

Board Meeting Date: October 22, 2020

COVID-19 Board Report

PURPOSE: Provide an Update about District 191's efforts to implement COVID-19 related educational and public health guidance issued by the MDE and the MDH, respectively (Maximize resources for optimal student learning).

Tonight, I will share information related to two of our four primary areas of our planning: Health & Safety and Student and Family Support.

Tonight, I want to first acknowledge all staff for their work as we launched a full distance learning model through Virtual Academy (online learning) and a hybrid model of in-person and distance learning. We planned for and implemented the hybrid model slowly through our staggered school start. We have almost completed 3 weeks with all hybrid students' experiencing in-person learning. Now is the time to see how our plans have worked in practice. I want to acknowledge that we had a solid implementation and we are problem solving issues that are of concern to students, families and teachers.

I have anecdotal information that overall things are going well. Overall parents and teachers are supportive of the switch to synchronous from asynchronous learning that was implemented last spring, students and staff are adhering to health and safety protocols and attendance is good. Yet, we have challenges of large classes sizes in Virtual Academy, teachers managing an all virtual learning environment and managing both in-person and virtual learning at the same time. Additionally, full student engagement in active learning in virtual classes in hybrid and Virtual Academy can be difficult to manage. For Virtual Academy, we are challenged with transitioning staff when we are immediately honoring parents' requests to change from hybrid learning to Virtual Academy thus causing an imbalance in staffing. We have hired more staff to help reduce class sizes. We will survey students, parents and staff with the hope of learning more about how our plans have been operationalized and the impact on our constituents.

Health and Safety (MDH):

County Updates: 14 day case rate per 10,000 residents. The following numbers represent the time period from 9-27 through 10/10. Dakota Count is 24.06 an increase from 20.73. Scott 22.60 an increase from 22.25. We must use the confirmed cases per 100,000 residents for Dakota County since it is higher. For this data, we remain in the hybrid learning model.

My COVID-19 Leadership team, COVID-19 Advisory Committee and I will continue to look at the trends. If we have an increase again next week, the key indicators and decision process for selecting the learning model that is best for our district will be crucial. On Tuesday the Leadership Team continued discussion about the indicators and process and this Friday, the COVID-19 Advisory team will continue its discussion.

Learning Model Parameters

Number of cases per 10,000 over 14 days, by county of residence	Learning Model
0-9	In-person learning for all students
10-19	In-person learning for 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

Student and Family Support:

Reminder that parent teacher conferences are November 2nd and 3rd. I hope parents will take this opportunity to learn more about classroom curriculum and to ask questions from your child's teachers.

I want to highlight that to complement these upcoming conferences middle school teachers held a virtual Open House yesterday. During the last 15 minutes of the four classes offered on Wednesdays, parents were invited to meet. They have seen an increase in the number of parents attending virtual meetings for the fall open Houses. This concludes my report.