

RESPONSE 1: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Over the summer, PAVE Academy Charter School's Leadership Team focused on the development of a Reopening Plan (Plan) that prioritizes the health and safety of our entire community. PAVE opened school on August 31st with students, teachers and staff remotely and returned physically to our campus on September 28th. By the end of September, PAVE supported about 30% of our students in person two days a week. In person kindergarten and 1st graders learned directly from their teachers, in a hybrid model of instruction. In person 2nd-8th graders participated in the Learning Center model, where they logged into their devices and learned from their teachers remotely. PAVE continued to offer a fully remote option to all PAVE students across kindergarten to 8th grade. Between Thanksgiving break and Winter break, PAVE went fully remote in order to give staff time to prepare to launch hybrid instruction across all grades. January 11th, a subset of elementary students opted into learning on campus, 4 days a week, directly from their teachers. January 28th, middle school opened its doors for hybrid learning as well. We are currently serving about 30% of our students in person 4 days a week.

Our goal is to provide two options to students/families that provide both a quality learning experience, and allow families to choose how best to return to school.

To be clear, no Plan can fully eliminate all COVID-19 risk. But we believe, and research suggests, that if we adhere to Department of Health (DOH) guidelines we can greatly mitigate and manage risk. We further believe that we can create a rich, valuable learning experience for our students despite the many necessary adjustments that we will make in response to the spread of the virus. Our dedication to our mission and our commitment to engaging our students in rigorous, relevant work will not change. The Plan we are presenting is broad in its scope, specific in its applications, and flexible in its deployment, and is guided by four Principles:

- **Protecting the Health and Safety of the PAVE Community:** The cornerstone of our Plan is the health and safety of our students, teachers, staff, and families. Feeling safe and secure promotes an environment where quality teaching and learning can be sustained. To maintain the safest learning environment possible, PAVE will implement practices and protocols that align with national, state, and local guidance. In many instances we will go beyond them. This includes but is not limited to: social distancing guidelines, wearing a mask, staying home if you are sick and frequent washing of hands.
- **Commitment to Engaging Teaching and Learning:** Regardless as to whether a student is learning in a PAVE classroom or remotely, s/he will receive quality instruction. PAVE teachers and leaders

delivered 11 weeks of remote instruction this spring. We know that students were engaged and learning. Over summer and throughout the Fall, we have further refined and enhanced our approach to remote instruction. Given that nearly 90% of K-8 leaders and teachers are returning for the 2020-21 school year, we are certain that all PAVE students, regardless of whether they opt for the hybrid or fully remote option, will receive quality instruction and support.

- **Meeting Students' Social Emotional Needs Upon Return:** We understand that students have a range of social emotional needs. Some have lost family members to COVID-19 and many have been living with their families in relative isolation for long periods of time with little peer to peer interaction. School is different now, students are wearing masks and adhering to social distancing requirements which may cause additional anxiety for students. We recognize that additional supports are critical. School leaders, in conjunction with our social workers, have proactively developed a robust plan that: 1) meets anticipated needs; 2) helps our community feel safe; and 3) maintains a loving environment tied to teacher-student connection and relationships.
- **Remaining Nimble to Adjust to Family Preferences and Changing Conditions:** As long as PAVE is able to remain physically open, families will be able to choose if their student learns as part of our hybrid model or as a member of our fully remote program. We ensure that both options are of high quality. This has been a reopening unlike any other, and the entire 2020-21 school year promises to be one unlike any other. As New York City experiences spikes in COVID-19 schools will physically close. Accordingly, PAVE is fully prepared (operationally, instructionally, and mentally) to move fluidly between hybrid instruction and full remote learning modes throughout the year.