

Adoption of Base Learning Model for the 2020-2021 School Year and Other COVID-19 Related Matters

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes Section 123B.09 vests the care, management, and control of independent districts in the school board; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of Independent School District 256 (hereinafter the “Superintendent”) is responsible for the management of the schools, the administration of all School District policies, and is directly accountable to the School Board; and

WHEREAS, when responsibilities are not specifically prescribed nor School District policy applicable, the Superintendent shall use personal and professional judgment, subject to review by the School Board, pursuant to School District Policy 302.

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz issued Emergency Executive Order 20-01, which declared a peacetime emergency in Minnesota in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on July 30, 2020, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz issued Emergency Executive Order 20-82 and the Safe Learning Plan for 2020-2021 (the “Safe Learning Plan”), which set forth five Learning Models (in-person learning for all, in-person learning for elementary students and hybrid learning for secondary students, hybrid learning for all students, hybrid learning for elementary students and distance learning for secondary students, and distance learning) and authorized all school districts in the State of Minnesota to select and implement an appropriate base Learning Model in accordance with, and subject to, the Safe Learning Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Education (“MDE”) has issued and may continue to issue written guidance for Minnesota schools on educational issues related to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Health (“MDH”) has issued and may continue to issue written guidance for Minnesota schools on public health issues related to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent and the administration of the School District have conferred with the School Board regarding the available Learning Models and other relevant information; and

WHEREAS, the School Board approved a motion on August 3, 2020 initially authorizing in-person learning each day for students in grades K-4 if enough staff members are available and County COVID rates are appropriate; and

WHEREAS, the School Board approved a motion on August 3, 2020 authorizing the superintendent to institute more restrictive learning environments as determine by county COVID rates and/or recommendations made by Goodhue County or Minnesota Department of Health; and

WHEREAS, based upon the collective consideration of these factors, the Superintendent has recommended to the School Board that In-Person Learning will be the base Learning Model for K-4th grades and Hybrid Learning will be the base Learning Model for 5th-12th grades to be implemented at the commencement of the 2020-2021 school year; and

WHEREAS, the School Board desires to clarify decision-making processes related to COVID and based on a model resolution recommended by the Minnesota School Boards Association.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 256 as follows:

Section 1: The Superintendent is hereby directed to implement In-Person Learning for grades K-4 and Hybrid Learning for grades 5-12 to open the 2020-2021 school year.

Section 2: The Superintendent is hereby authorized, after consultation with the School Board Chair and notification to the School Board, to select and implement a more restrictive Learning Model for the School District, any specific school buildings, or any grades within specific school buildings without School Board action if the Superintendent reasonably believes that prompt implementation of a different Learning Model is necessary, and that constraints of time and public health considerations render it impractical to hold a School Board meeting to approve the implementation.

Section 3: A more restrictive Learning Model selected and implemented by the Superintendent shall continue in effect unless and until the Superintendent selects a more restrictive Learning Model as per Section 2 or the School Board, in consultation with the Superintendent and appropriate school district staff and public health officials, deems it in the best interest of the School District and its students to implement a different Learning Model.

Section 4: The Superintendent will provide regular updates to the School Board regarding the School District's efforts to implement COVID-19 related educational and public health guidance issued by the MDE and the MDH, respectively.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2020.

Roll Call Vote

School Board Chair

School Board Clerk