



Dear Parents, Students and Staff,

I'm writing to share with you an update regarding our process for determining the learning model Minnetonka Schools will follow for the start of the school year.

Today, the Minnesota Department of Education, in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Health, shared planning guidelines for school districts. The Department of Health anticipates that COVID-19 will continue to circulate. Therefore, all school districts have been asked to plan for the following three possibilities for the 2020-21 school year: a) for schools to reopen fully, with social distancing and other precautions in place; b) for schools to reopen in a hybrid model, with some time spent at schools and some e-learning; and c) for schools to continue with full e-learning.

We have also been informed the Governor will make the determination no later than July 27 as to which of the three plans that school districts will be told to implement for the start of the school year. **The Minnesota Department of Education made it clear today that schools may choose a more restrictive option than the Governor establishes but not a less restrictive option.**

Once the initial option is selected by the Governor, future decisions to increase or loosen restrictions will be made throughout the school year, as the Department of Health determines COVID-19 metrics at the local, regional and state level worsen or improve.

Here is more information on what we have been told to consider in our planning for each option:

Scenario #1: Schools Fully Open

We would provide as much social distancing as possible for students and staff. We would have floor markings in reception areas. We would allow more physical space between passengers in transportation vehicles. We would restrict non-essential visitors, volunteers and activities from school buildings. We would adjust our food service to have more food

items individually packaged.

Scenario #2: Hybrid (Some Time Spent in Schools and Some Time Spent E-learning)

In addition to the elements listed for Scenario #1, we would limit the number of people in school buildings and in transportation vehicles. We would implement contactless pick up and/or delivery of meals for days students are not in the buildings. We would implement school-age care program for essential workers

Scenario #3: E-learning

We would implement contactless pick up and/or delivery of meals for students. We would implement school-age care program for essential workers.

Our staff and teachers will work on these various scenario options in the coming weeks. As soon as the Governor makes a determination on which scenario will be implemented, we will communicate that to you.

Thank you to each of you for all you have done to support students and each other throughout the past few months. I know that it has been challenging, particularly for families, with the need for many to balance work while your children are engaged in e-learning, with the social isolation e-learning has caused for some students and with fewer opportunities for building those teacher-student and peer-to-peer student relationships that are so critical in fostering learning.

We are planning to distribute surveys on e-learning to families and to teachers in the days ahead, and I ask that you please complete the survey you receive, as your input will help us greatly with fall planning, no matter which scenario we are asked to follow.

Thank you, everyone, for your support and partnership in these challenging times. It is greatly appreciated.

Dr. Dennis Peterson
Superintendent of Schools

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