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School District

Planning for Reopening

2019-20

Goal

To develop a robust reopening plan that addresses:

1. How to reopen schools under various circumstances
2. Keep employees and students safe
3. Prepare for sudden closures
4. Create an equitable learning environment for all students

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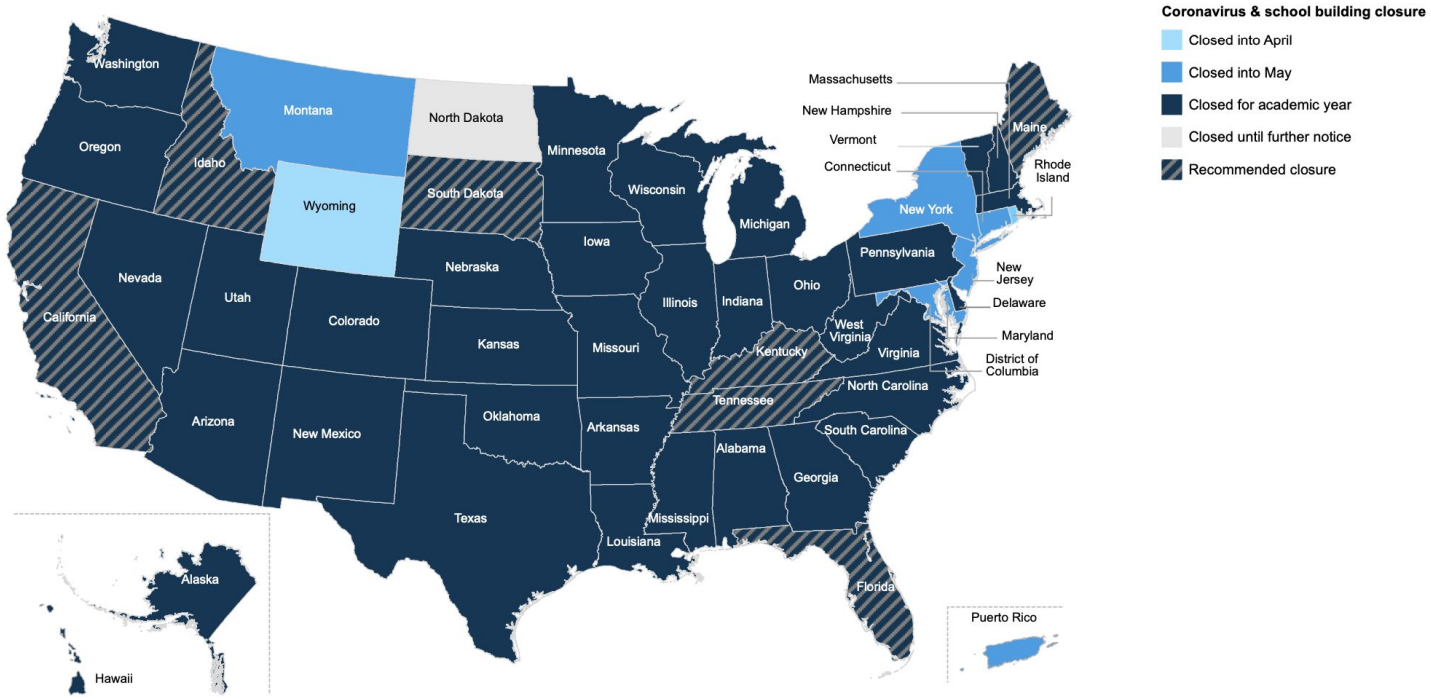
How to Adjust to Reopen Under COVID-19

Impact of COVID-19

Most of the states in the US are closed for the academic year and are planning for reopening in Fall 2020 if situation improves



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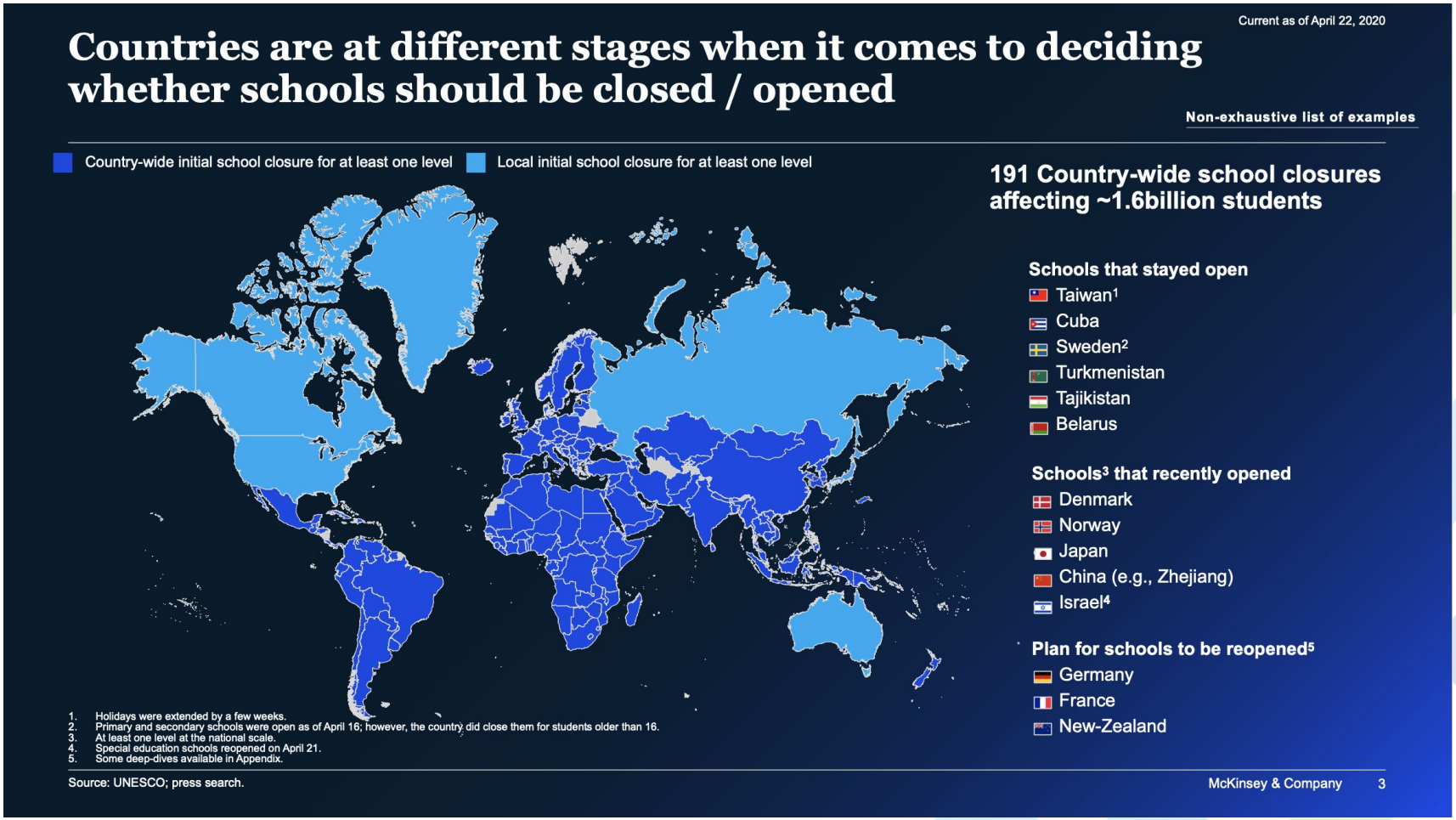
International perspective



Creating more predictability

- MVWSD, as well as other districts, need to take the lead on developing a plan of action
  - Waiting for Public Health and/or Governor will continue to create unpredictability
  - Schools provide a daily sense of normalcy; needed even more now
- Schools are mission-critical to salvaging the economy
- Our goal should be to create various scenarios by which we can operate.

What factors should be considered?

Current as of April 22, 2020

A Deciding on reopening requires weighing public health risks against economic activity, student impact and ability to safeguard

Extent and weight of risks will vary across countries and regions

Not Exhaustive

Factors	Key questions
Public health risks	To what extent can the health of students, families, staff and the general population be safeguarded while opening schools?
Criticality for economic activity	To what extent does school closure contribute to GDP loss and unemployment by preventing reopening the economy?
Impact on student learning & thriving	To what extent is student learning falling behind when schools are closed? To what extent are inequities exacerbated during school closures?
Ability to safeguard schools	To what extent are school systems ready to reopen with the right health & safety measures in place?

Considering the inputs of 3 key stakeholders

- **Parents**
- **Teachers**
- **Students**

Understanding the inherent risks…

Reopening is not a switch, we really have a continuum of options

Current as of April 22, 2020

A There is a continuum of approaches and timelines to reopen schools across different countries

Preliminary insights

Schools among the first of sectors to open → **Schools among the last of sectors to open**

Schools among the first of sectors to open		Schools among the last of sectors to open
Schools reopening considered critical to continue student learning and reopening economy and precedes all or most other sectors on reopening	Schools could reopen in parallel with other sectors; most countries following a phased approach to gradually bring selected student groups back on campus (e.g. vulnerable students, students in low-risk areas, younger students and high school students, children of "essential workers")	Schools reopening considered too risky for controlling transmission and not core to reopening economy; schools opened only after most/all of non-essential sectors

Japan and **China** have reopened most schools in low-risk areas[1] (after more than a month of closure)

Denmark and **Norway** are reopening kindergarten (and primary schools) ahead of other sectors (after ~3 weeks of closure)

German regions might reopen schools on May 4, initially for students in their final years of primary or secondary school (after ~5 weeks of closure)

France and **Switzerland** will gradually reopen starting with kindergarten and primary schools followed by secondary schools, on May 11 (after ~6-8 weeks of closure)

Spain, Italy and Greece might not reopen schools before the start of the school year in September. Other sectors of the economy will be (partially) reopened before

Colorado, Florida and **Texas** are not expected to reopen schools for the rest of the academic year whereas they have reopened hair salons, beaches and retail stores respectively

1. Japan and China are opening schools on a rolling basis – in low risk areas schools are reopened with safety protocols in place but they remain closed in high risk areas in Tokyo and Wuhan

Source: Press search - e.g., The Guardian, "Merkel announces plans to reopen schools and shops in Germany", April 15, 2020; USA Today, "US reopening: What states are relaxing social distancing restrictions and moving away from lockdowns?", April 22, 2020; Le Monde, "Comment le gouvernement envisage la réouverture des écoles : un étalement sur trois semaines, des classes de 15 élèves et un « protocole sanitaire », April 21, 2020; Washington Post, « In glimpse of life after lockdown, some countries begin to reopen schools", April 18, 2020; Financial Times, « Denmark plans to reopen primary schools", April 6, 2020.

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Getting to Reopening

Having a plan for any circumstance

- MVWSD Trustees provided direction
  - We need to be prepared for any scenario.
  - We are to use monies from the District's reserves to ensure that this plan would work within a moment's notice
  - Work with all stakeholders to vet the viability of any options

The stages of reopening...

Preliminary insights , outcomes are evolving as situation changes

A Example – What a potential path could look like

Illustrative

	Stage 4 (all schools closed)	Stage 3	Stage 2	Stage 1 (all schools open)
School closure type and instruction delivery	• All school types likely closed except (potentially) for certain narrow segments (e.g. children of critical workers) • Remote learning more likely to be provided based on local guidelines • Policies around assessments and grades to be defined	• Primary schools may reopen • Secondary schools likely closed • Blended learning could be provided, large portion of curriculum taught through remote learning	• Both primary and secondary schools could be open • Blended learning to be provided, majority of the delivery could potentially be conducted in person	• All schools open • Learning resumes in the classrooms • Best practices to be retained from remote learning phase
Activities conducted	• Strict closure could potentially reduce spread • No activities may be conducted in school except transition to remote learning	• Potentially reduced school days • Possible focus on core-curriculum classes (e.g., no gym, arts class)	• Full school days • Limited extra-curricular activities may be allowed	• Full school days • Educational activities return to normal • Based on national protocols, events to be conducted e.g. graduation, field trips
Safety & Health	• Social distancing and lockdown measures set by government	• Strict safety protocols likely to be implemented • Policies for staff, teachers and infrastructure to be put in place	• There might be a switch to less strict safety protocols • Dynamic plan likely to be required to have the agility for closedown if virus resurges	• Basic hygiene and health and safety protocols to be implemented

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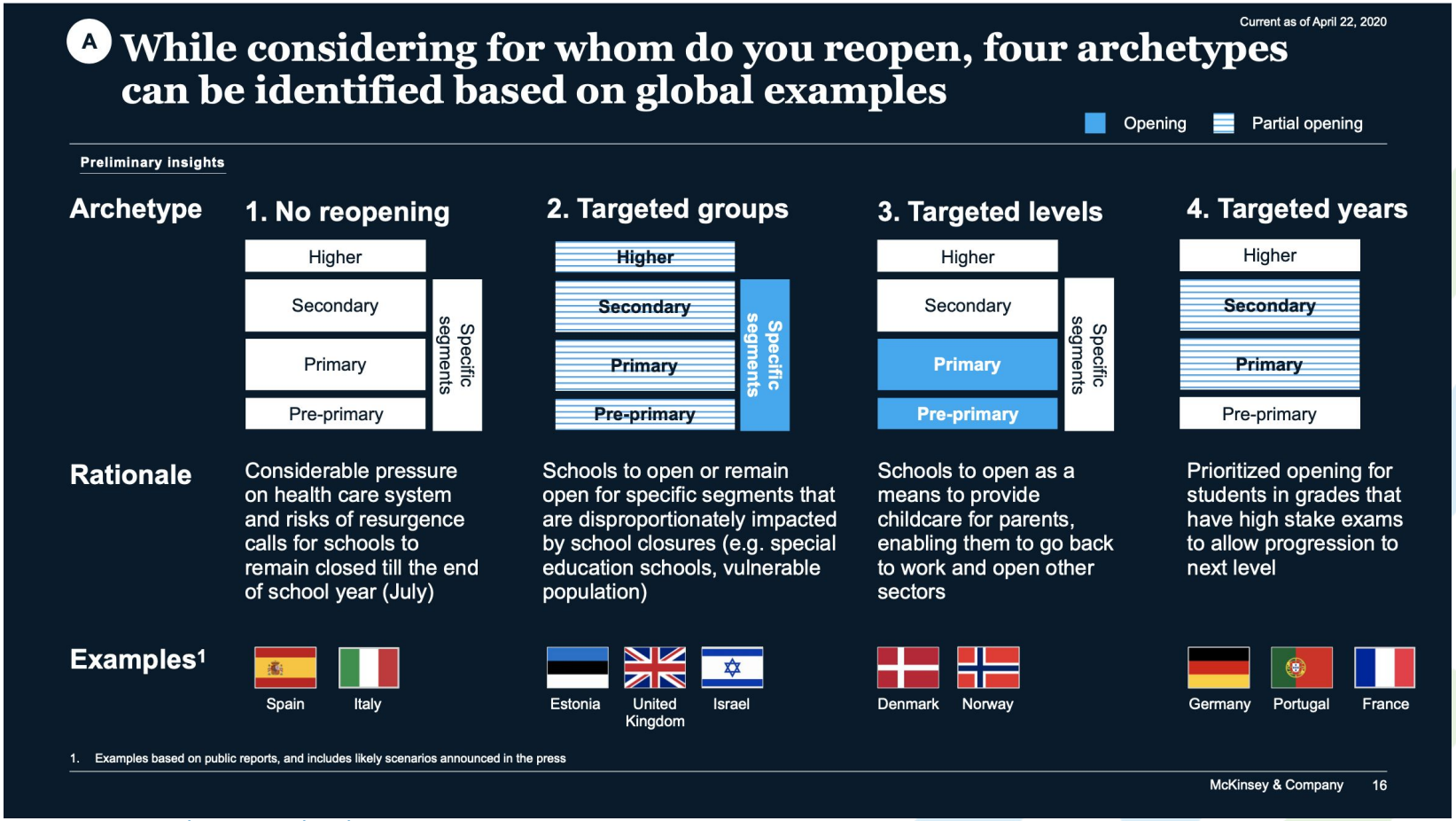
How other countries have handled reopening



MVWSD has determined that there are 13 dimensions to address to adequately execute a new approach

- Governance
- Health and Wellness
- Equity
- Curriculum
- Human Capital
  - (working conditions and professional development)
- Nutrition
- Facilities
- Operations
- Instruction
  - (remediation and differentiation)
- Resurgence plan of action
- Enrollment
- Communication
- Technology

Investigating dimension 13 - Technology

- Starting in the 2020-21 school year, MVWSD will be an at-home 1:1 environment for every student
  - This approach is already deployed in our middle schools
    - Total cost from reserves ~$1.8 million
      - Includes tech support, internet for at-risk populations, styluses for students, etc...

Investigating dimension 13 - Technology, con't …

- Going to this model will enable us to provide virtual learning at any moment
- Inherent questions
  - Will it meet the needs of all kids?
  - What PD is needed to make this fully operational?
  - How do we make sure the curriculum that we select reflects the diversity of our community?
  - What is the impact on teacher and staff working conditions?
  - What policies do MVWSD Trustees need to adopt to support this approach?

Investigating dimension 7 - Facilities

- There are more questions than answers at the moment
  - Do we install perimeter controls to limit access to schools?
    - If so do we install Thermal Cameras at entrance points as a way to screen for student(s), parent(s), community or staff members with elevated temperatures
    - Is this process amenable to our community who are used to an open campus?

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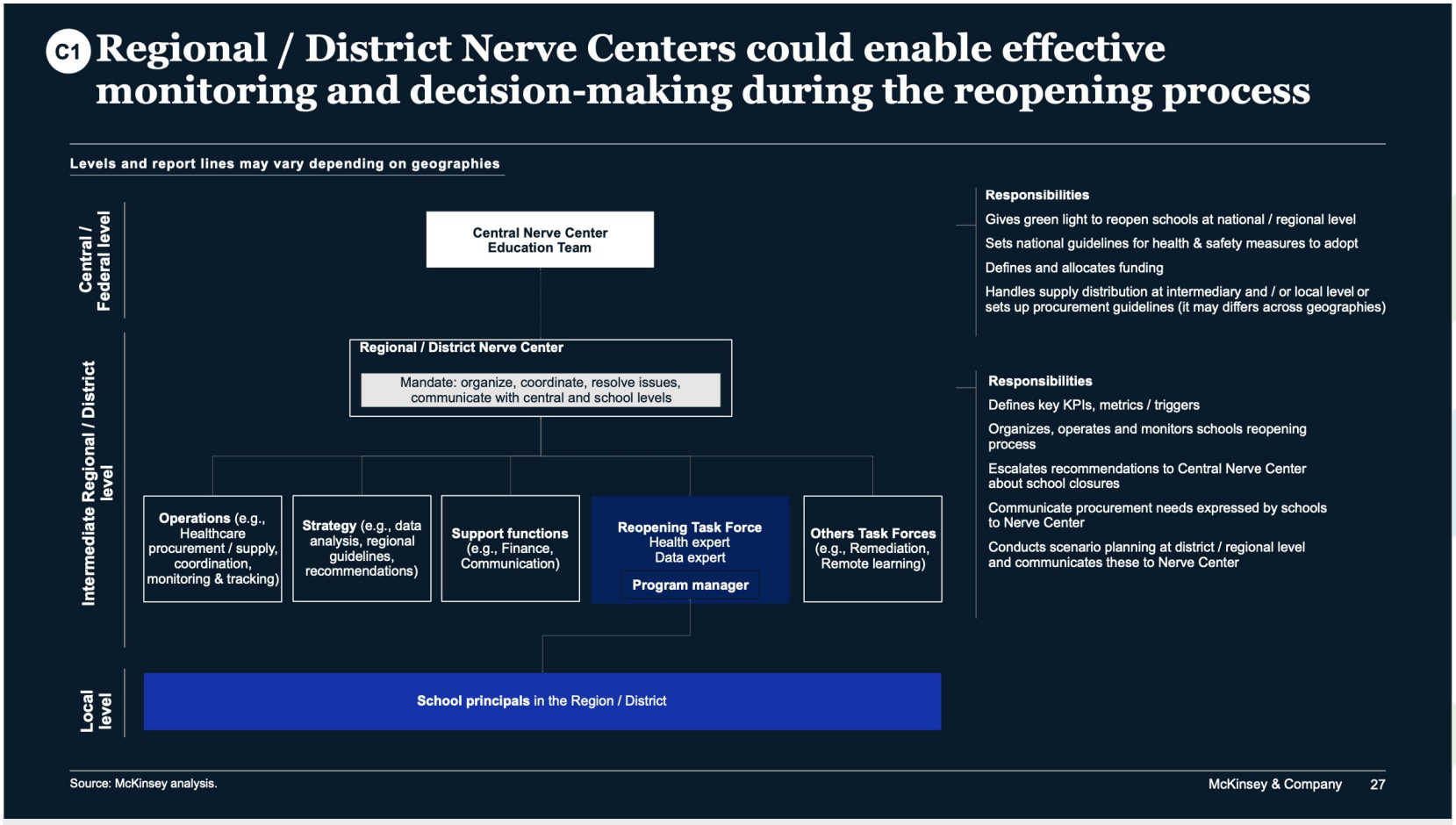
There is only one way to eat an Elephant...

Who is assigned to each dimension

- Governance - Supt
- Technology - Dir of Tech
- Equity - Supt
- Curriculum - CAO
- Human Capital - CHRO
  - (working conditions and professional development)
- Nutrition - Dir of CN
- Facilities - CBO, Supt
- Operations - Dir of MOT
- Instruction - Dir of Curriculum
  - (remediation and differentiation)
- Resurgence plan of action - District Nerve Center Team
- Enrollment - CHRO
- Communication - PIO
- Health and Wellness - Nurse, Supt

What is a District Nerve Center Team



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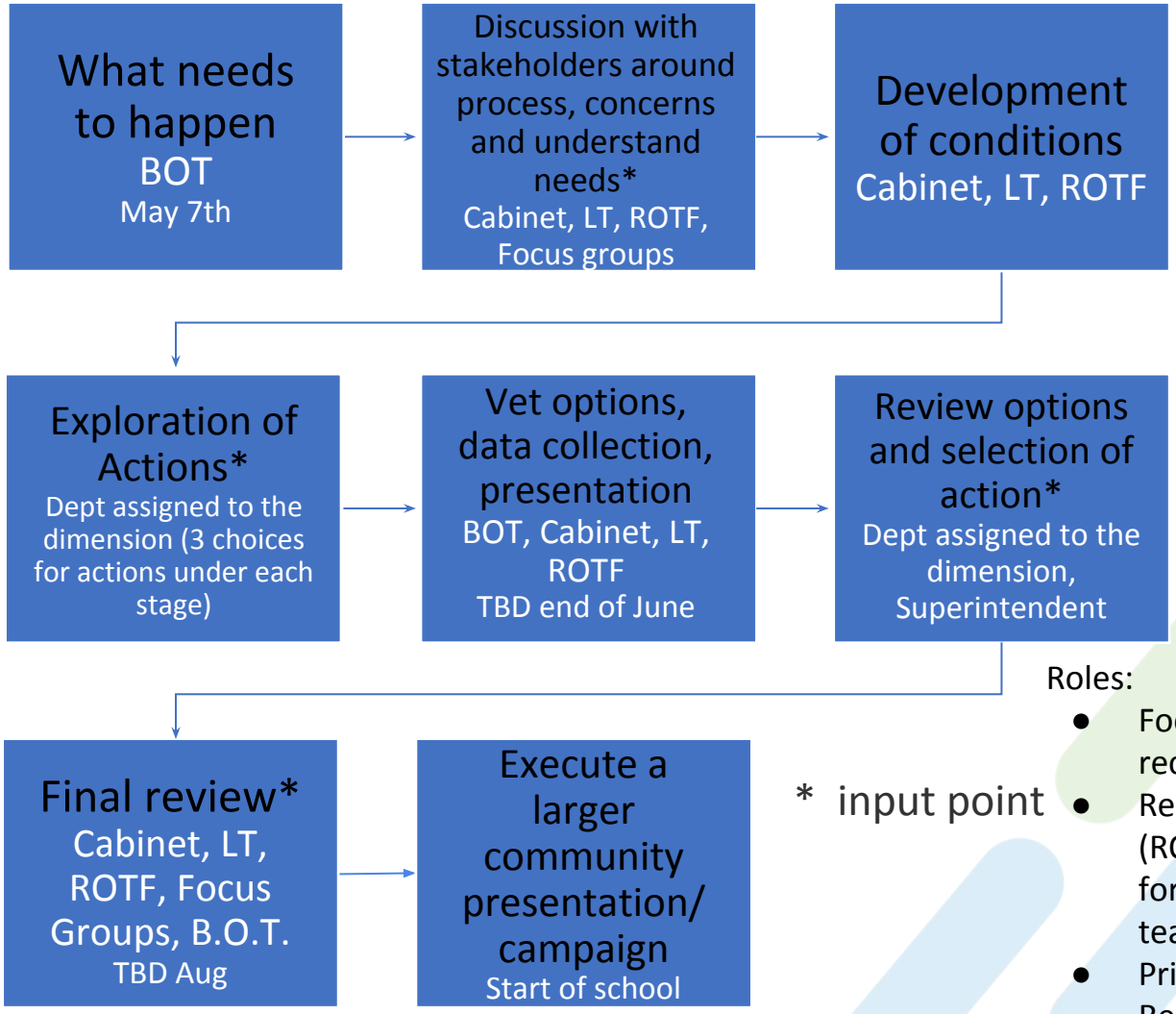
The makeup of various groups

- Focus groups - meets twice
  - 10 parents, community members, students
    - Total of 40 people
  - One focus group for each stage
    - Schools Closed
    - Targeted opening
    - Open with Restrictions
    - Full opening

Make up of various groups, con't...

- Reopening Task Force
  - Two members from each representative group
    - 2 teachers, 2 classified, 2 administrators, 1 senior team member
- District Nerve Center Team
  - Nurse, 1 teacher, 1 classified, 1 admin, CBO, CAO, CHRO, PIO, Supt

COVID-19 Planning - Multiple stakeholders algorithm



* input point

Roles:

- Focus group: Hear and record their concerns
- Reopening Task Force (ROTF): Group of reps for logistics (includes teachers and CSEA)
- Principals/Directors: Responsible for actions in their dimension

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Reopening is about continuing education, safety, and the community compromising

We will have a learning plan for each stage…

Preliminary insights , outcomes are evolving as situation changes

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Planning is key

- Flexibility is key
  - We need options for each situation
    - i.e., Possible to shut a school down as opposed to the District
- We need to be prepared for any scenario, but we need to be realistic about our options
  - $8,000 - $22,000 for one thermal scanner
  - Money is a finite commodity
    - Over the past 2 years, we have begun to execute our recession plan
- This will take time and creativity
  - It takes Pixar 6 years to make a movie
  - During the making of the movie A Bug's Life, Pixar reminded their team that they needed to be "Inspired by the Limitations."

Planning is key (continued)

- This is a community crisis; thus we need community feedback
  - We cannot fall in love with ideas of a small group of people believe a school should look like
- We need to develop the plan and make purchases sooner rather than later
  - We ordered supplies and equipment at the start of the Pandemic (January) and successfully avoided the paper towel/toilet paper rush

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Next Steps

Making this a reality

- Create focus groups
- Collect feedback and vet possibilities
- Order supplies
  - Chromebooks are already on order
  - PPE for staff, and possibly students, are being selected
  - Cleaning supplies
- Create a Reopening Task Force
- Continue to adapt our Distance Learning Plan
- Define operations under each stage of reopening
- Create a District Nerve Center Education Team

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Thoughts and Questions?