

Colvill Family Center – Variation from Distance Learning Plan

Context –

- 1) On November 5, 2020 Governor Tim Walz issued Executive Order 20-94, which gives additional guidance to school districts when a change to distance learning is needed. RWPS has decided to move to distance learning beginning 11/16/20.
- 2) The order contains language that allows districts to continue to operate their early childhood programs while a district is in distance learning.
- 3) Colvill houses numerous programs: Early Childhood Family Education, Early Childhood Special Education, Early Childhood Screening, Early Childhood Special Education, Early Childhood Screening, Colvill Kids Preschool and a Headstart Center operated by Three Rivers Community Action. All programs at Colvill are voluntary and two of the programs, Early Childhood Family Education and Colvill Kids Preschool are fee based.
- 4) If Colvill closes during distance learning Colvill Kids Teachers and most paraprofessionals who work in the building would be reassigned; most of them to Kids Junction.
- 5) Significant revenue will be lost if Colvill Kids cannot operate as parent fees cannot be charged.
- 6) Families who leave the program may not return when distance learning ends.
- 7) Early Childhood Special Education must continue to operate during distance learning; some students will need to be served face to face due to the nature of their needs.
- 8) While Colvill teachers have done an outstanding job delivering distance learning services to their students, peer interaction and the daily routine that comes with preschool is really important at this age. Peer and teacher to student connections make face to face instruction much more relevant and effective.
- 9) The majority of ECSE students are served in Colvill Kids Preschool. Closing the preschool removes the possibility of them spending time with typically developing peers.
- 10) The Governor's Order indicates that some students receiving special education services will need to be served in person during distance learning.

Rationale-

Because Colvill Kids Teachers and paras would be reassigned to work directly with students in a childcare environment, it makes sense to keep them at Colvill working directly with their students in order to avoid a significant break in face to face instruction and to enable the preschool program to continue to operate (in keeping with the Governors order). The program would run on a reduced schedule, with some services provided online.

In order to serve our special education students effectively, the ECSE program would run face to face as well. The program would run on a reduced schedule, with some services provided online.

In order to continue to serve families in the ECFE program that are already enrolled, the ECFE program would continue to run face to face on a reduced schedule for families currently enrolled. New families would not be added. The current ECFE session ends on 12/18. Prior to that date a decisions will be made as to whether they will return to face to face for winter / spring session or go virtual for a period of time.

Because Early Childhood Screening involves many families who are not enrolled in current programs

coming into the building, that program would not run face to face. Instead it would move to parents filling out a screener at home and staff scoring the screener and holding a phone conference with the parent to review the results. This model is approved by MDE and revenue generated by screening would not change.

Because Headstart is not operated by RWPS, their admin would need to decide how to proceed. Historically, they have followed what the district does in terms of closures.

Proposal for Face to Face Learning at Colvill –

November 16- 27 there will be no face to face instruction due to conferences, staff development and Thanksgiving break; there will be distance learning on three days.

Starting 11/30/ 20 face to face instruction would resume at Colvill, Monday – Thursdays only. Classes would be held at their usual times. On Fridays staff would deliver 30 minutes of online content and hold team meetings, staff development meetings, etc.

Paras would be available for a portion of the day on Fridays to work on deep cleaning of materials organizing materials for the coming week, etc. Custodians will be able to complete a deeper clean on Fridays with no students in the building. Friday is already the lighter programming day at Colvill with two programs not in session and one classroom meeting half days.

All safety precautions currently in place will remain in place, plus additional cleaning and safety precautions will be put in place. We will work closely with the Covid response team to monitor the situation and determine together if there is a point where we should not provide face to face instruction.

Buy- In –

In considering bringing this forward I have spoken with special education teachers, Colvill Kids teachers and ECFE teachers. Response to the proposal has been overwhelmingly positive. Teachers want to see their students in person and believe this proposal is best for the students they serve. ***This is not brought forward lightly and is supported by our teams and is in the best interest of our students. The proposal is also brought forward due to the configuration, requirements and funding of the programs, the young age and needs of our learners and how Colvill staff would be utilized during distance learning.***

Meeting the Needs of Children and Families –

We understand that it is possible that not all parents will want their children to attend in person during this time. For families that do not want to participate in person, children can attend the Friday, online portion to stay connected to their teachers and their peers. Tuition will be adjusted accordingly.

Thank you for considering this proposal.

Min MartinOakes mmmartinoakes@rwps.org

651-385-8000