



**DISTRICT196**  
One District. Infinite Possibilities.

# Shifting the Secondary Learning Model

Special School Board  
March 18, 2021

# Introduction



## Presenters

- Mary Kreger, **Superintendent**
- Michael Bolsoni, **Director of Secondary Education**
- Deb Mehr, **Health Services Coordinator**
- Carol Hauschild, **Coordinator of Project Management and Purchasing**
- Mary Thompson, **Safety and Climate Coordinator**

# Introduction



## Purpose of Meeting

- Follow up to March 10 special board meeting discussion
- Considering all factors
- Challenging decisions
- Balance between more in-person learning and stability/sustainability
  - Elementary is in person and experiencing cases/quarantines
  - Public opinion on secondary schools is split



# Secondary Learning Model



## Timeline

- Timeline of learning model shifts for secondary
  - September 14 - Started school year in hybrid for all
  - November 12 - Secondary shifts to distance learning
  - February 17 - State revises guidance for secondary schools
  - February 22 - Secondary shifts to hybrid
  - March 10 - Special School Board meeting to discuss in-person model
- All shifts approved by the School Board
- 196 Digital Academy continues to be an option to all families.
  - Approx. 30 percent enrollment

# Secondary Learning Model



## Options Considered for Secondary Schools

- **Shift to in-person learning April 19**
  - 4 days in person/wk, 3 feet distancing
  - Pros: More in-person learning
  - Cons: More cases/quarantines and less stability/sustainability
- **Stay in hybrid learning model**
  - 2 days in person/wk, 6 feet distancing
  - Pros: Fewer cases/quarantines and greater stability/sustainability
  - Cons: Less in-person learning

# Secondary Learning Model



The goal...

*Establish a timeline to support public health and sustain in-person learning for the rest of the school year.*

# Factors to Consider



## COVID-19 Update

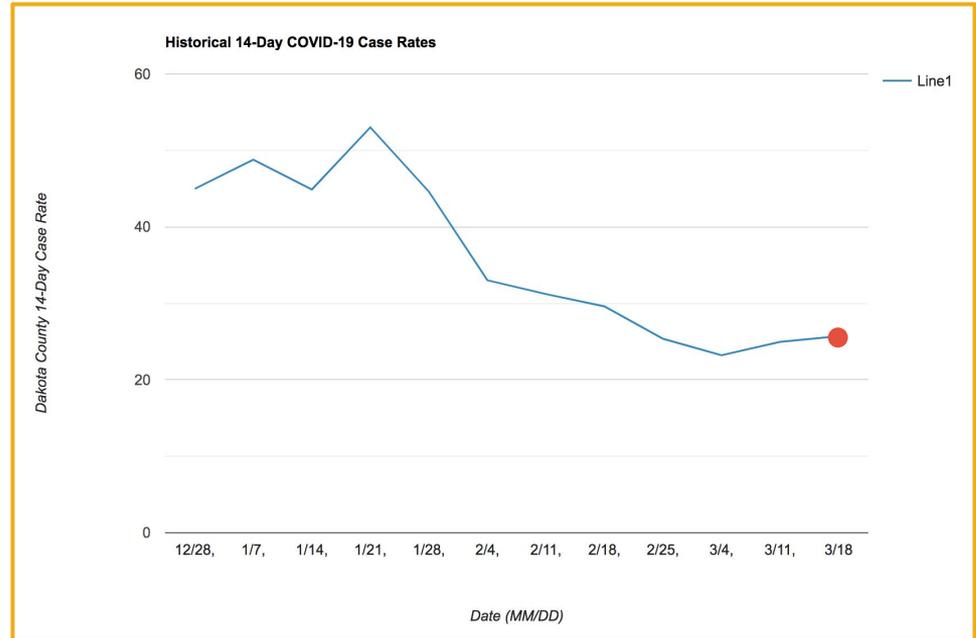
- 14-Day County Case Rates (*# cases per 10,000 residents, clean data*)
  - Increased last two weeks after several weeks of decline (23.2 to 24.9 to 25.71)
  - March 18: 25.71 cases per 10,000 (2 weeks ending March 6)
  - Next week anticipating 26.4
  - Positivity rate (MN: 3.3, Dakota County: 4.2%)
- 7-day average highest since Jan. 20, we had 151 positive cases, highest since Jan.10, greatest increase in 10- to 19-year-olds
- Cases in schools
  - Positive cases
  - Quarantine duration, time, type of activity
- Onsite testing for staff- four testing events, 2,727 specimens tested
- Vaccinations have been offered to all staff (11.5 % of our county fully vaccinated, 20.9% partial)

# Factors to Consider

## COVID-19 Historical Data



DATE	CASE RATE
Dec. 28	44.98
Jan. 7	48.78
Jan. 14	44.88
Jan. 21	53.01
Jan. 28	44.6
Feb. 4	33.07
Feb. 11	31.3
Feb. 18	29.75
Feb. 25	25.51
Mar. 4	23.31
Mar. 11	25.08
Mar. 18	25.71





# Factors to Consider

## Sustainability

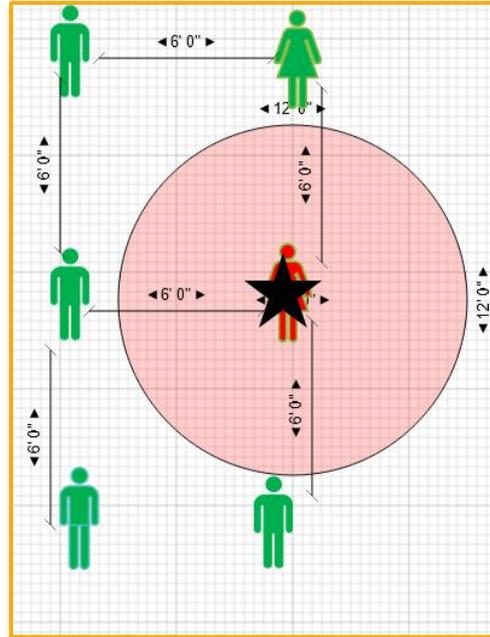
- Case rates stabilizing or decreasing
- Ability to do contact tracing: starting point is 6 feet/15 minutes
- Maintain staffing and substitutes
- Vaccinations and quarantine support in-person learning longer
  - Quarantine is not a punishment
- Student and staff testing is important
- Managing change, quick pivot to distance learning is possible

*How can we move to full in-person and sustain the model for the remainder of the school year?*

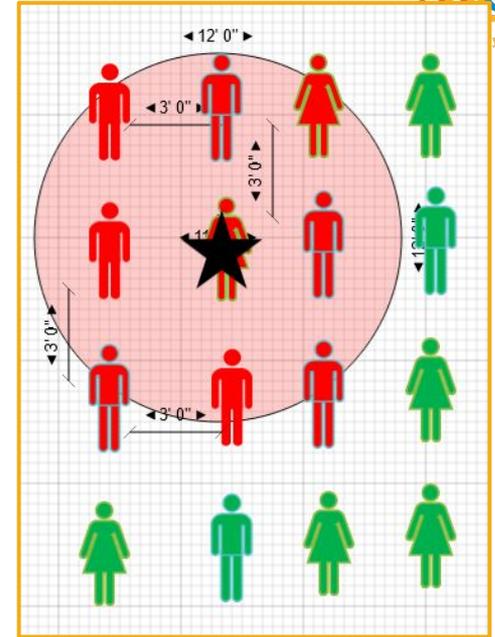
# Factors to Consider

## Social Distancing

- 6 feet to 3 feet of social distancing (6 feet close contact still applies)
- More students in 14-day quarantine
- With multiple classes, one positive case will result in approximately 50 students to quarantine.



Hybrid at secondary  
(current)

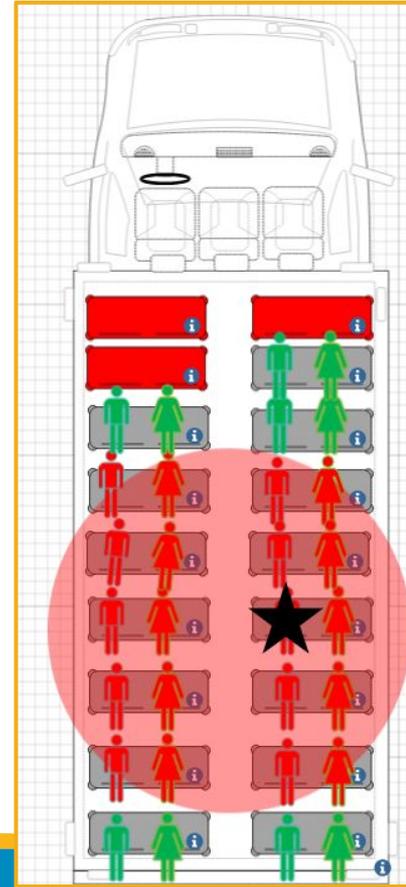


Full in-person at  
secondary

# Factors to Consider

## Social Distancing

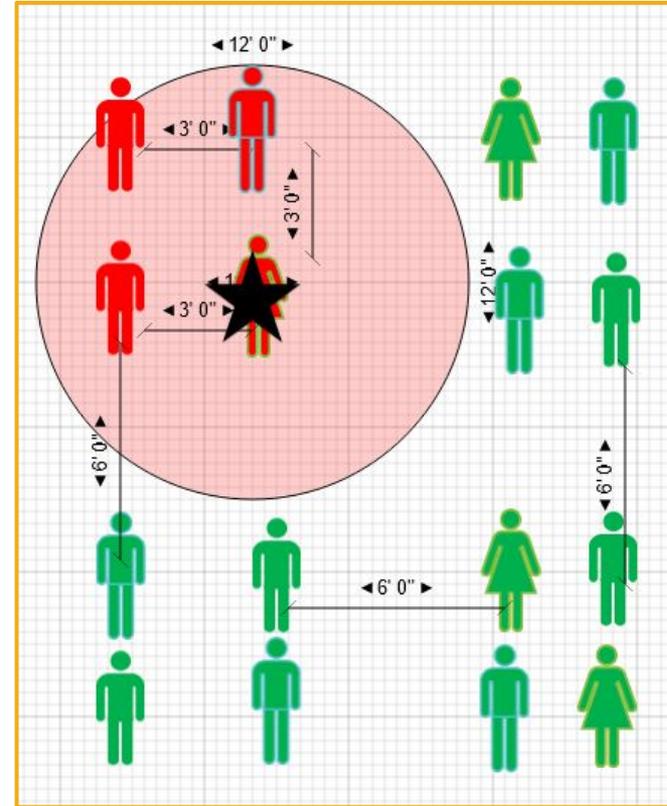
- Buses
  - Example: One student positive = 19 in quarantine



# Factors to Consider

## Mitigation Strategies

- Opportunities for some classroom layout flexibility
- Music instructional spaces
- Specific music PPE



# Factors to Consider

## Mitigation Strategies

- PPE - masks and shields
- HEPA air purifiers in all classrooms
- Hand sanitizer stations
- Plexiglass barriers
- Social distancing visuals



# Factors to Consider

## Community Responsibility

- Self-identification - stay home if sick
- Testing - encouraging staff, students and families to get tested weekly
- Vaccinations
- Socializing, activities and youth sports cause spread
- Caution over spring break (March 22-26)
- Quarantine and isolation mitigate spread
- Cooperate with district and school COVID-19 teams
- Honesty and trust



# Secondary Learning Model



## Options Considered for Secondary Schools

- Shift to in-person learning April 19
- Stay in hybrid learning model

# Secondary Learning Model



## In-person schedule

- Four days in person - Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
- Wednesdays are distance learning
  - Offer student support opportunities (interventions and enrichment)
  - Provides teachers additional state-required planning time for providing instruction to both in-person and distance learning
  - Allow collaboration among staff and alignment of curriculum between in-person and distance learning students
- Synchronous learning opportunities for 196 Digital Academy

# Factors to Consider



## Full In-Person

- Social distancing: 3 feet
- In Person: 4-5 days per week
- More quarantines
  - More interruptions for students
- Less stable

## Hybrid

- Social distancing: 6 feet
- In Person: 2-3 days per week
- Less quarantines
  - Less interruptions for students
- More stable

**New considerations:** vaccinations in progress, case rates up 4 weeks in a row, variant in Dakota County, teenage COVID spread increased, milestone moments (i.e. graduation)

# Factors to Consider

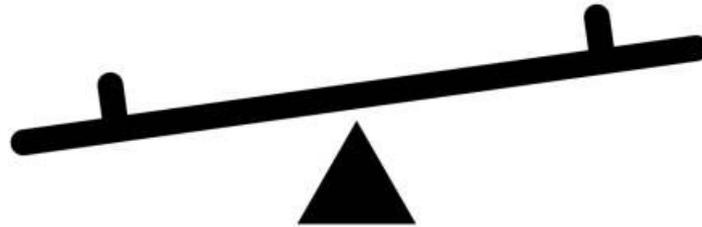


  
More in-person  
opportunities

- Conflicting desires:
- More in-person learning
  - Less disruptions
  - Consistent learning model
  - Health and safety
  - Quarantine effect

  
More stability in  
learning model

Less in-person  
opportunities



Less stability in  
learning model



# Secondary Learning Model



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Mar21</b>	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	<b>Apr1</b>	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	<b>May1</b>

*Note: Other school districts' return dates for secondary - range March 22-April 20*

## Possible timeline:

- March 22-26: Spring break
- March 29: Assigned date for staff onsite testing
- March 30: Statewide ACT (already scheduled distance learning)
- March 31: District PreACT (already scheduled distance learning)
- April 5: One week post-spring break
- April 12: Two weeks post-spring break, staff mostly vaccinated, staff testing
- **April 14: Possible transition day**
- **April 19: Possible first day for in person, three weeks post-spring break, vaccinated staff at full immunity**
- April 21: Staff development (no school)

# Secondary Learning Model



## Considerations

- Weekly analysis
  - County/district case rates and trend data and variant spread
  - Students/staff in quarantine/isolation
  - Staffing
- Sustainability - maintain in-person learning opportunities
  - Best chance to keep students in the classroom for the remainder of the school year
  - We want to finish the year strong taking advantage of long stretch of full school weeks into June

# Secondary Learning Model



## Options Considered for Secondary Schools

- **OPTION A**

- Shift to in-person learning April 19**

- 4 days in person/wk, 3 feet distancing
    - Pros: More in-person learning
    - Cons: More cases/quarantines and less stability/sustainability

- **OPTION B**

- Stay in hybrid learning model until conditions improve**

- 2 days in person/wk, 6 feet distancing
    - Pros: Fewer cases/quarantines and greater stability/sustainability
    - Cons: Less in-person learning



# Discussion Questions?

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