

Still Preparing for Tomorrow While Managing Today

COVID-19, Pupil Transportation, and School Opening 2020

Sponsored by School Transportation Aligned for Return to School (STARTS)

August 11, 2020



A Startup Checklist Builder

JULY 2020

STARTS

Student Transportation Aligned for Return to School

GUIDELINES, TACTICS AND TEMPLATES

A Reopening Plan Resource For School Transportation Professionals

 **NAPT**
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
for PUPIL TRANSPORTATION

 National Association
of State Directors
of Pupil Transportation Services

 National School Transportation Association
2020
IS OUR VISION

DEVELOPED AND WRITTEN BY

Jim Regan
CAPITALWORKS CONSULTING GROUP

Tim Ammon
DECISION SUPPORT GROUP


CAPITALWORKS


DECISION SUPPORT GROUP
BETTER DECISIONS FOR A COMPLEX WORLD



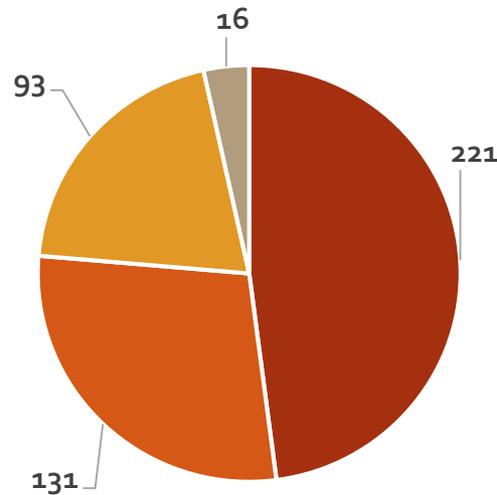
Part 1: What do we know?

How things have changed since April:

- Shock and uncertainty to just uncertainty.
- Contingency planning is still the baseline.
- Prepare for a year of constant change.

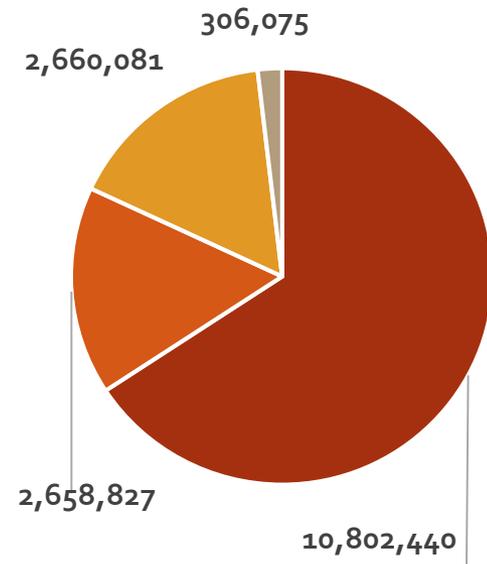
It's August,
are schools
opening?

District Count by
Opening Type



- Remote learning only
- Full in-person reopening available for all students
- Hybrid/Partial
- Undecided

Student Count by
Opening Type



- Remote learning only
- Full in-person reopening available for all students
- Hybrid/Partial
- Undecided

How will October be different from August? How about January?

- Think about this: how different are your expectations for school opening today than they were on April 1st?
- We advocated for contingency planning then, we continue to believe it is critical now.
- Whatever your district's plans are for school opening, expect them to change.
- Practical realities have a way of catching up to expectations:
 - Example 1: Ontario went from a standard for 24 students per bus in early July to allowing full loading (with masks required) by July 31st.
 - Example 2: South Carolina was planning for 48% of capacity in early July; by last week this had increased to 66%.
- The message? *Plan for a school year of constant change.*

What you actually know should effect your plan

- The things you absolutely know already:
 - Kids will not wear masks all the time
 - Kids will not always show up at the right bus stop at the right time on the right day
 - Not all kids will show up who were supposed to and some who were not supposed to will
 - Kids will get the virus
 - Staff will get the virus
 - Vendors will be delayed, out of product, and challenged to deliver
- **IF YOUR PLAN DEPENDS ON EVERYTHING GOING RIGHT, YOU HAVE THE WRONG PLAN!!**

Part 2: Managing change – what do *you need* to know?

The world according to Rumsfeld:

- The things we know we know
- The things we know we don't know

A different kind of start up plan

What you need to know depends on what you are working on!

Service Delivery	Staff
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• When will educational instruction start?• How will it be conducted?• Where will it happen?• What kids are going?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Where will people start their workday?• Where will they end their workday?• How will they get help if they need it?• What happens if they show up and shouldn't?• What happens if they don't show up?
Facilities	Vendors
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• When will the facility be open? Who will it be open to?• How will access be limited or expanded?• When will it be closed?• Do you have a backup plan?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Who are your vendors?• How do they provide you goods and services?• How will you be impacted if they have virus-related shutdowns or slowdowns?• What options do you have?

Startup will only be the start

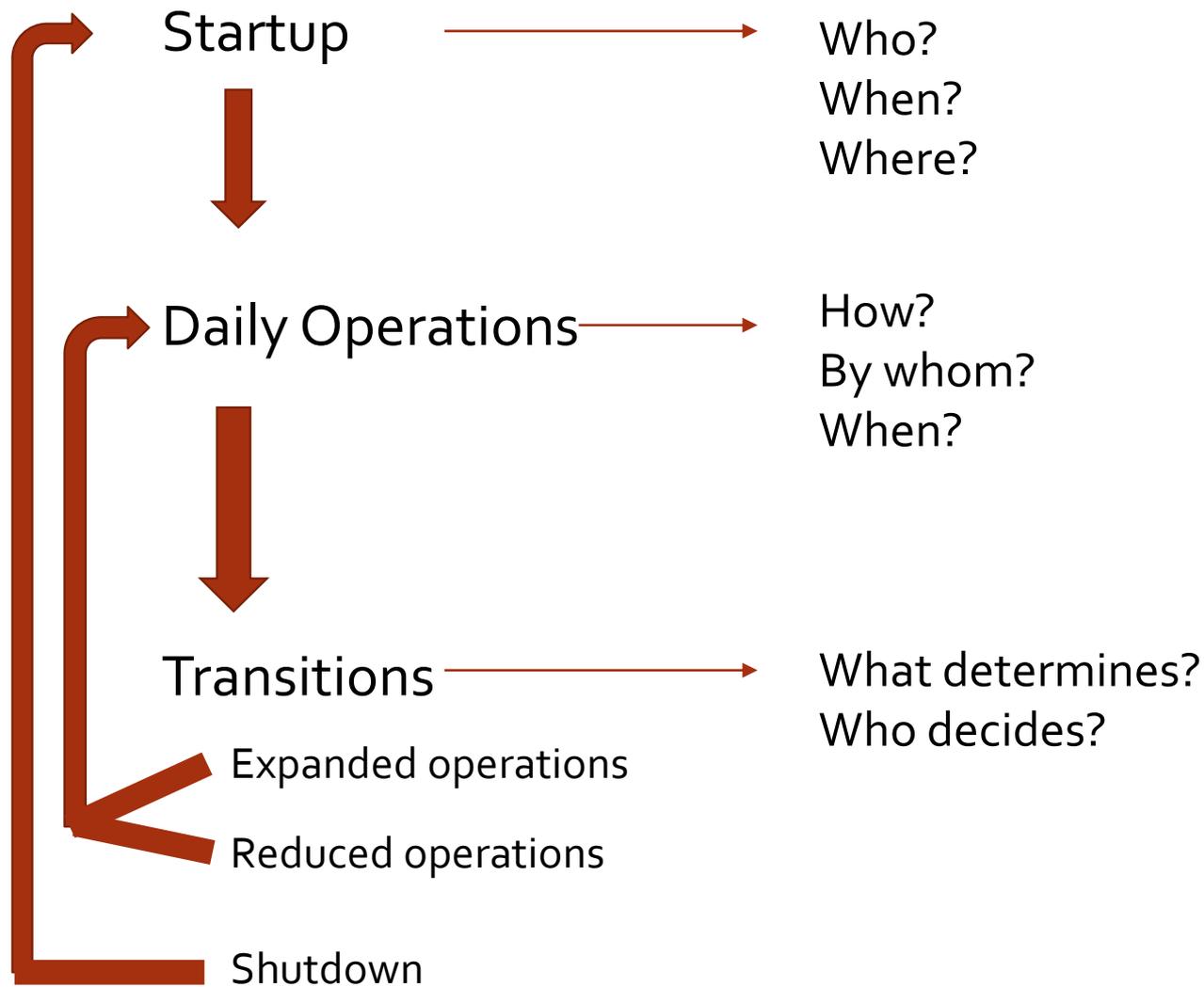
- School will start, but then it will change:
 - We don't know whether we will need to shut down again.
 - We don't know when the pandemic will end.
 - We don't know when, or how things will get back to "normal".
 - We probably don't even know what "normal" will be.
- Take a breath, then begin planning actively and continuously based on expectations:
 - Multiple routing plans for phased re-openings
 - Testing and contact tracing using routing data
 - Operational adjustments to manage seating charts, masking, sanitation requirements
 - Contingencies for which staff members will or will not return to work
 - Managing workflows and traffic circulation through the bus yard and shop, at bus stops, at schools

Part 3: Managing change – what would you *like to* know?

Rumsfeld, continued:

- The things we don't know we don't know.
- The things we haven't thought about.

(Mis)Trust the process



Things we can't know

- Start with this: On February 11, 2020 did any of us anticipate where we would be on August 11, 2020?
- Do any of us really know where we will be on February 11, 2021? August 11, 2021?
- We don't know what we don't know, but we can think about our craft and apply that knowledge to create contingencies and then manage those contingencies as they become certainties.
- Break it down and think through the implications one-by-one:
 - What about evictions and the impact on McKinney-Vento requirements?
 - Will there be some portion of the student population that says virtual all year? Forever?
 - Does Covid-19 change the way we need to think about which student populations will be eligible for transportation in the future?
 - What about specialized populations such as preschoolers and non-public school students?
 - Etc., etc., etc...

The Message and the Messenger

1. You Have to know what you want to say
2. You Have to know what you want from it
3. You Have to know how to say it
4. You Have to know if it was heard
5. You Have to know if it was understood
6. You Have to know if you got what you wanted

Closing thought

2020 is proving to be a year of profound change. Our jobs are likely to change profoundly as well. Right here, right now is where we can demonstrate how Transportation can be an enabler of, not a barrier to change.

Questions or
comments

Tim Ammon

Tom Platt

Toll Free: (800) 994-0483

E: tammon@decisionsupportgroup.com

tplatt@decisionsupportgroup.com

Web: www.decisionsupportgroup.com

