

# **School Board Special Work Session**

August 7, 2020

# White Bear Lake Area Schools

## FALL 2020

### RETURN TO SCHOOL

August 7, 2020  
Special Work Session



# PROCESS

## Three Options

- In-person Learning Model
- Hybrid Learning Model
- Distance Learning Model

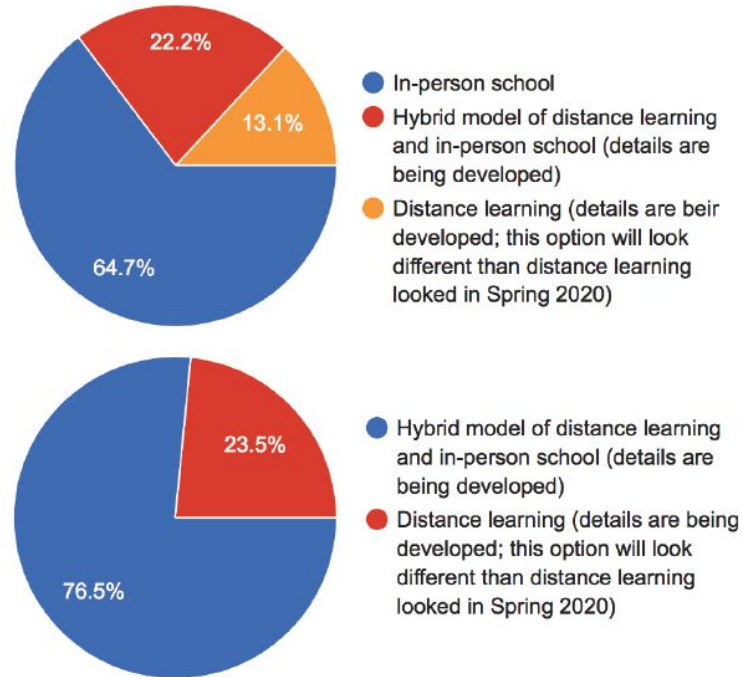
## Committee Structure:

- Instructional / Special Education / Technology
- Human Resources
- Community Services
- Operational / Health Services / Technology

# JUNE - FAMILY INPUT (SURVEY)

## June Survey Results

- The June survey had 5,971 responses.
- 59.1% of families indicated they would have their child use district transportation if school were In-person.
- When asked about preferred learning model, the In-person Learning Model was preferred by 64.7% of respondents.
- When asked about preferred learning model when In-person Learning was not available, a Hybrid Model was preferred by 76.5% of respondents.



# JULY - FAMILY INPUT (THOUGHTEXCHANGE)

## **thoughtexchange Results**

- The July thoughtexchange had 2,681 participants, 4,237 thoughts shared, and 102,806 ratings given.
- Common themes:
  - Results were pretty evenly split between those who wish for students to go back to school in person and those who wish for the distance learning model to be implemented.
  - Safety was a strong theme that resonated with exchange participants, regardless of feelings about in-person or distance learning.
  - Participants voiced the opinion that if Distance Learning were to be used this fall, it must look different than the model looked in the spring.
  - Participants asked for frequent communication from the district.

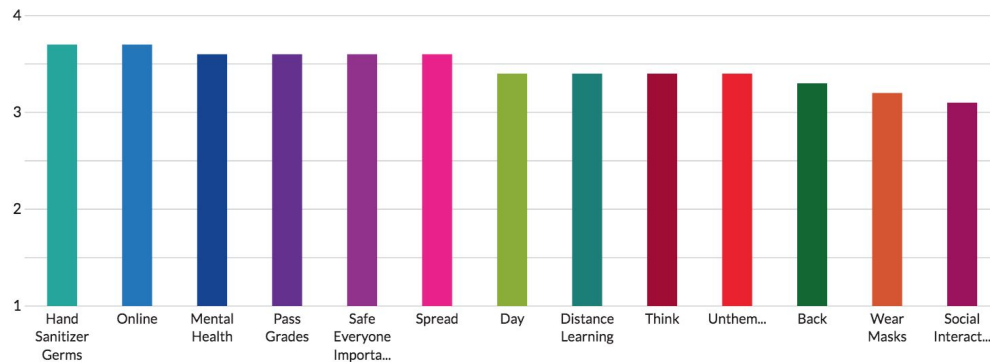
# JULY - STUDENT/STAFF (THOUGHTEXCHANGE)

## Top Thoughts (Students)

526 student participants

593 thoughts

11,127 ratings

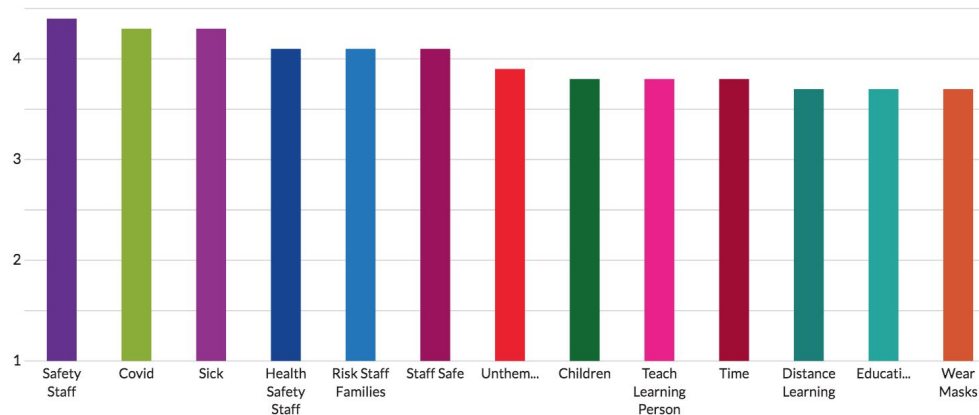


## Top Thoughts (Staff)

895 staff participants

1,408 thoughts

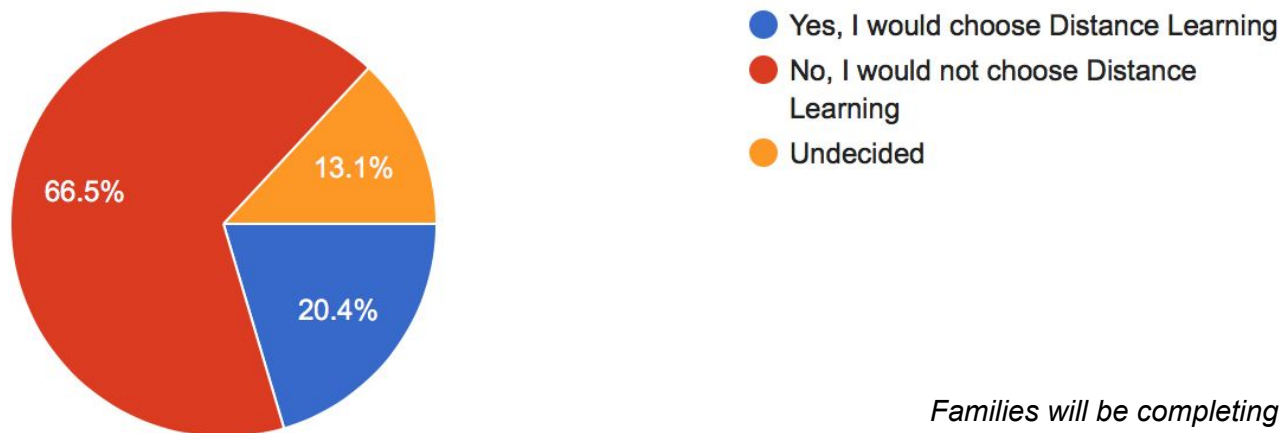
58,364 ratings



# AUGUST - FAMILY INPUT (SURVEY)

Would you choose the Distance Learning Model, meaning your child would be learning from home all day every day, regardless of whether we are able to offer any in-person learning during the school year?

4,923 responses



*Families will be completing the survey through Friday, Aug. 14.*

# MDE/MDH GUIDANCE

## How do schools determine their safe learning model?

### STEP 1

Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) will use data from counties to determine a base learning model for public schools.

### STEP 2

Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) will share county data and the consultative process for public schools to engage with education and public health experts to review their county health data and safe learning plans.

### STEP 3

Public schools, with their incident command team, will evaluate their ability to implement required and recommended health best practices.

### STEP 4

Public schools, in consultation with public health, will determine a learning model to begin the school year and communicate that decision with their school community.\*

### STEP 5

Public schools and MDH will monitor the community and school-level impact of COVID-19 on a regular basis. Adjustments will be made to the learning model if needed.

## Safe learning models:



Distance learning



Hybrid learning



In-person learning

\* Regardless of learning model, all public schools must offer an equitable distance learning option to all families.



# MDE/MDH GUIDANCE

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{Total number of cases for} \\ \text{last 14 days} \end{array} \div \left( \frac{\text{County population}}{10,000} \right) = \begin{array}{c} \text{14-day county case level} \\ \text{rate per 10,000} \end{array}$$

# MDE/MDH GUIDANCE

## 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

# MDE/MDH GUIDANCE

## 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

### Two-Week County Case Data (7/12 - 7/25)

- Anoka County - 17.33
- Ramsey County - 19.65
- Washington County - 15.63

# FALL 2020 RETURN TO SCHOOL RECOMMENDATION

**Hybrid Learning Model for Grades K-12+** - Students will attend school in-person and be at home learning on an A/B day rotation by alphabet on Monday-Thursday. All students will be at home learning on Fridays.

**Distance Learning Model Option** - Available for all families who wish to choose that as an option.

*\*The Full In-Person Learning Model is not currently recommended.*

PLANNING FOR FALL 2020

# HEALTH & SAFETY

# FACILITIES

## **Cleaning**

- Enhanced disinfecting during the day using CDC approved products
  - Disinfecting high touch areas as defined by MDH (handrails, door knobs, bottle filling stations, restroom fixtures, etc).
- Nightly deep sanitation
  - Include above as well as disinfecting all desktops, chairs, countertops and sinks in classrooms and restrooms with electrostatic sprayers.

## **Classroom Supplies**

- Spray bottles with CDC approved safe disinfectant and paper towels
- Hand sanitizer in all rooms without sinks
- Soap and paper towels in each room with sinks
- CDC approved disinfectant wipes

# FACILITIES

## **Common Spaces**

- Hand sanitizer stations strategically placed

## **Personal Protective Equipment**

- Rubber gloves
- Face shields
- 2 washable face masks per staff member and student, 50,000 disposable masks
- Plexiglass barriers for health offices and high traffic offices
- N95 masks and eye goggles for custodians using electrostatic sprayers
- Additional PPE for health offices and some special education areas (ie. protective gowns).

# FACILITIES

## **Signage**

- Directional arrow floor graphics
- Distance marker floor graphics
- Healthy reminders wall signs
- Hand washing reminders in restrooms
- Self-screening posters



# FACILITIES

## Ventilation and Water Systems

- Maintenance teams will flush water systems prior to staff and students returning.
- Drinking fountains disabled (water bottle fillers active).
  - Each school has at least one on each floor.
- Maintenance teams will ensure ventilation systems operate properly, increasing flow of outside air. Exhaust fans will run 24/7 in all buildings.
  - In buildings with older ventilation systems (ALC, NC, CMS, SPMS), Hallberg Engineering will review each classroom with the building maintenance team to ensure systems are operating effectively.
  - In buildings with new ventilation systems, Hallberg Engineering will review settings for each site to ensure systems settings are appropriate.
- New air filters installed through the district, and will increase changing frequency.
- Maximize exhaust systems in restrooms

# FACILITIES

**Screening** - CDC does not recommend universal screening be conducted by schools.

- Educate staff, students, and families about the signs and symptoms of COVID-19, and when they/their children should stay home and when they can return to school.
- Families monitor their children before they go to school.
- Staff and students self-monitor throughout the day.
- Monitoring kits at each school to screen throughout the day (checklist, infrared thermometer)
- Designated spaces in each building for students who appear symptomatic.

# TRANSPORTATION

***Transporting students safely to school is a significant challenge during these times. Families are encouraged to transport students to school when possible.***

## **Vehicle Capacity**

- Limit capacity to 50%.
- Parents are encouraged to provide transportation.
- Increase busing qualifying distances to 1 mi for gr K-5 and 1.5 mi for gr 6-12.
- Transportation provided only upon request to qualifying areas.
- Only one pick-up stop per student (cannot accommodate different stops on different days).
- Parents are expected to screen their child for symptoms prior to boarding.
- Transportation Opt-In Form due Aug 16.

# TRANSPORTATION

## **Cleaning**

- Enhanced disinfecting during the day using CDC approved products.
  - Disinfecting high touch areas as defined by MDH (handrails and seat backs).
- Nightly deep sanitation.
  - Include above as well as disinfecting all surfaces using electrostatic sprayers.

## **Vehicle Cleaning Supplies**

- Spray bottles with CDC approved safe disinfectant and paper towels
- Hand sanitizer
- CDC approved disinfectant wipes
- Rubber gloves

# TRANSPORTATION

## **Ventilation**

- Roof vents remain open weather permitting.
- Windows partially open when appropriate and safe.

# NUTRITION SERVICES

## **Capacity:**

- Eat in cafeteria where feasible, adhering to social distancing guidelines
- Eat in other large spaces or outdoors when feasible
- Eat in classrooms as needed

## **Meal Service:**

- Staggered meal times
- Students social distance in line
- Meals pre-plated or served. Items individually packaged as feasible.
- Take home meals available on distance learning days
- Once per week meal pick up available for families choosing 100% distance learning
- Pre-order option for take home and pick up

# NUTRITION SERVICES

**Meals will be made available to students when learning from home.**

**Fees:**

- Breakfast: \$1.70 per meal. Free, Reduced and Kindergarten: FREE
- Lunch: \$2.70 Elementary/\$3.00 Secondary. Free and Reduced Eligible: FREE
- Students will not use pin pads to start the year.

**Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) & Cleaning:**

- Face Masks or Face Shields for staff
- Gloves, aprons, etc as usual
- Disinfect between servings using food grade disinfectant
- Clean and sanitize as usual

# COVID-19 CASE RESPONSE

## **Suspected or Identified COVID-19 Case:**

When a positive case is identified in school, the building Covid Coordinator and School Nurse will conduct contact tracing with the individual/their guardian and contact Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). MDH will provide guidance on who needs to be notified (both high and low risk contacts), provide the notification letters, and determine who needs to be excluded for quarantine.

These decisions are individualized and made in partnership and guidance from the Minnesota Department of Health.



# PRACTICE AT HOME

## TALK TO YOUR CHILD

about returning  
to school in  
September

## MODEL AT HOME

wearing a  
face covering,  
washing your  
hands &  
demonstrating  
six feet of  
distance

Allow your child to

## PICK OUT A FACE COVERING

that is comfortable  
to them

## PRACTICE

putting on &  
taking off a face  
covering. You  
can PRACTICE  
with a favorite  
doll or stuffed  
animal

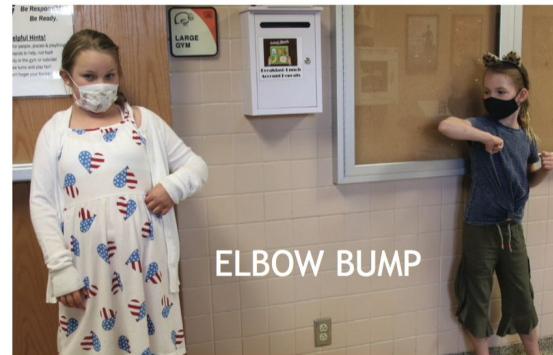
Encourage your  
child to

## ASK QUESTIONS

and  
communicate  
their feelings

# PRACTICE AT HOME

Help your child think of **ALTERNATIVE WAYS TO SAY HELLO** like...



PLANNING FOR FALL 2020

ACADEMICS

# PLANNING FOR FALL 2020

***How might we provide the best education possible for our students given each scenario?***

- We will ensure that **high-quality educational experiences** are delivered to our students across our PK-12+ system.
- We need to build upon the foundation that was set during distance learning and **enhance the learning experiences** that our students experience regardless of the platform and/or precautions that are implemented due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Distance Learning will need to be a component** regardless of whether we are in a model that includes face-to-face interactions, due to necessary precautions for either medically fragile students and families and/or a confirmed case of COVID-19 (those who were within “close contact” as determined by the MDH).
- This model will give us an even stronger foundation from which to build throughout the 2020-21 school year as we anticipate being together again face-to-face in a system that **meets students’ needs in ways we may never have imagined.**

# ATTENDANCE AND GRADING

**Attendance** - The White Bear Lake Area School District will follow the Minnesota Department of Education attendance reporting requirements. All students will be required to attend class and meet attendance requirements.

**Grading** - The grading process will be an agenda item at the August 24 Work-Study School Board Meeting. Letter grades will be utilized in each model.

# EQUITY AND ACCESS

***We are committed to equity and access to quality instruction for all students supported with safe and best practices.***

- **Requesting an Interpreter** - Families can request that a district staff member call them through the use of an interpreter who speaks the language they speak.
- **Cultural Liaisons** - Liaisons work with students, families, and staff throughout the district to increase student and parent engagement with various programs and district activities.
- **Access to Student Supports** - Our Student Support Services Department, Special Education and Section 504 staff members will work with families to ensure their child receives the appropriate accommodations, services and supports.
- **Access to Technology** - All middle school and high school students are provided with district-issued Chromebooks. Elementary families who are in need of a Chromebook for their student may request one from the district or via their school. District-issued wifi hotspots are available to families who are in need of internet access. Parent Tech Help Line offers technology assistance.

## HYBRID AND DISTANCE LEARNING MODELS

***Regardless of which Learning Model a family chooses for its student(s), we are committed to providing an engaging, equitable and quality learning experience for each student.***

# HYBRID MODEL

## **Early Childhood & Bear FUNdamentals**

- We will have in-person class for your student on the days and times for which families registered.
- Instructors would begin to set up Distance Learning platforms with all students and families in the event that the district is required to switch to all Distance Learning. White Bear Lake Area Schools uses SeeSaw and Google to share out classroom activities with families.



# HYBRID MODEL - K-12+

## **K-12+ Scheduling**

- All students in grades K-12 will be divided into two groups to reduce class size
  - Student group A (across grade levels by household/alphabetical)
  - Student group B (across grade levels by household/alphabetical)
- Each week, students in both groups will participate in a combination of in-person learning and distance learning (with a district-issued mobile device) by alternating between days
- Hybrid distance learning will allow for opportunities to have real-time learning through a live virtual classroom and learning activities both on and off a device.

# HYBRID MODEL - K-12+

## Weekly Schedule

- Mon/Wed: Student Group A attends school in-person. Student Group B at home for distance learning.
- Tue/Thu: Student Group B attends school in-person. Student Group A at home for distance learning.
- Fri: At Home Independent Learning
  - Additional support for small groups of students either in-person, real-time digital learning, or remotely throughout the year for reinforcement or enrichment of learning.
  - Opportunity for students to complete learning activities for the previous learning days.
  - Teacher collaboration time to design high quality learning activities.

# Hybrid Learning for Elementary students...

## In-person days:

- Direct instruction mini-lessons for social/emotional learning, reading, writing, math, science and social studies.
- Partner, small group, or individual learning board activities aligned to learning goals
- Recess and outdoor experiences
- Intervention and extension activities

## At-home days:

- View live or recorded direct instruction mini-lessons for social/emotional learning, reading, writing, math, science and social studies.
- Asynchronous completion of learning board activities that are aligned to learning goals

# Learning for MS/HS students...

	Relationship Building/Social Emotional Learning	"I DO" Direct Instruction	"WE DO" Supported Practice	"YOU (MUST) DO" Formative Assessment & Feedback	"YOU (CAN) DO" Reteaching and/or Choice-based extension
<b>Hybrid (For kids in the building)</b>  Ex: Students in class 8:00-9:50	In-class activities ending with some sort of digital component (like a flipgrid video)	During 30 minutes of class time, possible blending of pre-uploaded activities and in-person direct instruction	30 minutes, Google Meet class time going on simultaneously	20 minutes of in-school time Turn in work digitally for equity and flexibility	The "At Home Day" Asynchronous reteaching/feedback application for kids who did not get it day 1  Opportunities for extension and application for kids who got it
<b>Hybrid (For kids who choose distance learning) -or- Distance Learning</b>  Ex: Synchronous learning time 9:00-9:30	Pre-uploaded activities ending with a digital component (like a flipgrid video)	Asynchronous differentiated readings, instructional videos, etc.	Synchronous During 30 minutes Google Meet within class time	Asynchronous Turn in work digitally for equity and flexibility	Asynchronous reteaching/feedback application for kids who did not get it day 1  Opportunities for extension and application for kids who got it

# DISTANCE LEARNING

- **Elementary (K-5)**

- Monday-Thursday: Live digital mini-lessons in literacy including reading and writing, math, and morning meeting/social and emotional learning daily.
- Digital mini-lessons in either science or social studies will be delivered at least twice weekly.
- Learning Boards will serve as the foundation for communication of weekly learning goals and will include reinforcement and enrichment activities.

- **Secondary (6-12+)**

- Live/recorded digital lessons at least twice weekly per class.
- Students will engage in synchronous learning: Monday-Thursday.
- On days when students aren't attending digital lessons, they will work individually, in virtual small groups online, and/or attend small group check-ins with their teachers.

- **Fridays (K-12+):** Small group digital check-ins will be scheduled as needed per individual student.

# HYBRID AND DISTANCE LEARNING MODELS

## **Accessing the models throughout the year**

The district will work with families who request to switch between the models during the school year. In order to maintain a safe classroom environment and appropriate class sizes, a wait time may be implemented for families who choose to switch from Distance to Hybrid Learning.

At any point during the school year, it may be necessary for a classroom, school, or the entire district to switch to the Distance Learning Model. The District will attempt to provide as much notice as possible in that situation.

PLANNING FOR FALL 2020

# PROGRAMS

# ACTIVITIES

**White Bear Lake Area High School Activities** - The WBLAHS Activities Office will offer extracurricular activities as appropriate. Each activity affiliated with the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) will adhere to the established guidelines as defined by the MSHSL, CDC, and MDH for health and safety.

**Youth Enrichment, Recreation, Middle School Sports** - Community Services & Recreation will provide safe programs for all and adapt them as necessary to follow the guidelines recommended by MDH, MDE, and CDC.

*Students who choose the District's virtual learning option will still be allowed to participate in athletics/extracurricular activities.*



# SCHOOL-AGE CARE

- **Hybrid Learning Model**

- School day childcare options will be available at no cost for children grades K-6 of Tier 1 critical workers as defined by the state during regular school hours for distance and independent learning days.
- A fee-based school day childcare option may be available for children of non-Tier 1 critical workers grades K-8 on their distance and independent learning days, depending on building space and capacity.
- Students will receive support for synchronous learning time on their distance learning days.
- A fee-based before and after school option will be available for interested families outside of the regular school hours.

# SCHOOL-AGE CARE

- **Distance Learning Model**

- School day childcare options will be available at no cost for children grades K-6 of Tier 1 critical workers as defined by the state during regular school hours.
- A fee-based school day childcare option will be available for children grades K-8 of non-Tier 1 critical workers.
- Students will receive support for synchronous learning time daily.
- Families interested in before and after school can register for extended hours for a fee.

PLANNING FOR FALL 2020

COURSE OF

ACTION

# COURSE OF ACTION

- **Continue collecting family input via Preference Opt-In survey**
  - Families will be completing the survey through Friday, Aug. 14.
- **Continue to follow Learning Model Parameters provided by MDE/MDH to determine Learning Model (In-person, Hybrid, or Distance Learning)**
  - Monitor 14-day county case level rate per 10,000 people provided by MDH.
- **Board action on the Learning Model for the start of the 2020-21**
  - Distance Learning will be available for all families who wish to choose that as an option.
  - Fall 2020 Return to School Plan will be communicated with staff and families when a decision has been finalized by Board action.

PLANNING FOR FALL 2020  
NEXT STEPS

# NEXT STEPS

- **Communication will to be sent to families today (email, voicemail, text)**
  - Board meeting video & presentation, Return to School Guide, Fall 2020 website
  - Links to Learning Model Preference Opt-In survey and Transportation Opt-In form
- **Next Steps for Families:**
  - **Continue providing input via Preference Opt-In survey**
    - Survey will be open through Friday, Aug. 14.
  - **Complete opt-in form to request Transportation**
    - Opt-in requests will be accepted through Sunday, Aug. 16.
  - **Complete Online Family Update**
    - To be sent out to families next Monday, Aug. 10.
  - **Watch for additional information to be coming**
    - Ensure contact info is complete (email, phone, address), current in Skyward.

# FALL 2020 RETURN TO SCHOOL RECOMMENDATION

**Hybrid Learning Model for Grades K-12+** - Students will attend school in-person and be at home learning on an A/B day rotation by alphabet on Monday-Thursday. All students will be at home learning on Fridays.

**Distance Learning Model Option** - Available for all families who wish to choose that as an option.

*\*The Full In-Person Learning Model is not currently recommended.*

# **School Board Special Work Session**

August 7, 2020