

**Regular School Board Meeting**

Duluth Public Schools, ISD 709

Agenda

Tuesday, November 17, 2020

VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

Google Meet

Duluth, MN 55802

6:30 PM

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Pledge of Allegiance**
4. **Approval of the Agenda**
5. **School and Community Recognition**
6. **Audience**
7. **Reading Communications, Petitions, Etc. - *None***
8. **Report of the Superintendent** 2
  - A. Reports from Student School Board Representatives
  - B. Schedule of Meetings and Events 14
9. **Report of Standing Committees**
  - A. Monthly Committee of the Whole (*see separate report*)
  - B. Policy Committee (*see separate report*)
  - C. HR/Finance Committee (*see separate report*)
10. **Consent Agenda**
11. **Special Resolutions and Action Items - *None***
12. **Questions / Other**
13. **Adjournment**

2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR



DULUTH PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
RETURN TO LEARN PLANNING

[www.ISD709.org/ReturnToLearn](http://www.ISD709.org/ReturnToLearn)

## 2020 Return to Learn

# Return to Learn Update

*November 17, 2020*

# 2020 Return to Learn



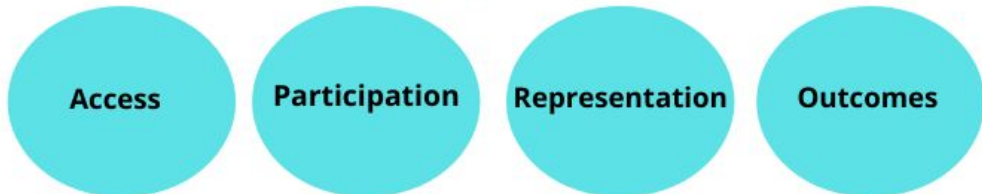
ISD 709

## 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](https://ISD709.org/Equity)

## COVID-19 Cases Update

- A. Staff positive cases have increased significantly.
- B. Student Positive cases have increased significantly.
- C. ISD709 students and staff who have been quarantined have increased significantly.
- D. Current information is not readily available due to the increase and need to focus on current reporting and contact tracing.

## 2020 Return to Learn

# Current Local COVID-19 Numbers

### *St. Louis County Bi-Weekly Case Rate for Schools*

- 8/29 - 10.5
- 9/05 - 12.98
- 9/12 - 16.14
- 9/19 - 22.47
- 9/26 - 33.37
- 10/03 - 35.2
- 10/10 - 32.7
- 10/17 - 34.2
- 10/24 - 39.8
- 10/31 - 54.3

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

## **WHY DID WE SHIFT TO DISTANCE LEARNING FOR ELEMENTARY?**

- Sharp, continuing rise in Duluth and St. Louis County COVID rates
- Significant rise in students and staff testing positive and in quarantine
- District administration made determination after consulting with the Minnesota Department of Education and local health officials who recommended a shift to distance learning for several weeks
- We wanted to announce with as much advance notice as possible to provide families and staff time to plan and prepare for transition

## **WHAT WILL THE SHIFT MEAN TO STUDENTS AND FAMILIES?**

- This week, our hybrid elementary classes will transition to distance learning and we will pause in-person activities/athletics.
- Elementary instruction of all students will fully pause for transition and preparation tomorrow, November 18.
- For transitioning elementary students, on the 19th and 20th, teacher supported at home learning will occur as we complete our transition to distance learning beginning the following week.
- Current distance elementary students will resume DL on the 19th.
- Secondary instruction will not be impacted by the transition.

## **WHY DID DULUTH PAUSE ATHLETICS WHILE SOME DISTRICTS HAVE NOT?**

- As noted earlier, our local and in-school rates are increasing dramatically.
- Duluth Public Schools chose to follow the recommendations of our health officials and medical community.
- Some districts have chosen to make their decisions internally.
- Concerns involves people who are asymptomatic spreading the infection to others who are more susceptible.
- “Our community’s health care system is dangerously stressed”, we have to think of the common good, as well as our desire to continue.

## Athletics and Activities Update

**We know that this decision is very disappointing to many students and families. It is disappointing to me as well and is not something any of us want to or would choose to do. We will reassess our data and situation in December, if permitted.**

**It is our hope, that through a community wide effort to promote safe practices, that our transmission rates will decline and allow us to resume.**

**This afternoon, Governor Walz announced he would share additional restrictions tomorrow, including restrictions on athletics and activities that would impact both fall and winter seasons.**

## *2020 Return to Learn*

# Athletics and Activities Update

**When we are able to resume, we have COVID safety plans in place for each sport and activity.**

**We will consider compacted schedules once guidance from the state is provided.**

**Scholarships and cooperation between universities and Denfeld and East continues despite the pause.. Higher education entities are looking at video footage and other sources for recommendations.**

## 2020 Return to Learn

# A Safe Return to Play

***Please join us in our common goal!***

We urge families, students, coaches, and activity coordinators to direct their energy and efforts to join us in our public awareness and safety campaign so that we can safely return to play.

Athletic directors and coaches are considering mitigations ideas such as:

- Masks for all athletes/coaches during all team activity (including games)
- Decrease the size of pods, or as a last resort reduce number of teams
- Adjust bussing regulations or eliminating bussing altogether.
- Eliminate spectators within a facility. Only game day personnel are allowed

## 2020 Return to Learn

### Family, Student and Staff Surveys

- Results will be used to target *specific* improvements for the district and schools
- 2600 Family Surveys Returned
- 2500 Student Surveys Returned
- 300 Staff Surveys Returned
- Due by 11/23/20

# Additional Resources

[www.ISD709.org/ReturnToLearn](http://www.ISD709.org/ReturnToLearn)

DULUTH PUBLIC SCHOOLS ISD 709  
**SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

**All meetings are scheduled at Historic Old Central High School, 215 N 1st Avenue East, unless otherwise noted.**

**Subject to change:** Due to the declared health pandemic, and the declared state of emergency in the City of Duluth, and pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.021.

**The November regular school board meeting will be held REMOTELY, WITH NO public presence.** Committee meetings will continue to be held remotely at this time.

Public comment for the regular school board meeting on November 17, 2020 may be submitted to [public.comment@isd709.org](mailto:public.comment@isd709.org) (**email comments must be kept to three minutes when read aloud**), or recorded by calling 218-336-8730 no later than **Monday, November 16th** by 4:00 PM.

The public is encouraged to watch Board meetings online at [www.isd709.org/district/school-board](http://www.isd709.org/district/school-board) and live on cable channel 187. There will NOT be a viewing room set up at HOCHS. Thank you for your understanding.

**Subject to Change:**

**November 16-20, 2020**

Tuesday	November 17, 2020	6:30 p.m.	Regular School Board Meeting* <b>Electronic Participation/Live Streamed</b>
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**NOTE CHANGE TO A REMOTE MEETING**

**November 23-27, 2020**

*No meetings scheduled at this time*

**November 30-December 4, 2020**

Tuesday	December 1, 2020	4:30 p.m.	Monthly Committee of the Whole <b>Electronic Participation/Live Streamed</b>
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Thursday	December 3, 2020	4:30 p.m.	Policy Committee <b>Electronic Participation/Live Streamed</b>
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**December 7-11, 2020**

Tuesday	December 8, 2020	4:30 p.m.	HR/Finance Committee <b>Electronic Participation/Live Streamed</b>
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**December 14-18, 2020**

Tuesday	December 15, 2020	6:30 p.m.	Regular School Board Meeting* • Includes Truth in Taxation Hearing <b>TBD</b>
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**December 21-25, 2020**

*No meetings scheduled at this time*

**December 28, 2020 - January 1, 2021**

*No meetings scheduled at this time*

*\*If a Regular School Board meeting is cancelled and cannot be held on the regularly scheduled date listed above, due to weather or unforeseen circumstances, it will be held the very next day at the same time and location.*

Office of the Superintendent  
November 13, 2020