

Parents, you will get to begin training opportunities regarding virtual delivery from Schoology so you can understand

how you can better support your students in online learning and social emotional learning. That will be important for all of us to help us better support the emotional needs of our students during these challenging times.

Thank you for attention to this video today.