

**Red Wing Public Schools**  
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**School Board Meeting Agenda Item**

Topic: Selection of Initial Learning Model for Grades 5-12  
 Contact(s):  
 Presenter(s): Karsten Anderson and Shanda Jorgenson

Nature of Action Requested by Board

Board action   
 Board information or scheduled report

Background Information

On June 18<sup>th</sup>, Governor Walz directed public schools in Minnesota to develop plans for three scenarios: In-Person Learning, Hybrid Learning (a combination of In-Person and Distance Learning), and Distance Learning.

For grades 5-12, the district’s plan for In-Person Learning calls for all students to be physically present in school unless parents have opted for Distance Learning. For grades 5-12, the district’s plan for Hybrid Learning is for students to be physically present for two days per week and virtually learning three days per week.

Each district can generally determine which Learning Model to use at any given time, but Executive Order 20-82 and the “Safe Learning Plan” provide guidance on how to make decisions about learning models. At least one time each week, the district will review staff availability, COVID rates to see if changing learning models is recommended (see chart below), and specific locations for virus outbreaks associated with the increase or decrease in cases. If needed, the Superintendent may immediately implement a more restrictive learning model (such as moving from In-Person to Hybrid Learning). At any time, the School Board may determine the learning model to In-Person, Hybrid, or Distance Learning.

Number of cases per 10,000 over 14 days by county of residence	Recommended Learning Model
0-9	In-Person Learning for all students
10-19	In-Person Learning for all elementary students Hybrid Learning for secondary students
20-29	Hybrid Learning for all students
30-49	Hybrid Learning for elementary students Distance Learning for secondary students
50+	Distance Learning for all students

On August 3<sup>rd</sup>, the School Board initially authorized In-Person Learning for grades K-4 but did not approve an initial learning model for grades 5-12. The purpose of this agenda item is to make that decision so parents and staff members can prepare for the beginning of the year.

Currently, if the decision is solely based on county COVID rates, In-Person Learning is warranted. However, my recommendation is to initiate Hybrid Learning at the beginning of the year for the following reasons:

1. Hybrid Learning in grades 5-12 lowers the risk for COVID transmission because of fewer student interactions and better social distancing.
2. Starting in Hybrid Learning allows full implementation of significant changes throughout the district, including transportation, food service, technology, building changes, buildings and grounds, and teaching and learning.
3. Hybrid Learning is a balance between In-Person Learning and Distance Learning.
4. If/when contact tracing is needed, conducting classes in hybrid will result in fewer people being quarantined. Shanda Jorgenson, the district's health and safety consultant, will provide additional information.

To address concerns raised on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, I recommend that the school board review relevant data on September 28<sup>th</sup> or October 1<sup>st</sup>. A change could be implemented at any time...perhaps on October 5<sup>th</sup> or November 9<sup>th</sup> (after the end of first quarter). If specific metrics are needed, one option is to require the number of cases per 10,000 over 14 days by county of residence to be 0-9 each week in September.

#### Recommendation

I move to approve the attached Resolution Adopting a Base Learning Model for the 2020-2021 School Year and other COVID-19 Related Matters.