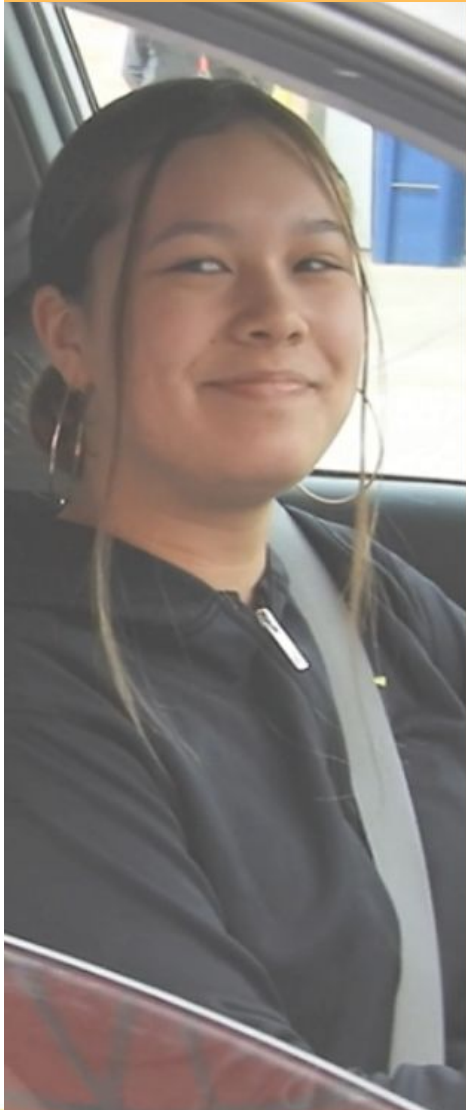


Superintendent's Update

January 19, 2021

Return to Learn Update



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

Review of Current Model and Planning

Currently in distance learning at elementary and secondary levels. We are preparing for:

- In-person classes for PK-2 on January 25 and grades 3-5 on February 8. (Families may choose to remain in distance learning.)
- Additional synchronous learning at the secondary level and continued planning for return to in-person as current rates or state guidance allows.

Review of Rationale for Model Change

- Current research supports in-person instruction for elementary students
 - [Center for Disease Control and Prevention Research](#)
 - [American Association of Pediatricians](#)
 - [New England Journal of Medicine](#)
 - [National Center for Research on Educational Access and Choice](#)
- Our current reality supports the need to move towards in-person instruction
 - No spread between students and staff at the elementary level
 - High demand for meeting the needs of our youngest learners
- The governor's guidance focuses on prioritizing in-person instruction for elementary students

2020-21 Return to Learn

- 9/12 - 16.14
- 9/19 - 22.47
- 9/26 - 33.37
- 10/03 - 35.2
- 10/10 - 32.7
- 10/17 - 34.2
- 10/24 - 39.8
- 10/31 - 54.3
- 11/07 - 105
- 11/14 - 153.9
- 11/21 - 169.7
- 11/28 - 154.1
- 12/05 - 127.4
- 12/12 - 100.2
- 12/19 - 72.6
- 12/26 - 60.7
- 01/02 - 58.75

St. Louis County Bi-Weekly Case Rates for Secondary Schools

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

Pilot Vaccine Program Update

- Notified of pilot vaccine program yesterday
- [COVID-19 Vaccines for School and Child Care Staff](#)
- 32 vaccines for ISD 709 employees
- Vaccinations begin on January 21st
- [Guidance from the state](#) was given on selection process
 - Targeted ages 55-64, oldest to youngest
 - Targetes staff with occupational risks
 - ISD 709 identified:
 - Self-contained setting 3 staff
 - Preschool staff
 - Bus drivers / bus aides

Pilot Vaccine Press Conference

- Overview of vaccine program
- Concerns about the number of vaccines distributed to Minnesotans
- “Why not pause current plans for in-person learning until after all staff are vaccinated?”
 - Jan Malcolm, Minnesota Department of Health Commissioner, noted that “at the current rate, it will take 4 ½ months to vaccinate this current segment (55-64) of the population.”
 - MDE Deputy Commissioner stated that we should continue with current plans to do so:
 - We have created a system of safety practices that offer additional support in mitigating the risks of coming back in-person
 - We are also deeply considering the risks of students NOT being in school, including nutritional, mental health and academic needs.

Minnesota School Board Association Face Coverings Policy Update

- [Link to modified policy](#)
- Aligned with new state guidance
- Implementing via authority granted by the board earlier year

Efforts for Collaboration

- [Staff Meetings](#)
- Bargaining Unit Representative Meetings
- PTSA Meetings
- Other Parent Meetings

Update on Athletics and Activities

All winter MSHSL athletics/activities are up and running:

- Hockey, basketball, nordic ski, alpine ski, boys swim, dance team, speech, and One Act Play
- Each team has submitted and is following a COVID plan
- Two spectators allowed per participant

Review of Current Class Sizes

- All in-person classes are currently under 30
- A majority are in the mid-20s
- Overall, primary grades have lower numbers

Climate Coordinator Updates

- Attendance and Engagement
- Mental Health
- Social Emotional Learning Supports
- Staff Support Circles