

Superintendent's Update

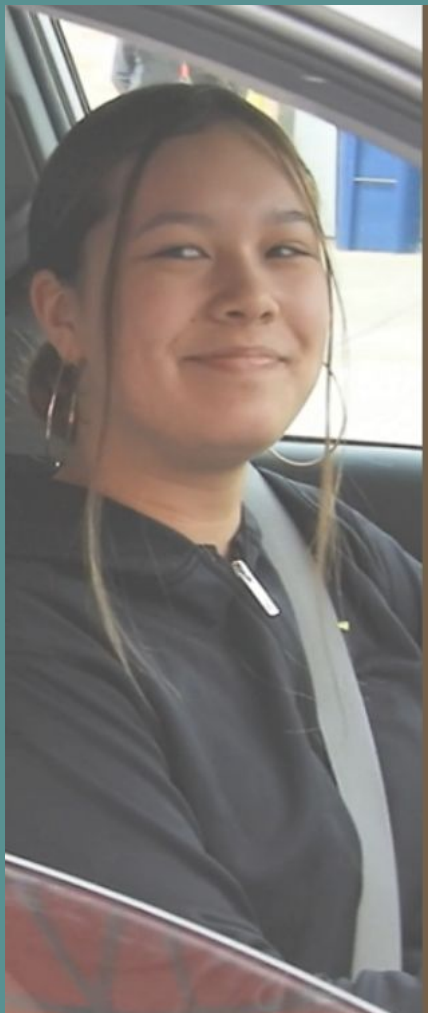
February 23, 2021





Recognition and Appreciation

- **Minnesota School Bus Driver Appreciation Week**
- **Minnesota School Board Recognition Week**



ISD 709

Guiding Principles

FOR RE-OPENING SCHOOLS

- 1 Ensure the safety and wellness of students and staff
- 2 Deliver high-quality instruction to students, regardless of delivery model
- 3 Equity: Ensuring all means all
- 4 Optimize use of resources (space & materials)
- 5 Community and stakeholder engagement in plan development

Equity Criteria:

Access

Participation

Representation

Outcomes

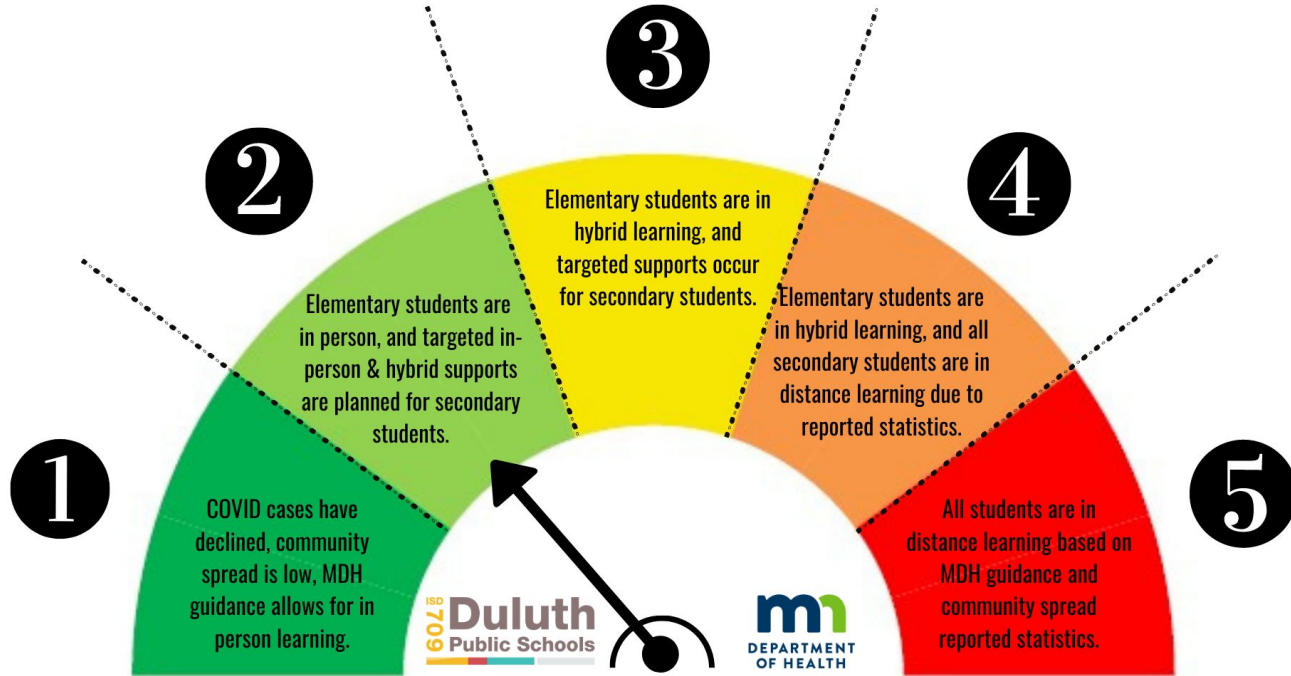
[ISD709.org/Equity](https://isd709.org/Equity)



Review of Current Model and Planning

Currently in full in-person in elementary grades PK-5. We are preparing for:

- Hybrid instruction for 6th, 9th and 12th grades starting on 3/8
- Hybrid instruction for 6th -12th grades starting on 3/15
- Additional in-person learning at the secondary level, as discussed within tonight's presentation





Current Transition Days

- We currently have three scheduled transition days the week of March 1
 - Tues, Wed, Thurs
 - Module Mon., Due Fri. w/Open Meet time for support- No synchronous schedule this week
- Start hybrid with 6th, 9th, 12th graders the week of March 8
 - The ability to orient our newest students to their school is essential.
- Phase in 7th, 8th, 10th, 11th grade the week of March 15

Middle School Hybrid/Synchronous Schedule

Hybrid Group A- Day 1	Hybrid Group A- Day 2	Hybrid Group B- Day 1	Hybrid Group B- Day 2	Friday- as opposed to Wednesdays
PLC/Team/Staff /SST or Open 7:45-8:45	PLC/Team/Staff /SST or Open 7:45-8:45	PLC/Team/Staff /SST or Open 7:45-8:45	PLC/Team/Staff /SST or Open 7:45-8:45	PLC/Team/Staff /SST or Open 7:45-8:45
Hybrid Grp A Period 1 8:45-9:30	Hybrid Grp A Period 4 8:45-9:30	Hybrid Grp B Period 1 8:45-9:30	Hybrid Grp B Period 4 8:45-9:30	9-10 Professional Learning
Hybrid Grp A Period 2 9:35-10:20	Hybrid Grp A Period 5 9:35-10:20	Hybrid Grp B Period 2 9:35-10:20	Hybrid Grp B Period 5 9:35-10:20	10-11 Content Building
Hybrid Grp A Period 3 10:25-11:10	Hybrid Grp A Period 6 10:25-11:10	Hybrid Grp B Period 3 10:25-11:10	Hybrid Grp B Period 6 10:25-11:10	Google Meets/ Communication Time 11-12
11:15-12:00 Professional Time	11:15-12:00 Professional Time	11:15-12:00 Professional Time	11:15-12:00 Professional Time	
12:05-12:35 Lunch	12:05-12:35 Lunch	12:05-12:35 Lunch	12:05-12:35 Lunch	
Pd 4 Synchronous (Whole Class) 12:40-1:10	Pd 1 Synchronous (Whole Class) 12:40-1:10	Pd 4 Synchronous (Whole Class) 12:40-1:10	Pd 1 Synchronous (Whole Class) 12:40-1:10	12-12:30 Lunch
Pd 5 Synchronous (Whole Class) 1:15-1:45	Pd 2 Synchronous (Whole Class) 1:15-1:45	Pd 5 Synchronous (Whole Class) 1:15-1:45	Pd 2 Synchronous (Whole Class) 1:15-1:45	12:30-1:00 Professional Time
Pd 6 Synchronous (Whole Class) 1:50-2:20	Pd 3 Synchronous (Whole Class) 1:50-2:20	Pd 6 Synchronous (Whole Class) 1:50-2:20	Pd 3 Synchronous (Whole Class) 1:50-2:20	1-2 Content Building, Due Process
Google Meets/ Communication Time 2:30-3:00	Google Meets/ Communication Time 2:30-3:00	Google Meets/ Communication Time 2:30-3:00	Google Meets/ Communication Time 2:30-3:00	2-3 District Team Content Building
3:00-3:45 Prep	3:00-3:45 Prep	3:00-3:45 Prep	3:00-3:45 Prep	3-3:45 Prep Time (Student attendance updated)

High School Hybrid/Synchronous Schedule

Same as Middle School with 15 minutes between synchronous sessions

Synchronous with HYBRID: Sample Secondary Schedule HIGH SCHOOL				
Monday: A	Tuesday: A	Wednesday: B	Thursday: B	Friday
PLC/Team/Staff/SST or Open 7:45-8:45	PLC/Team/Staff/SST or Open 7:45-8:45	PLC/Team/Staff/SST or Open 7:45-8:45	PLC/Team/Staff/SST or Open 7:45-8:45	PLC/Team/Staff/SST or Open 7:45-8:45
Zero Hour 8:10-8:55	Zero Hr Synchronous Class 8:00-8:30	Zero Hour 8:10-8:55	Zero Hr Synchronous Class 8:00-8:30	Meetings 7:45-8:55
Pd 1 9:00-9:45	Pd 4 9:00-9:45	Pd 1 9:00-9:45	Pd 4 9:00-9:45	9-10 Professional Learning
Pd 2 9:50-10:35	Pd 5 9:50-10:35	Pd 2 9:50-10:35	Pd 5 9:50-10:35	10-11 Content Building
Pd 3 10:40-11:25	Pd 6 10:40-11:25	Pd 3 10:40-11:25	Pd 6 10:40-11:25	
11:30-12:20 Professional Time	11:30-12:20 Professional Time	11:30-12:20 Professional Time	11:30-12:20 Professional Time	Google Meets/ Communication Time 11-12
12:25-12:55 Lunch	12:25-12:55 Lunch	12:25-12:55 Lunch	12:25-12:55 Lunch	12-12:30 Lunch
Pd 4 Synchronous Class 1:00-1:30	Pd 1 Synchronous Class 1:00-1:30	Pd 4 Synchronous Class 1:00-1:30	Pd 1 Synchronous Class 1:00-1:30	12:30-1:00 Professional Time
Google Meets/ Communication Time 1:30-1:45	Google Meets/ Communication Time 1:30-1:45	Google Meets/ Communication Time 1:30-1:45	Google Meets/ Communication Time 1:30-1:45	1-2 Content Building, Due Process
Pd 5 Synchronous Class 1:45-2:15	Pd 2 Synchronous Class 1:45-2:15	Pd 5 Synchronous Class 1:45-2:15	Pd 2 Synchronous Class 1:45-2:15	
Google Meets/ Communication Time 2:15-2:30	Google Meets/ Communication Time 2:15-2:30	Google Meets/ Communication Time 2:15-2:30	Google Meets/ Communication Time 2:15-2:30	2-3 District Team Content Building
Pd 6 Synchronous Class 2:30-3:00	Pd 3 Synchronous Class 2:30-3:00	Pd 6 Synchronous Class 2:30-3:00	Pd 3 Synchronous Class 2:30-3:00	
3:00-3:45 Prep	3:00-3:45 Prep	3:00-3:45 Prep	3:00-3:45 Prep	3-3:45 Prep Time (Student attendance updated)



Rationale for Additional Change in Model

We are proposing more extensive model change for a variety of reasons, including:

- State and local health officials have given us additional guidance and direction to serve secondary students with more in-person instruction
- Local and County COVID rates continue to decline
- A greater number of staff have been offered vaccination and plans for increase
- Additional research indicates that in-person instruction is needed by our students and more safe than originally presumed



Proposed Change in Secondary Model

We are proposing the following:

- Continuing with transitional days the week of March 1st
- Continue with the hybrid roll in of 6th, 9th and 12th grades the week of March 8th
- Continue with adding grades 7, 8, 10 and 11 the week of March 15th
- Continue secondary hybrid the week of March 22nd
- **Begin four days per week of in-person instruction on March 29th (Quarter 4)**
- Continue to offer distance learning to all families who select this option



Local Duluth Bi-Weekly COVID Rates

- 9/12 - 16.14
- 9/19 - 22.47
- 9/26 - 33.37
- 10/03 - 35.20
- 10/10 - 32.70
- 10/17 - 34.20
- 10/24 - 39.80
- 10/31 - 54.30
- 11/07 - 105.00
- 11/14 - 153.90
- 11/21 - 169.70
- 11/28 - 154.10
- 12/05 - 127.40
- 12/12 - 100.20
- 12/19 - 72.60
- 12/26 - 60.70
- 01/02 - 58.75
- 01/09 - 56.90
- 01/16 - 43.40
- 01/23 - 37.86
- 01/30 - 29.04
- **02/06 - 16.48**

Policy Option	Range (14-day case rate per 10,000 people)
In-person learning for all students	0 to less than 10
Elementary in-person, Middle/high school hybrid	10 to less than 20
Both hybrid	20 to less than 30
Elementary hybrid, Middle/high school distance	30 to less than 50
Both distance	50 or more



Extensive Changes in State Guidance

Last week, Governor Walz announced changes to the Safe Learning Plan, particularly related to increasing in-person learning for our secondary students. Some of the changes in the [MDE Safe Learning Plan](#) include the following:

- Districts *may* follow through with plans shared previously with the public rather than modify them based on new guidance.
- No rolling start required for future changes
- 5% of total student and staff out with flu-like symptoms in a week to contact MDH to discuss shifting learning models
- Strongly recommend families testing every two weeks
- Physical distancing guidance
 - Early childhood and elementary - 3 feet suggested
 - Middle and high school - 6 feet suggested/3 feet required
 - Rates between 0-10 per 10,000 - distancing recommended, not required
- Must have distance only option



Teaching and Learning During Hybrid Weeks

A guidance document will be shared with secondary teachers that includes the following:

- Different teaching strategies for different modes of teaching
- Steps for planning instruction
- Teacher expectations

The Curriculum Content specialists will be meeting with content teams on Wednesday, February 24 to review the document and discuss planning for learning.

Some focus during the hybrid weeks will be on expectations, safety protocols, and building relationships. Teachers will also determine the level of mastery of the content by students.



Teaching and Learning During In-Person

The Curriculum Content Specialists team met yesterday to begin the visioning process for a more robust in-person support model with embedded support for distance learning only students.

All instructional content would be created and delivered to students through Canvas. Students would need to have access to Canvas during in-person instruction and on distance learning days.

Technology needs are being reviewed. Additionally computer cameras have been distributed to various sites and will be repurposed for synchronous access during “live sessions” in the classroom.

Guidance will be finalized and shared with teachers prior to the transition.



Testing and Assessment Updates

MDE submitted a waiver request that solely included temporary changes to the state's accountability system. The waiver did not propose cancelling statewide testing.

- Based on information from the US Dept of Ed that was available at the time
- Stakeholders have expressed the importance of collecting student data to evaluate the impact of COVID-19 on educational equity

All students are required to test in person, including DL students

- Parents will have option to decline opportunity to test without penalty to student, school, or district
- Process will be coordinated at school level by school assessment teams, will be considering multiple options, based on interest

MDE stands ready to act on any additional flexibility the US Dept of Ed might offer

Last night, USDE sent additional guidance to states. MDE is reviewing this and will be providing additional guidance to districts.



Testing and Assessment Updates

In the meantime, a three-part train-the-trainer series is in process

- Part 1: Pre-recorded video modules focused on basic information, test security, administering and monitoring assessments (now through March 2)
- Part 2: Live session Google Meet focused on updates, FAQs, concrete next steps (March 3)
- Part 3: Live session Google Meet focused on technical aspects of online test administration (March 10)

Individualized problem-solving will also be available as needed

Once train-the-trainer sessions are complete, teams will be prepared to train school staff

Testing will begin the last week in March - the first week in April at the earliest



There are still details to work through. Stakeholder feedback is important!

Met with staff from our four traditional secondary schools

Obtaining feedback from our District Parent Advisory Committee

Multiple additional meetings will be used to continue development on our plan



Contact Tracing

Our district notification process has not changed. When there is a positive case, close contact notification is made by a phone call and follow up emailed letter and building notification is sent out to ISD709 staff and families by the building principal. Community notification has not been part of our practice, nor is it the practice of neighboring districts. Our contact tracing and notification process has been successful in that we have had no student to student or student to staff COVID-19 spread through our buildings.

Here is the notification information provided by the MDH COVID-19. HANDLING A SUSPECTED OR CONFIRMED POSITIVE CASE OF COVID - 19: INFORMATION FOR SCHOOL

"Notification

Schools need to develop a process to notify students, families, and staff. Districts must notify students, their families, and staff members who are identified during a case investigation as having had close contact in school with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 and the contact happened while the ill person could spread the disease.



Contact Tracing (continued)

Schools should also determine when and how they will use a general notification to let students, families, and staff know when a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 has been identified as being present in the school during the time that they could spread the disease to others. Schools will have to determine how broadly to use a general notification, whether to notify specific grade levels, a specific school site, or the entire district.

Schools may choose how to send the notification (e.g., letter, email, and phone). Schools can access template letters at COVID-19 Notification Letter Templates for Schools, Child Care, and Youth Programs (www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/letters/). Four different template letters are available, with translations in Hmong, Karen, Russian, Somali, Spanish, and Vietnamese.



Transportation Update

- * Transportation will be using the information gathered in the Secondary Hybrid Survey to Re-Register all students only opting-in for bus services.
- * This re-registration will allow for better utilization of buses, both District and contracted, and help mitigate the loss of some drivers over the past 9-months.
- * Survey data will be sorted on Wednesday, February 24 and this list will create bus seating charts for transportation starting March 8.
- * Families will be re-surveyed again in the next 10 days and will adjust routes if needed for March 29 in-person learning.



Additional Next Steps

In addition to the previously listed steps, we are also focusing on:

- Continue to enhance our operational plans to support students during and after the pandemic
- Continue to monitor state and local guidance
- Continue to monitor our COVID rates and emerging information
- Continue to take input from stakeholders and utilize it for collaborative decision making

Themes from secondary staff feedback

- Health and Safety Questions and Concerns
 - General information and frequently asked questions was shared today
 - Continued communication about changing plans will continue
- Concerns around managing multiple modes of interaction within both hybrid and in-person
 - Sessions with Curriculum regarding what a day for a teacher could look like in this model