

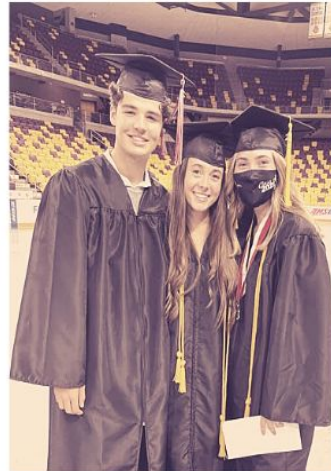
Superintendent's Update

August 24, 2021

General Updates

- Guiding Principles
- District Advisory Committee Update
- Current Context and Covid Rates
- Learning Model
- Safety Measures

2021-22 Safe Learning Plan



ISD 709

Guiding Principles

FOR SAFE IN-PERSON LEARNING

- 1 Ensure the safety and wellness of students and staff
- 2 Deliver high-quality instruction to students
- 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

2021-22 Safe Learning Plan

Current Context and Local COVID-19 Numbers per 10,000

(Based on St. Louis County Bi-Weekly Case Rate for Schools)

- 7/11-7/24 - 4.49
- 7/25-8/7 - 8.82
- 8/1-8/14 - 10.57

District Advisory Committee Update:

Our district advisory committee met last Wednesday to review our current planning. The DAC, by name is advisory in nature and continues to give us valuable input on our planning.

2021-22 Safe Learning Plan

Learning Model Update:

We will be offering five days of in-person learning for all students for the 2021-22 school year. Online options are available for our high school students through our Academic Excellence Online Program.

Safety Measures

As per Minnesota Department of Health Guidelines, it is critical that we have a layering of various safety measures to ensure safety and to support in-person learning.

Masking Update:

- Children under 2 years of age or people of any age who are unable to tolerate wearing a face covering because of a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability are not required to wear a face covering indoors.
- Face coverings/masks are required for all students and staff on student transportation.
- Disposable masks will be available.

Masking Rationale:

- We are not the health experts, but we are education experts.
- During distance learning, fewer than 30% of students reported that they were comfortable with the learning model. We want to do all that we can to provide safe effective in-person learning as a district and as a community.

Masking Rationale:

- So if we are not the health experts, what do the health experts say?
- Mask wearing in schools is currently recommended by:
 - The Center for Disease Control
 - The American Association of Pediatricians
 - The Minnesota Department of Health
 - The Minnesota Medical Association
 - The Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians
 - The Minnesota Chapter of the Association of Pediatricians
 - The St. Louis County Department of Health

Cleaning Updates

- We are following all current CDC cleaning guidance. There has been a shift towards less focus on surface cleaning in this guidance.
- Staff availability has impacted our facilities crew availability and site usage.
- Hand sanitizer will be available.

Site Usage and Volunteer Updates

- Secondary - Limited site usage for approved outside activities or groups
- Elementary - Site usage is not approved at this time for site usage This does not exclude explicit partnerships, such as Keyzone.
- Volunteers are approved PreK-12
- All must follow safety protocols

Athletics, PE, Locker Rooms and Spectators

- We are recommending use of the locker rooms while wearing masks. During a sporting event, during the activity students do not need to mask but should stay in pods. During PE class activities, students do not need to mask but should stay in pods for elementary. Students need to mask while on the sidelines and not participating in the sporting/PE activity.
- Masking is required for spectators at indoor events.

Vaccine Updates

- Students 12 and older are now eligible for vaccination and encouraged to get them.
- Currently offering vaccination clinics at East High School and Denfeld High School
- All eligible staff and students are encouraged to vaccinate.

Contact Tracing and Testing

- PK-12 indoors - Close contacts - if the person in close contact and the positive case are both wearing masks the close contact does not have to quarantine.
- If the exposed person develops symptoms, they would need to quarantine regardless of vaccination status. We will require a negative test, as per the decision tree, for staff and students with one more common or two less common symptoms to return to school/work.
- The decision tree will be used for all symptomatic staff and students regardless of vaccination and exposure status.
- We are not offering serial testing at this time.

Sick Leave

- Staff will be able to use their allocated sick leave when required to quarantine or isolate
- If asked to quarantine due to work related exposure, staff will not have to use their own sick leave
- The district will try whenever possible or appropriate, but cannot guarantee, to accommodate remote work requests due to isolation or quarantine
- All requests for accommodations need to be assessed and approved by Human Resources

Social Distancing, Podding, and Lunches

- There is no longer explicit guidance for lunch, but podding at elementary is recommended to the degree possible. If there are any changes in schedules, schools will need to let food service know ASAP.
- High schools can have open lunches if they would like to, following the same protocol as last year.

Transportation

- We continue to strive for transportation staffing to start the school year. With some creativity and working with our Contractor, Voyageur Bus, we have done some route changes to best service our students.
- The District may need to look for other options if we lose staff or have more transportation needs.
- We will work with our Education Leadership to partner with solutions.

