

Executive Director's Report to the Board



Date of Report: March 19, 2021

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K-5 Hybrid Model

Nova transitioned to a hybrid learning model for its K-5 students this month. Brooke Tousignant, Nova's Lower School Principal, will be providing an update about the transition during the Board meeting on March 29th.

On-Site COVID Testing

As a part of student returning to in-person learning, Nova has started operating bi-weekly onsite COVID testing for its staff. Our first testing date was Monday March 15th and went very smoothly. We anticipate that we will continue to operate the on-site testing through the end of the 2020-2021 school year.

State Academic Assessments

Earlier this year, the MN Department of Education (MDE) received a letter from the U.S. Department of Education regarding assessments, accountability and reporting for 2020-2021. The federal government has waived the accountability and school identification requirements for this year. However, the requirement to give the ACCESS for ELLs, Alternate Access for ELLs, MCA and MTAS assessments have not been waived.

This means that although Nova is still required to give the regular standardized tests, they will be used differently for reporting than in past years. The MCA tests must be administered in person, so we have sent a communication to families with students eligible to take these assessments but who are not currently in an in-person instructional model asking them to sign up for times to come to Nova and test. As they have in past years, families have the right to opt out of the standardized testing. MDE has provided additional flexibility this year by allowing students to opt out for the reasons they would have in prior year as well as creating an additional reporting code that can be utilized for students who opt out for reasons connected to COVID-19 and the pandemic.