



# Flexible Learning Plan for 2020-21

August 10, 2020  
School Board meeting



**DISTRICT196**<sup>®</sup>

One District. Infinite Possibilities.



# RESTART 2020-21

Provide high quality education  
during a public health crisis

# The Challenge and Process



## Plan for learning in a pandemic

- State directed districts to prepare for **3 possible learning scenarios** and be able to transition from one scenario to another during the year:
  - All in person
  - Hybrid (distance with some in person)
  - Distance learning for all
- **District Design Team**
  - Reviewed community input (surveys) and discussed options
  - Developed a draft Flexible Learning Plan and presented it to the board
  - Received community feedback (focus groups) and revised hybrid part of plan
  - Deciding and communicating final details for implementation (*ongoing*)



## “Informed flexibility”

- Localized, data-driven approach
- Prioritizes learning in school, especially for younger students
- Based on COVID-rate data, by county, reviewed bi-weekly
- Formula:

# of cases in county in previous 14 days  
(divided by)

Total county population (divided by) 10,000

=

**# of cases per 10,000 county residents in the previous 14 days**

# Minnesota Safe Learning Plan



## Implementing the plan in District 196

723 cases in Dakota County



43.3 = **16.7** (on July 31)



826 cases in Dakota County



43.3 = **19.1** (on August 6)

Cases Per 10,000 Residents Over 14 Days, By County	Recommended Learning Model
0-9	In-person for all students
10-19	In-person for elementary students Hybrid for secondary students
20-29	Hybrid for all students
30-49	Hybrid for elementary students Distance learning for secondary students
50+	Distance learning for all students

# District 196 Flexible Learning Plan



Follow the state plan, provide options for our families

- **Community opinions range from all in person to all distance learning**
- **Recommendation to start school year with hybrid as base model**
  - All students in person 2 days per week, distance learning other days
  - Approximately half the class in person (Mon/Thur or Tues/Fri)
  - Wednesdays distance learning for students, planning for teachers
  - New health and safety practices, cleaning protocols, facility modifications
- **Full-time distance learning option (196 Digital Academy)**
  - Simple opt-in registration online (through August 14 deadline)
  - Must commit through winter break

# District 196 Flexible Learning Plan



## Transitioning between learning models

- Based on county COVID cases and trend data
- Consistency in transition
  - Maintain same classes and teachers in most models
  - Use Schoology and Seesaw for content and class management in all models
  - Use Zoom for synchronous learning in distance models



RESTART 2020-21  
**HEALTH & SAFETY**

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## Preparing to have students and staff back in buildings

- Health and safety practices
- Constant consultation with public health
- COVID-19 testing
- Isolation and quarantine protocols
- Response to illness scenarios



## Health and safety practices

- Daily passive screening at home for students and staff
- Wear face covering inside all district buildings (with few exceptions)
  - Disposable face coverings available at entrances
  - If student is unable to wear/remove face covering, discuss with IEP/504 teams
- Maintain 6 feet of distance between others, whenever possible
- Practice good hygiene and build in time for regular hand washing
  - Hand sanitizer stations at all entrances, classrooms and cafeteria



## Constant consultation with public health

- Collaborate on community health, trends and best practices to reduce risk to our community
  - **Jen Odegard**, Dakota County- Public Health Nurse
  - **Melanie Countryman**, Dakota County- Epidemiologist
  - **Denise Herrmann**, Minnesota Department of Health- School Health Consultant



## COVID-19 testing

- Minnesota Department of Health School Test Plan:
  - Staff and students prioritized for testing
  - Testing is structured and localized for outbreaks
  - Staff will receive a one-time saliva test
- Licensed School Nurse at each school responds immediately to positive cases (quarantine and isolation)



## Isolation and quarantine protocols

- School nurses gather data immediately
- Swift and coordinated effort within the school community
- Symptomatic/positive tests must isolate for at least 10 days (students transition to distance learning)
- Close contacts to positive tests must quarantine for at least 14 days (students transition to distance learning)
- Schools isolate ill students and staff from well population

## Scenario 1 - student or staff have positive COVID-19 test

Scenario	Immediate Actions	Communication
<p><b>SCENARIO 1</b></p> <p>A student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Isolate ill person/send home (highly likely, they will already be in quarantine)</li><li>● Student/staff instructed to isolate for a minimum of 10 days, must be fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing agents AND improvement of other symptoms, whichever is longer. (If never symptomatic, isolate for 10 days after positive test.)</li><li>● Student/family notify school nurse, staff notify school nurse and Human Resources</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● School-based close contacts identified and instructed to quarantine for 14 days and seek test in 5-7 days.</li><li>● School nurse notify principal, health services, Dakota County, MDH.</li><li>● Templates for communication to students, families and staff (close contacts).</li></ul>

## Scenario 2 - student or staff exhibit COVID-19 symptoms

Scenario	Immediate Actions	Communication
<p><b>SCENARIO 2</b></p> <p>A student or staff member exhibits COVID-19 symptoms. <a href="#">See list of symptoms</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/symptoms.html">https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/symptoms.html</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Isolate/send home</li><li>● Instructed to get tested</li><li>● Isolate for at least 10 days from symptom onset (Even if test result is negative), must be 24 hours fever free, AND symptoms must be improving prior to return to school.</li><li>● Student notify school nurse, staff notify school nurse and Human Resources</li></ul>	<p>No action is needed, if not tested. If tested and is positive, see scenario 1.</p>

## Scenario 3 - in close contact to positive COVID-19 test

Scenario	Immediate Actions	Communication
<p><b>SCENARIO 3</b></p> <p>Student or staff are close contacts (within 6 feet for greater than 15 minutes) to someone testing positive for COVID-19 within the infectious time period (48 hours before symptoms).</p> <p>(Household members of the close contact are not required to quarantine, unless the close contact becomes symptomatic).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Student/staff sent home and instructed to get tested within 5-7 days and quarantine (even if test is negative) for 14 days after date of last exposure to COVID-19 positive contact.</li><li>• If the student/staff becomes symptomatic, their minimum 10-day isolation starts on date of symptom onset. For example, if they become symptomatic on day 12 of quarantine, they add at least 10 more days to their time at home isolating from others.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No action is needed, we already connected them with Dakota County and the school nurse.</li><li>• If Staff/Student become symptomatic, nurse works with family for testing and close contact follow up.</li><li>• Follow Scenario 1, if becomes applicable.</li></ul>





## Health services summary

- Public Health Nurse at each school (dual licensure)
- School community is well connected with state and county health officials
- We know more and learning more each day
- Continuous collaboration and communication about the data driving our decisions
- Community will drive our data, our response matters
- Special education environments, additional protective measures and more guidance surrounding service anticipated



# RESTART 2020-21 OPERATIONS

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# Cleaning Protocols



## Daily cleaning with enhanced disinfecting equipment

### Every night

- Custodial teams will sanitize with Oxivir disinfectant cleaner using professional electrostatic sprayers:
  - Common areas
  - High-touch areas
  - Classrooms (desks, tables, chairs)
- Single-step solution for fast cleaning results throughout the day
- Consistent high level of cleaning protocols used every night

# Cleaning Protocols



## Daily cleaning with enhanced disinfecting equipment

### Throughout the day

- Custodial teams will clean high-touch surfaces:
  - Door knobs, handles and handrails
  - Light switches and push buttons
  - Tables where students are eating
  - Restrooms and locker rooms
- Teachers and classroom staff will be provided with safe, disinfecting products to use on classroom desks and surfaces



## Transportation services

- 50% maximum occupancy on buses (MDE and MDH guidelines)
- Face covering or face shield required in all district buses and vehicles
- Students load bus back to front, unload front to back, one seat at a time
- Hand sanitizer available on all buses for students and staff
- Windows and roof hatches open (weather permitting) to maximize air circulation
- Disinfect buses between each school trip (handrails, seat backs, doors)
- All buses sanitized with an electrostatic sprayer at the end of each day



## Food and Nutrition Services practices

- Practices consistent with CDC, MDE, and MDH guidelines
- Contactless interaction for receiving and purchasing meals
- Meals packaged in compostable packaging with disposable utensils
- Cafeteria entry points arranged to reduce congestion
- Directional floor markings and signage to promote social distancing
- Hand sanitizer available
- Plexiglass shields at cashier stands
- Face coverings and disposable gloves for staff
- Regular cleaning and disinfecting of high touch areas



## Food and Nutrition Services meals

### Meals at school

- Daily hot and cold menu options, breakfast and lunch; all food will be packaged
- Limited a'la carte options at middle and high schools
- Daily meals for purchase (or free, if eligible) to students receiving child care

### Meals for home

- Take home meals available for single or multiple days of distance learning
- 5-day meal kits for purchase (or free, if eligible) to 196 Digital Academy students
- Encourage families to check eligibility for free or reduced-price school meals



## Facilities: Ventilation

- Systems operating according to national standards
- Contracting with mechanical engineer to determine most effective means of air exchange at each building
- Provide for maximum fresh air exchange





## Facilities: Partitions, floor markings and signage

- Plexiglass partitions at all service counters
- Floor markings in all buildings to show directional flow and promote social distancing
- Signage in all buildings to promote use of face coverings, social distancing and frequent hand washing



## Personal protection

- District will provide one cloth face mask for all students and staff, and one face shield for all staff working with students
- Disposable masks for staff, students and visitors, as needed
- No-touch thermometers for health assessments
- Plexiglass partitions, masks, gloves, goggles, disposable gowns and face shields supplied according to MDH and MDE guidelines
- Safe sanitizing products supplied to all classrooms for cleaning surfaces



## Technology access and support

- Every student K-12+ will have a district-owned iPad
  - District will assist families who need access to the Internet
- Technical support provided for students and families
- Zoom, Schoology and Seesaw are the connections to the teacher in distance learning

# Child Care



For children (ages 5 to 12) of Tier 1 workers, as defined by the state

- Health care and public health
- Law enforcement, public safety and first responders
- Food and agriculture
- Judicial Branch (essential services)
- National Guard (activated under a Governor Executive Order)
- Educators and school staff providing in-person instruction or caring for children of critical workers
- Child care and school-age care providers



## Available at elementary and middle schools

- Students ages 5 to 12 years old
- Provided for during regular school hours by non-licensed district staff
- Students will attend child care at their home school
- Transportation provided using regular bus routes
- Students will be kept in their A and B cohorts with no more than 15 students and will practice all of the health and safety practices
- Managed independent learning, enrichment, physical activity and social-emotional learning
- YMCA offering fee-based before- and after-school care
- **Deadline: August 21**



RESTART 2020-21  
**LEARNING MODELS &  
ACADEMICS**

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# Learning Models



District prepared 3 learning models, as directed by the state  
Public health data determines the model, with flexibility to be more restrictive

## MODEL 1

### Distance Learning

Full-time distance learning where all students preK-12 are learning digitally at home.

## MODEL 2 (CURRENT BASE MODEL)

### Hybrid OR 196 Digital Academy

**Hybrid:** An A/B alternating schedule (current) that allows all students to participate in two days of in-person learning, with three days of distance learning.

**LEARN MORE >**

**196 Digital Academy:** Full-time distance learning options where students can opt-in.

**LEARN MORE >**

## MODEL 3

### In Person

Full-time, in-person learning, except for those who continue to opt-in to 196 Digital Academy.

# Distance Learning Model



## Improved distance learning experience for all

- Spring distance learning experience - findings, feedback and silver linings
- Professional development for teachers
- Improved distance learning experience with consistent, predictable and intentional instruction



# Distance Learning Model



## Distance learning features

- Schoology/SeeSaw used to manage course content and independent learning
- Zoom sessions regularly scheduled to connect students and teachers
- Consistent office hours for teachers to assist students and parents

# Hybrid Learning Model



All students in person 2 days per week, in 2 groups

- Cohort A: Monday and Thursday; Cohort B: Tuesday and Friday
- Distance learning when not in person
- Opportunities for enrichment, remediation, and mastery
- Wednesday for planning, preparation and support for students and families

## Advantages of the AB/AB schedule:

- Fewer days between in-person learning days
- Promotes student engagement and motivation
- Mental health & social emotional check-ins spread throughout the week
- Greater consistency for food distribution
- Mid-week support opportunities on Weds between the two in-person days

# Hybrid Learning Model



## In-person student day times

- **High schools** - 8 a.m. to 1:40 p.m.
- **Middle schools** - 8:45 a.m. to 2:25 p.m.
  - Valley Middle School (magnet) - 8:15 a.m. to 1:55 p.m.
- **Elementary schools**
  - 7:45 a.m. to 2:05 p.m. (DW,HL, PW and SV)
  - 9:25 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. (all others; NV moving to a late start)

# 196 Digital Academy Option



## Elementary students

- Students are assigned a Digital Academy teacher
- Students/families maintain connection with their school
- Curriculum and learning activities are aligned with standards and managed on Schoology/SeeSaw
- Daily Zoom sessions to connect students and teachers
- Consistent office hours to assist students and parents

# 196 Digital Academy Option



## Middle school and high school students

- Students maintain enrollment in their school
- Classes taught by teachers at their school
- Parallels class options and curriculum in hybrid model
- Scheduled Zoom sessions and independent learning through Schoology
- Consistent office hours to assist students and parents
- The 196 Digital Academy will continue to be an option for students if we transition to the all in-person model

# Special Services



## Special Education

- Connection with students and families
- Minimum of 2 days in person in hybrid model
- Digital Academy option
- IEP meetings to develop contingency plan for all models
- Specialized services provided as outlined in IEP
- Community partnerships

# Special Services



## Special Education continued

- Early Childhood Special Education
- Transition Plus
- Alternative Learning Center
- Dakota Ridge

# Special Services



## English Language (EL) Learners

- EL services available in all learning models
- Connection with students and families
- Collaboration among classroom and EL teachers
- Integrated supports with licensed EL staff



# Special Services



## Mental health support

- Intentional professional development
- Inventory and needs assessment of SEL instruction across our system
- Increased staffing mental health professionals
- Continue working with school-linked mental health providers



## Goals of proposed changes for 2020-21

- Provide time for student-teacher connections at the start of the school year
- Maximize instructional time for students
- Best utilize days for professional development



## Proposed changes

- Move **elementary assessment days** from Aug. 25-26 to Sept. 2-3
- Change **start of in-person instruction** to Monday, Sept. 14 to provide time for scheduled teacher-student connections and orientation, Sept. 8-11
- Move all **staff development days** to Wednesdays
- **Parent-teacher conferences** will have distance options
- Make June 8 the **last day of school** for elementary (currently June 9); does not change the number of instructional days

# Timeline



## Important dates

- August 14: Deadline to opt-in to 196 Digital Academy
- August 21: Deadline to register for Tier 1 child care
- August 31-September 4 : Teacher workshops
- September 8-11: Student-teacher connections and orientation week
- September 14: First day of classes
- More details to come at [District196.org/restart2020](https://District196.org/restart2020)



## Recommendations

- Approve resolution adopting district's Flexible Learning Plan for 2020-21 and recommendation to start the school year in the hybrid learning model
- Approve proposed changes to the 2020-21 academic calendar



# MORE INFORMATION

## [District196.org/restart2020](https://District196.org/restart2020)

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