## Social Distancing Options: School Bus ${ }^{1}$

- In bus line at school, ensure riders are spaced fix feet apart while waiting to board the bus by use of visual aids; communicate with parents and students to encourage social distancing in bus line at home pick-up locations.
- Load the bus starting from the rear seats to the front seats, and unload starting with the front seats to the rear seats, ensuring social distance is maintained while doing so.
- Disallow seating on the front row of the bus to provide distance between the driver and riders.
- Seat members of the same household together.
- Seat members of the same cohort together.
- To minimize the number of riders on each bus:
- Encourage students to walk or ride their bike to school;
- Encourage/incentivize parents to drop-off and pick-up their children instead of using the bus. For example, offer parents mileage reimbursement;
- Encourage/incentivize students who have the legal ability to drive to transport themselves and any other school-bound household members instead of using the bus. For example, offer preferred student parking or other perks to students who choose to transport their younger siblings;
- Consider partnering with local community members, such as faith leaders, to carpool students. For example, local wards or churches transporting members of their congregations;
- Consider partnering with local transit operators where appropriate and available;
- Stagger daily pick-up and drop-off times;
- Increase the number of buses/drivers;
- Reduce the number of days students must attend school in-person each week. For example:
- Institute a block schedule. For example, some students attend school in-person Monday and Tuesday, and the remainder attend school Wednesday and Thursday;
- Gradually phase students back into in-person school days instead of opening up the entire school for all grades at the start of the year. For example, start the school year by only bringing back one or two grade levels for in-person instruction, while the other grade levels remain in remote learning. Gradually phase back in the other grades as appropriate;
- Offer students the ability to continue in remote learning only.

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- Arrange seating on the bus in a way that encourages social distancing to the extent possible, including:
- Without masks - Seat one student per row, every other row on both sides of the bus (maintaining a 6-foot distance);
- Without masks - Seat one student per row, alternating rows on each side to create a zig-zag pattern (maintaining a 6-foot distance);
- With masks - Seat one student per row, alternating seat assignments on the same side of the bus where one row sits on the side closest to the window, and the next row on the same side sits on the side closest to the aisle, creating a zig-zag pattern (maintaining a 3 -foot distance).


[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ When possible, keep windows down on busses to ensure good ventilation.

