



Board of Trustees Meeting

Helena Public Schools – August 11, 2020

2020/2021 Opening of Schools

As a follow-up to last week's presentation/discussion pertaining to our draft plan, this brief update provides information on the following:

- Opening of School plan updates added to our draft since August 4, 2020
- Phase-by-phase decisions w/ updated county-wide data
- “Big Rocks” - Key opening efforts
 - Dynamic staffing
 - Childcare

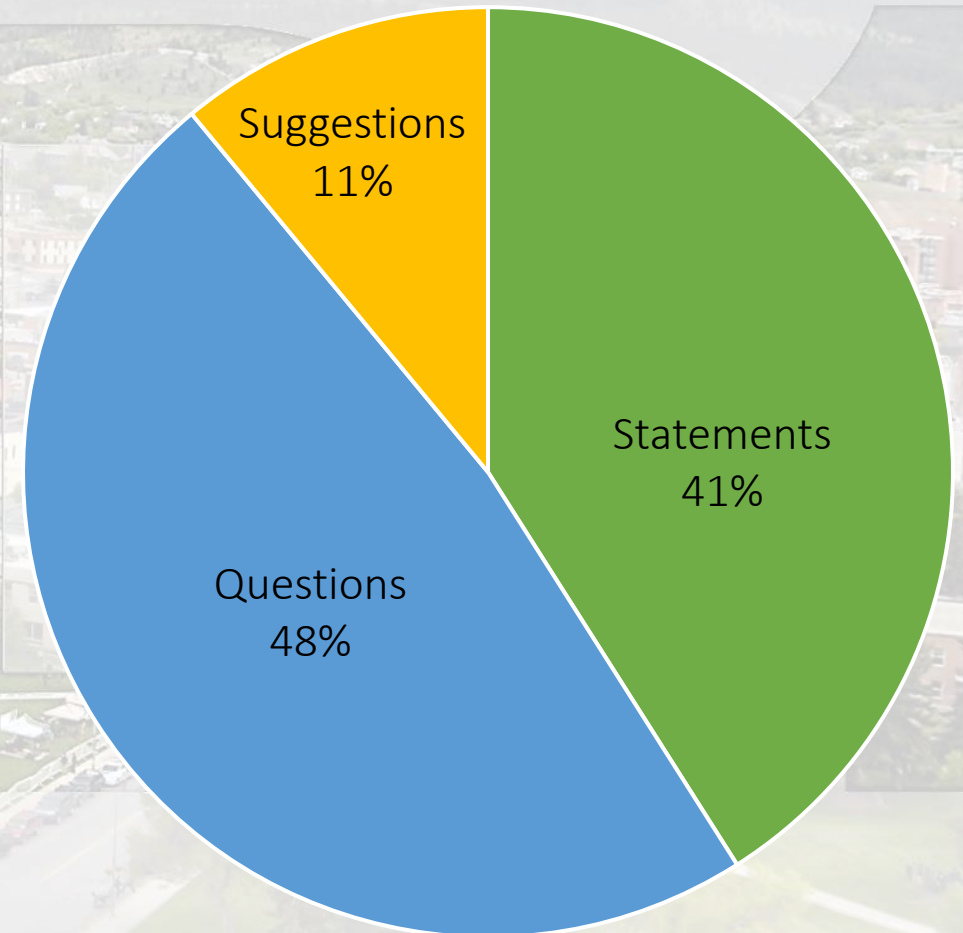
2020/2021 Opening of Schools

Opening of Schools Plan Updates:

As of 5:00pm, August 10th, nearly 150 emails have been received to our feedback email account, Planning2020@helenaschools.org

Of those responses, 48% were follow-up questions, 41% were statement emails advocating for specific decision, and 11% provided recommendations for how the plan can be improved.

Plan Responses – Planning2020

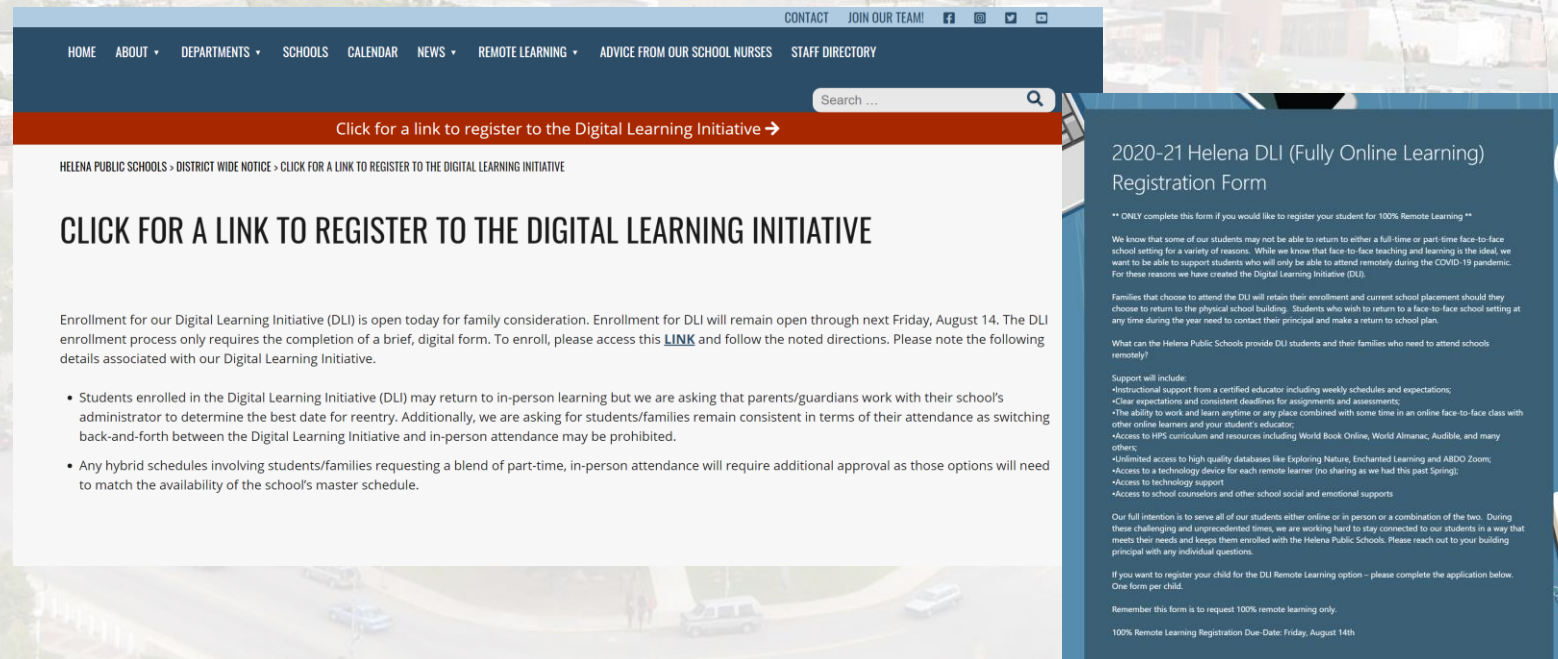


2020/2021 Opening of Schools

Opening of Schools Plan Updates:

Digital Learning Initiative enrollment opened last week for any/all interested families

- Easy-to-access link included in our 08/07 update and featured on our website (banner)
- Requested deadline of Friday, August 14th needed to allow us the time needed to align student and staffing needs
- 459 students were enrolled in DLI as of 5:00pm (08/10)



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Click for a link to register to the Digital Learning Initiative →

HELENA PUBLIC SCHOOLS • DISTRICT WIDE NOTICE • CLICK FOR A LINK TO REGISTER TO THE DIGITAL LEARNING INITIATIVE

CLICK FOR A LINK TO REGISTER TO THE DIGITAL LEARNING INITIATIVE

Enrollment for our Digital Learning Initiative (DLI) is open today for family consideration. Enrollment for DLI will remain open through next Friday, August 14. The DLI enrollment process only requires the completion of a brief, digital form. To enroll, please access this [LINK](#) and follow the noted directions. Please note the following details associated with our Digital Learning Initiative.

- Students enrolled in the Digital Learning Initiative (DLI) may return to in-person learning but we are asking that parents/guardians work with their school's administrator to determine the best date for reentry. Additionally, we are asking for students/families remain consistent in terms of their attendance as switching back-and-forth between the Digital Learning Initiative and in-person attendance may be prohibited.
- Any hybrid schedules involving students/families requesting a blend of part-time, in-person attendance will require additional approval as those options will need to match the availability of the school's master schedule.

2020-21 Helena DLI (Fully Online Learning) Registration Form

**** ONLY complete this form if you would like to register your student for 100% Remote Learning ****

We know that some of our students may not be able to return to either a full-time or part-time face-to-face school setting for a variety of reasons. While we know that face-to-face teaching and learning is the ideal, we want to be able to support students who will only be able to attend remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic. For these reasons we have created the Digital Learning Initiative (DLI).

Families that choose to attend the DLI will retain their enrollment and current school placement should they choose to return to the physical school building. Students who wish to return to a face-to-face school setting at any time during the year need to contact their principal and make a return to school plan.

What can the Helena Public Schools provide DLI students and their families who need to attend schools remotely?

Support will include:

- Instructional support from a certified educator including weekly schedules and expectations;
- Clear expectations and consistent deadlines for assignments and assessments;
- The ability to work and learn anytime or any place combined with some time in an online face-to-face class with other online learners and your student's educator;
- Access to HPS curriculum and resources including World Book Online, World Almanac, Audible, and many others;
- Unlimited access to high quality databases like Exploring Nature, Enchanted Learning and ABDO Zoom;
- Access to a technology device for each remote learner (no sharing as we had this past Spring);
- Access to technology support
- Access to school counselors and other school social and emotional supports

Our full intention is to serve all of our students either online or in person or a combination of the two. During these challenging and unprecedented times, we are working hard to stay connected to our students in a way that meets their needs and keeps them enrolled with the Helena Public Schools. Please reach out to your building principal with any individual questions.

If you want to register your child for the DLI Remote Learning option - please complete the application below. One form per child.

Remember this form is to request 100% remote learning only.

100% Remote Learning Registration Due Date: Friday, August 14th

2020/2021 Opening of Schools

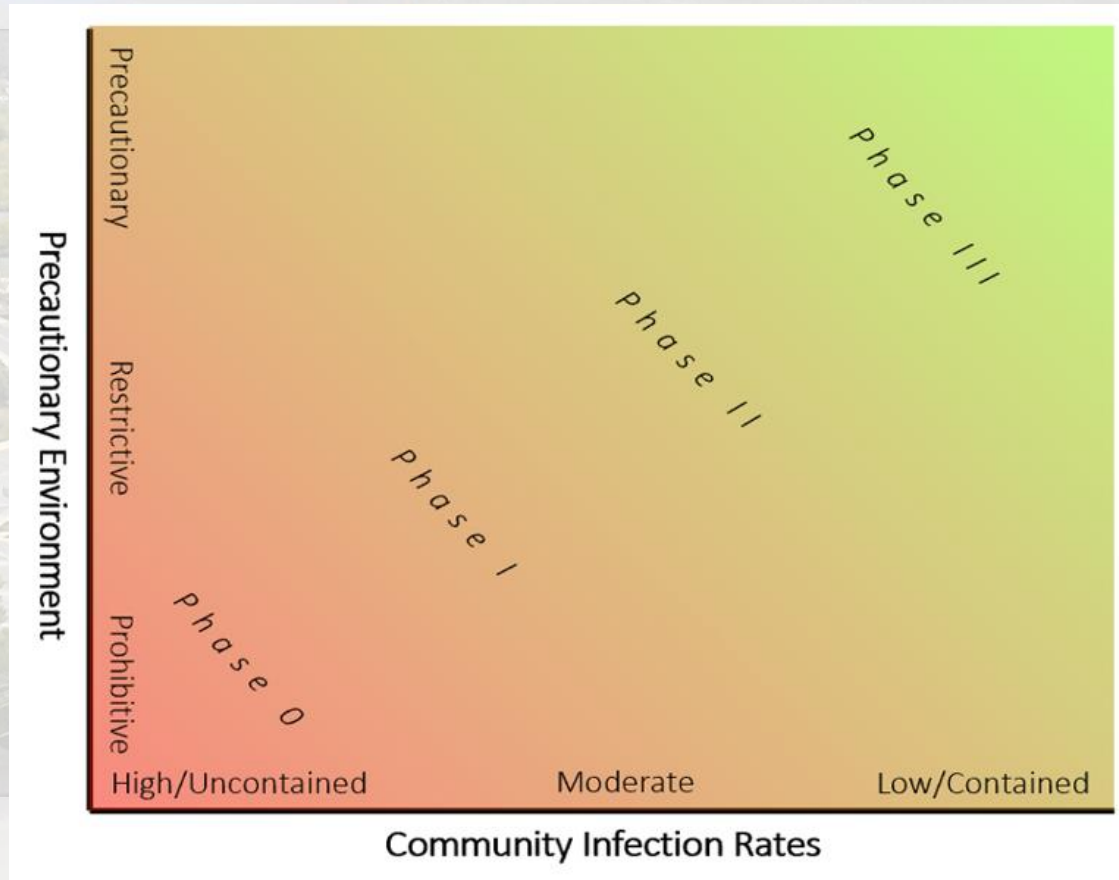
Opening of Schools Plan Updates:

Other updated information includes:

- Added sections to the General Health/Safety Precautions and Protocols:
 - Health-Related Exclusion, Dismissal, and Return to School Criteria (pg. 10)
 - Criteria for the Immediate Closure of Schools (pg. 10)
 - Criteria for Reopening Schools (pg. 10)
- Phase I A/B Day Designation based on student/family last name/surname (pg. 20)
- Minor revisions related to noted errors

2020/2021 Opening of Schools

Phase-by-Phase Decisions

















- Phase-by-phase decisions will be made in concert with Lewis & Clark Public Health and based on local health conditions that are impacting our families and community
- Local phase-by-phase decisions are not aligned with the phase designation for the State of Montana.
- Phases may shift down to closure (Phase 0) at any time for any school/schools

2020/2021 Opening of Schools

Phase-by-Phase Decisions

Considerations for Movement from Phase 2 to Phase 3


Health Department Capacity	Baseline Measurement (as of June 1, start of Phase 2)	Current Measurement (as of Aug 5)	Status
Ability to manage work related to COVID-19 pandemic without additional staffing	Public health nurses: 4 Technical assistance team: 7 Quarantine/isolation team: 0	Contact tracers: 10 Technical assistance team: 9 Quarantine/isolation team: 9 Support team: 3	
Healthcare System Capacity			
Ability of hospital to treat all patients safely, those with COVID-19 and those with other ailments, without additional staffing	ICU capacity: Y Sufficient staffing: Y Personal protective equip.: Y	ICU capacity: Y Sufficient staffing: ? Personal protective equip.: Y	
Testing Capacity	Baseline Measurement (as of June 1, start of Phase 2)	Current Measurement (as of Aug 5)	Status
Sufficient staff and supplies to screen and test all local residents with COVID-19 symptoms	Testing kits: Y Sampling supplies: Y Staffing: Y	Testing kits: Y Sampling supplies: Y Staffing: Y	
Ability to get local test results in timely manner (within 2 days or less)	Yes	Yes	
Case Investigation			
No significant increase in confirmed COVID-19 cases	16 positive cases 0 active cases	145 positive cases (+36/week) 44 active cases	
Type of disease exposure	Travel-related: 11 Exposure to known case: 1 Unknown: 4	Travel-related: 40 Exposure to known case: 54 Unknown: 55 Under investigation: 0	
Average number of direct contacts per positive case	4.1 per case	5.4 per case	
Hospitalization rate	1 of 16	6 total and 1 current 1 death	
Disease Surveillance	Baseline Measurement (as of June 1, start of Phase 2)	Current Measurement (as of Aug 5)	Status
Evidence of coronavirus in wastewater	Helena: Not detected East Helena: Not detected	Helena: Unknown East Helena: Detected	
Sentinel screening of populations with no symptoms	Long-term care, asstd living: Y Other group living: N Health professionals: N General population: N	Long-term care, asstd living: Y Other group living: Y Health professionals: Y General population: Y Tourist communities: Y	
Community Compliance			
Total number and nature of complaints related to non-compliance with orders and directives	Total complaints: 174 Educational call: 174 Corrective Action Order: 3 Citation: 0	Total complaints: 360 (+48/week) Educational call: 297 Corrective Action Order: 5 Citation: 1	







- In collaboration with Lewis & Clark Public Health, we are constantly monitoring local, county-specific health indicators associated with COVID-19
- Our primary set of indicators are reported with the LCPH Dashboard: <https://www.lccountymt.gov/health/covid-19/reopening-criteria-phase-2-to-3.html>
- As of last week, LCPH was reporting:
 -  2 of 11 areas as meeting criteria
 -  4 of 11 areas as showing concern
 -  5 of 11 areas as not meeting criteris

2020/2021 Opening of Schools

Phase-by-Phase Decisions

Lewis & Clark Public Health Dashboard

Health Department Capacity	Current Measurement (as of Aug 5)	Status
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Testing Capacity	Current Measurement (as of Aug 5)	Status
Sufficient staff and supplies to screen and test all local residents with COVID-19 symptoms	Testing kits: Y Sampling supplies: Y Staffing: Y	
Ability to get local test results in timely manner (within 2 days or less)	Yes	
Community Compliance		
Total number and nature of complaints related to non-compliance with orders and directives	Total complaints: 360 (+48/week) Educational call: 297 Corrective Action Order: 5 Citation: 1	

Case Investigation		
No significant increase in confirmed COVID-19 cases	145 positive cases (+36/week) 44 active cases	
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Average number of direct contacts per positive case	5.4 per case	
Hospitalization rate	6 total and 1 current 1 death	
Disease Surveillance	Current Measurement (as of Aug 5)	Status
Evidence of coronavirus in wastewater	Helena: <u>Unknown</u> East Helena: <u>Detected</u>	
Sentinel screening of populations with no symptoms	Long-term care, asstd living: Y Other group living: Y Health professionals: Y General population: Y Tourist communities: Y	

 Have met criterion
  Still some concerns
  Have not met criterion

2020/2021 Opening of Schools

Phase-by-Phase Decisions

- Secondary county-wide indicators considered include the below
 - Positive county-specific cases per day
 - Positive county-specific cases per week
 - Two-week trend of positive county-specific cases
 - Total active cases by county
 - Active cases by county per 1,000 residents
 - Rate of Transmission ([link](#))

2020/2021 Opening of Schools

Phase-by-Phase Decisions

- Secondary county-wide indicators considered include the below
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 - Positive county-specific cases per week
 - Two-week trend of positive county-specific cases
 - Total active cases by county
 - Active cases by county per 1,000 residents
 - Rate of Transmission (MT)

2020/2021 Opening of Schools

Phase-by-Phase Decisions

- Last week, Lewis & Clark County hit an all-time high for positive cases within a week (32)
- None of our local, county-specific measures improved as of last week

	6/26	7/10	7/17	7/24	7/31	8/07
Positive county cases per day	0.3	2.3 (avg)	3.7 (avg)	3.8 (avg)	3.7 (avg)	4.5 (avg)
Positive county cases per week	2	16	26	27	26	32
Two-week trend in positive county cases	↑	↑ (18)	↑ (42)	↑ (53)	↑ (53)	↑ (58)
Active county cases	24	40	66	93	53	53
Active county case ratio	1:2893	1:1735	1:1052	1:746	1:1302	1:1302
State-wide rate of Transmission	1.24	1.12	1.11	1.12	1.15	1.05

2020/2021 Opening of Schools

Phase-by-Phase Decisions

- Over the next three weeks, it is imperative that our community health indicators improve including a reduced number of cases per day/per week and a reduction in our active county cases

	6/26	7/10	7/17	7/24	7/31	8/07	8/14	8/21	8/28	9/04
Positive county cases per day	0.3 (avg)	2.3 (avg)	3.7 (avg)	3.8 (avg)	3.7 (avg)	4.5 (avg)	?	?	?	2.0 (avg)
Positive county cases per week	2	16	26	27	26	32	?	?	?	14 or less
Positive county cases per week (per 100,000)	2.9	23.1	37.6	39.1	37.6	46.3	?	?	?	20.2 or less
Two-week trend in positive county cases	↑	↑ (18)	↑ (42)	↑ (53)	↑ (53)	↑ (58)	?	?	?	↓
Active county cases	24	40	66	93	53	53	?	?	?	20 or less
Active county case ratio	1:2893	1:1735	1:1052	1:746	1:1302	1:1302	?	?	?	1:3284 or less
State-wide rate of Transmission	1.24	1.12	1.11	1.12	1.15	1.05	?	?	?	0.90 or less

2020/2021 Opening of Schools

Phase-by-Phase Decisions

- Students, parents, and employees should plan for Rolling Start beginning 08/31
 - This transitional start to the school year will be vital for creating a foundation for relationships, academics, and collaborative expectations
 - School specific schedules to follow including 6th and 9th Grade transition opportunities
- As of now (08/11) Phase I is an optimistic goal but not a guaranteed reality
 - Parents/families should plan for continued childcare as a five-day-per-week schedule (Phase II) is currently not aligned with local health conditions.
 - Childcare options are expected to be limited (*to be discussed next*)

2020/2021 Opening of Schools

Phase-by-Phase Decisions

- Factors that can negatively impact opening in Phase I on September 8th include:
 - Continued worsening or notable lack of improvement in local health conditions
 - Successfully satisfying all our staffing needs
 - Successfully flexing student assignments and master schedules in accordance with student/family and teacher needs
 - Successfully preparing schools to match the needs of our students/employees
 - Available personnel to accomplish these significant deliverables across the next four weeks

2020/2021 Opening of Schools

“Big Rocks” – Key opening efforts in need of heightened attention

- Staffing is currently far more dynamic than any previous August
 - Hiring replacement personnel for any employee unable to perform their role/responsibilities in an in-person environment
 - Working to pair teachers with students/families that select the Digital Learning Initiative (DLI)
 - Assignments will vary by need and certification area
 - Hiring to match anticipated needs associated with Phase I employee childcare
 - Working to stretch our available substitute pool to meet potential short and long-term needs

2020/2021 Opening of Schools

“Big Rocks” – Key opening efforts in need of heightened attention

- Employee childcare will be vital to ensuring that Phase I can provide a successful alternative to closure model
 - Working to build a model that will provide our employees with reliable, elementary school-age childcare for their children when not in school
 - Possibility of including other age ranges will be dependent on staffing
 - COVID-19 related childcare guidelines are heightened and mandate additional personnel to meet the adult-to-child requirements
 - SACC childcare for non-employee children on non-assigned days (Phase I) is not likely to be provided.

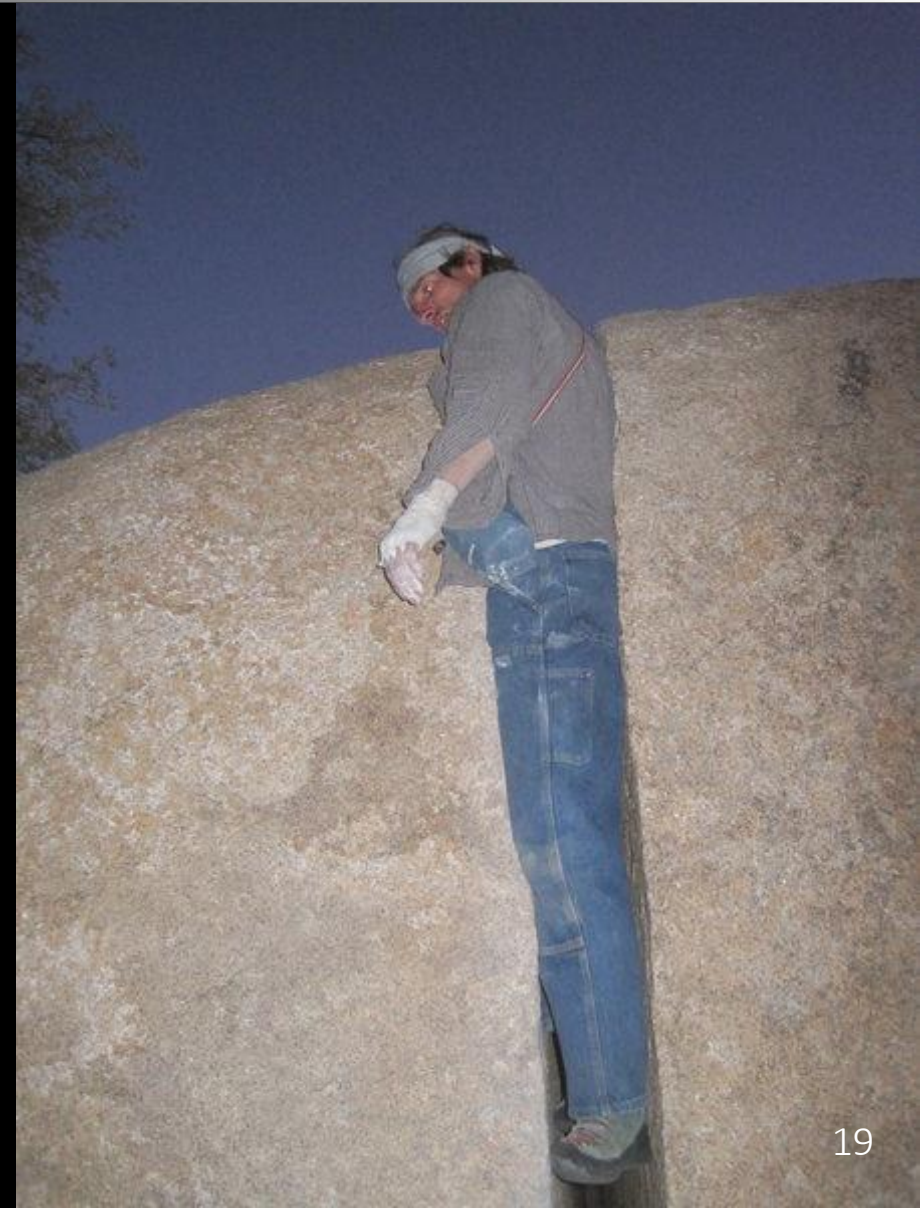
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The easier someone believes the answer is, the more they are failing to see the whole picture of what is at stake.

This will remain a work in progress with more questions than answers.

While unnerving for all involved, what we are attempting to do (regardless of phase) has never been successfully done, at scale, in the history of education within this country.

We will continue to work as fast as possible but with constantly changing conditions, details can be difficult to finalize.





your

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