

Safe Learning Update

Committee of the Whole Board Meeting

December 7, 2021

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

Current COVID Rates

- 8/29-9/11 - 35.62
- 9/5-9/18 - 42.02
- 9/12-9/25 - 41.27
- 9/19-10/2 - 46.92
- 9/26-10/09 - 60.33
- 10/03-10/16 - 59.25
- 10/10-10/23 - 54.50
- 10/17-10/20 - 57.25
- 10/24-11/6 - 74.14
- 10/31-11/13 - 92.12
- 11/7-11/20 - 109.59

Proposed Calendar Changes

Based on current safety and operational needs, we are asking the board to consider the following modifications in our calendar by adding two district wide closure days - Wednesday December 22 and Monday January 3

- No school for students - School and district offices will be closed
- Purpose:
 - a. to address staff and student safety due the impact of staffing shortages on district operations
 - b. to address staff and student safety by providing opportunities for booster clinics prior to break and testing prior to returning
 - c. to recognize the stress of our staff and students due to the extreme efforts and sacrifices they have made over the last 21 months

Providing Needed Supports

We also recognize that food service, childcare, and other needs must be acknowledged and supported and are proud to be working with our community partners to assist with these vital needs.

- Key Zone childcare will be provided through the YMCA
- Additional Programming through Boys and Girls Club, Valley Youth Services, and other supports
- Mental health supports through Northwoods
- Resource mapping and outreach regarding food programmings and other needs
- Broad recognition and support by a wide range of additional organizations, including Essentia Health, St. Louis County, the City of Duluth, Educational Equity Alliance, Duluth Superior Foundation and many others

Need for Increased Safety Precautions

The Minnesota Department of Health continues to encourage us to on our safety layering in the areas of:

- Promoting vaccines and boosters
- Universal masking
- Staying home when sick
- Testing
- Notification
- Additional layers of safety