

Monthly Committee of the Whole Board Meeting - Regular School Board Meeting

Duluth Public Schools, ISD 709

Agenda

Tuesday, September 15, 2020

District Services Center

709 Portia Johnson Dr.

Duluth, MN 55811

6:30 PM

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **ROLL CALL**

3. **AGENDA ITEMS**

A. Curriculum and Instruction

1) Action Items - Consent Agenda

a. Presentation Items Requiring Approval

(1) Duluth Head Start Transportation Waiver

Duluth Preschool Supervisor & Head Start Director Sherry Williams

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b. Other Action Items - None

c. Resolutions - None

2) Informational Items

a. Presentations

(1) Return to Learn Planning Update

Superintendent John Magas

(2) Duluth Preschool Hybrid Model Plan

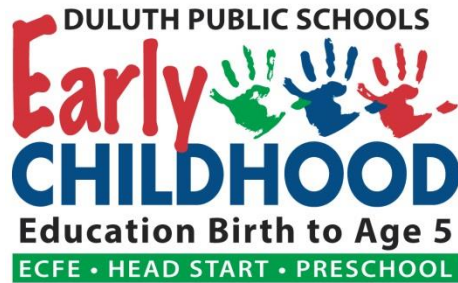
Duluth Preschool Supervisor & Head Start Director Sherry Williams

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B. Other - None

4. **ADJOURN**



August 24,2020

The Duluth Public Schools Preschool program has had the opportunity to allow 4 year old children in our program to ride the school bus to and from school alongside elementary students for the last several years. Our preschool program blends Head Start funding with state funded School Readiness, and includes students from the Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten program. As per state guidelines, students in Voluntary Pre-K must be provided with transportation. Our district has generously provided this same access to Head Start and School Readiness families. This has reduced a significant barrier for our Head Start families in particular, who all meet the federal poverty guidelines in order to qualify for the program, and for whom transportation can present great challenges.

This request is asking you to continue providing transportation for students enrolled in our programs that follow the elementary school day schedule. We also ask that you waive regulations for restraints and monitors (Head Start Performance Standards 1303.71 (d); 1303.72 (a)(1) and 1303.72(a)(4). We have seen that 4 year old children have been successful riding the bus without restraints and monitors for the last 3 years. We do have safety measures in place, such as seating the children in the first seats in the bus, having adults wait with and pick up children from the bus stop, and teaching children bus safety procedures. Riding the bus is not required. It is optional for families.

We have seen attendance rates improve with transportation. We know we are setting the habits families are likely to continue when children enter elementary school. We believe this is an important reason to approve this request. Thank you for your commitment to equity that implores us to Start Early.

Please sign below, indicating your support to waive the requirements for restraints and bus monitors that Head Start typically requires.

School Board Chairperson

Date

District Advisory Committee

MDE guidance recommends meeting with a wide variety of stakeholders as they make their initial decision. We have met with parents, teachers, administrators, county health officials, representatives from each of our bargaining groups, and many others as we considered our initial recommendation to the board.

The district formed a district advisory committee to provide input on decision making criteria to ensure that district administration continues to look at these secondary criteria as it makes future determinations on model changes.

2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR



DULUTH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
RETURN TO LEARN PLANNING

www.ISD709.org/ReturnToLearn

2020 Return to Learn

Return to Learn Update

September 15, 2020

Overview

Tonight, we are sharing a brief update on our fall Return to Learn efforts, including the start of our Digital Engagement Days as well launch of our full instruction in the elementary hybrid / secondary distance model. This is intended to inform you regarding what has transpired since our committee of the Whole meeting on September 1st.

Agenda

- I. Review of district advisory meeting
 - A. Review current reality
 - 1. Guiding principles
 - 2. Initial model
 - 3. COVID Rates
 - 4. Stakeholder concerns
 - 5. Educational engagement implementation
 - B. Review of prerequisite considerations for model change
 - C. Committee Input
- II. Business services updates
- III. Digital Days updates
- IV. Questions and answers
- V. Resources

District Advisory Committee

2020 Return to Learn



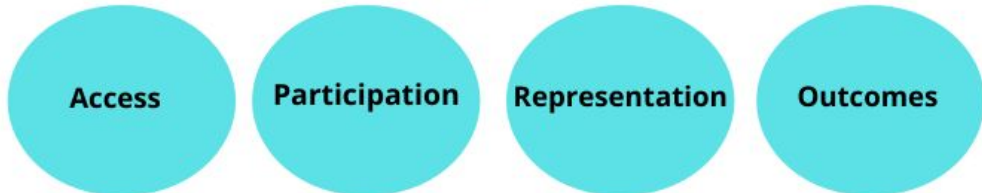
ISD 709

Guiding Principles

FOR RE-OPENING SCHOOLS

- 1 Ensure the safety and wellness of students and staff
- 2 Deliver high-quality instruction to students, regardless of delivery model
- 3 Equity: Ensuring all means all
- 4 Optimize use of resources (space & materials)
- 5 Community and stakeholder engagement in plan development

Equity Criteria:



ISD709.org/Equity

State Guidance, Local Input

Duluth Public Schools 2020 Return to Learn Plan

- County COVID #s, State Thresholds Influence Learning Model
- Emphasize Safety of Students and Staff
- Prioritize In-Person Learning, Especially for Young Students
- Flexibility for Local Decisions
- State Support for Local COVID Response Throughout the Year

The Duluth Public Schools Return to Learn Plan is a working document to be updated as changes occur.

2020 Return to Learn

*Based on the safe learning guidelines and other factors, we recommended an initial model of **elementary hybrid learning and secondary distance learning.***

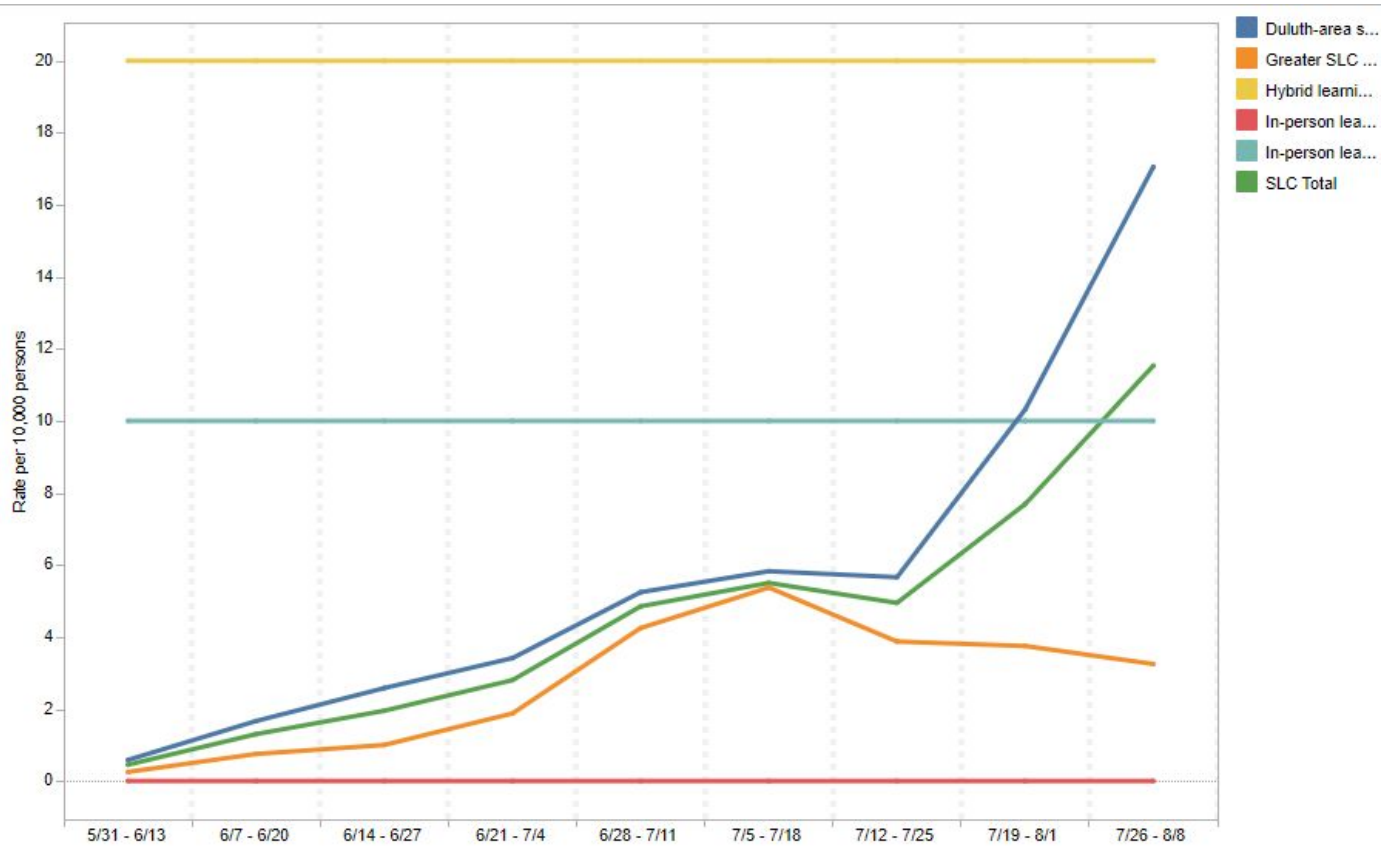
MDE Safe Learning Model Guidelines

Policy Option	Range (14-day case rate per 10,000 people)
In-person learning for all students	0 to less than 10
Elementary in-person, Middle/high school hybrid	10 to less than 20
Both hybrid	20 to less than 30
Elementary hybrid, Middle/high school distance	30 to less than 50
Both distance	50 or more

Review of Current Reality

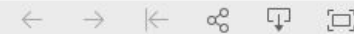
2020 Return to Learn

Prior Local COVID-19 Numbers



Last update: 8/21/2020: 8:30 AM

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Current Local COVID-19 Numbers

- 7/25 - 5.66
- 8/01 - 10.44
- 8/08 - 17.14
- 8/15 - 17.39
- 8/22 - 12.90
- 8/29 - 9.90
- 9/06 - 12.00 (Estimate)

Current Reality, Continued

- A. Review previous survey data
- B. Stakeholder concerns
 - 1. Balancing safety and learning
 - 2. Challenges to the start of the year
- C. Digital engagement, distance Learning and hybrid implementation
- D. Staff concerns and quarantining
- E. Leadership concerns

Review Prerequisite for Model Change

Considerations for Model Change and Input

- A. Changing Local COVID Rates
- B. Balancing the needs of safety and learning
- C. Challenges of hybrid / hybrid
- D. Concerns for space at east side elementaries

Business Services Updates

Business Services Updates

- Facilities Teams have been working to prepare our buildings for the return for staff and students. Traffic patterns, cleaning protocol, and PPE have been distributed.
- Transportation Teams are preparing for our hybrid routes for Elementary schools. Safety and cleaning protocols are planned, and we encourage families to review the self-screening and PPE needs before entering the bus.
- Food Service Teams are working towards having both in person meals for students and meals for pick up for our distance learners. Meals are currently free, but application for benefits are critical for the district.
- Technology devices have been distributed, and more devices are on order. Hot Spots can continue to be registered for at the sites.

Digital Days Updates

Digital Days Update

- Daily PD has been crafted for both the elementary and secondary staff that is designed to be responsive to the teachers learning and growth.
- Currently our staff are mastering the LMS and we are working to orient the families and students, ensuring they understand how to be online learners. Next step is to dig into the content.
- During the first part of any school year, teachers set the stage for the learning. It is all about learning the expectations and routines, and building student stamina.
- Elementary teachers pushed out their first week's worth of content on Monday. Secondary will be pushing out their first week of content on Thursday.

Digital Days Update (cont'd)

- Collaborative teams are working across the district to build content. At the elementary level, we have grade-level teams assigned to building in Reading, Math, Science and Social Studies. Course-alike teams are meeting at the secondary to build content and align to the pacing guides.
- During this time, we are reimagining what student learning can look like. Teacher schedules are being communicated that will allow for opportunities to interact with students.
- In an online learning model, students assignments are meant as a demonstration of student learning. As students and teachers build more comfort and stamina, learning shifts into another gear. Families will see a build up of time in content and pace.

Additional Resources

www.ISD709.org/ReturnToLearn

www.isd709.org/digital-learning

What Does the Hybrid Model Look Like for Duluth Preschool?

Preschool Full Day Sessions

9 students per session (half)

7:30-2:15

AA/BB

Distance on “off” days and Wednesdays

*This model will resume 5 days in person if we go back to face to face

Preschool Half Day Sessions

12 students per session

7:30-1:15

AA/BB

Distance on “off” days and Wednesdays

*This model will not change if we resume face to face instruction (students may be added depending on the waiting list)

**schedule may vary for students with Individual Education Plans

VPK

Session frequency dependent on enrollment.

12 and under, 2 days/week

13 or over, one day/week

7:30-2:15

A/B

Distance on “off” days and Wednesdays

*This model will resume 3 days per week if we go back to face to face