

Superintendent Report
6-16-20
Respectfully Submitted by Perri Gipner

Fall Reopening Update

Governor Polis indicated in a presentation to state superintendents and the state board of education that we may likely be able to have most students with most teachers most of the time this fall. This is good news! The caveat is cohort isolation. Cohort isolation means that as much as possible, cohorts of students are kept together and do not mix with other cohorts of students. The reason is that should a student/family member test positive for the illness by isolating the cohort it could mean the difference between total school closure versus cohort closure for a period of time.

The state epidemiologist presented (see attached) an update on COVID19 data as well as projections into the Fall of 2020. The following were salient points:

- 3% of Coloradoans tested positive for COVID19
- Fall is predicted to be much worse
- 1 in 450 Coloradoans are currently contagious
- 35% of Coloradoans are currently asymptomatic
- Models show that if 65% of the state's population socially distances we will stay below the hospital bed threshold but a drop to 45% of the state socially distancing will result in not enough hospital beds for projected patients
- The task force will be looking at data over the next few weeks to assess efforts of Safer at Home and the level of social distancing will be a factor in determining fall guidelines

Also, a reminder that CDE has created a [Toolkit](#) for re-opening. This is our go to resource for reopening this fall.

Financial Update

CDE in conjunction with CASE is working on a matrix that compares the usage of ESSR and CARES money. It has to be reviewed at multiple levels within the state and they are hoping to have the information out within a week or two. Once we have this document, we can begin looking at expenses and earmarking accordingly. We know that the CARES funds guidelines are very strict and must be related to the cost of "increasing instructional time" going forward. They cannot be used for anything that was built into our budget as of March 27th, so using them for spring payroll is highly unlikely to be approved. However, the ESSR funds are much more flexible and we can use these funds for COVID related expenses and to backfill salary.

There is a lot of information about budget, relief funding, tax bills, etc as well. Here are good sources for information on these topics understanding that these organizations inherently support public education by the nature of their mission.

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- [CDE CARES ACT Relief](#) - explains the different funds earmarked for schools - the most recent influx of money is very restrictive per the feds (not state) and many are arguing it will reduce the percentage of cut funds - THIS IS NOT TRUE unless the Department of the Treasury relaxes some of the restrictions.
- [School Finance Project](#) - explains more than you'd ever want to know about school finance
- [Colorado Association of School Boards](#) - updates on bills, budget, and more for those serving on school boards
- [Colorado Association of School Executives](#) - updates on bills, budget, and more for school executives
- [Fair Tax Colorado](#) (Initiative 271) - informative website explaining the bill. The first step is getting signatures to get it on the ballot. This is a graduated tax bill that provides a small cut to earners making \$250k or less (individual or combined) per year, then a graduated increase for those making more with the first impact at those earning \$310k/year. It would provide a substantial source of funds for public education and is supported by CASB, CASE, and CEA.

Open Positions

Openings are posted on our district website, Facebook page, and Indeed: Job Search. We currently have openings for substitutes in all areas of the district. Please help spread the word.

Athletics

CHSAA recently published their guideline regarding summer camps which essentially put decision making on the local county health agencies and school districts. In regards to summer camps and conditioning see the attached correspondence from Craig Hein from CSDSIP, our general liability provider. The summary is as follows:

- Waivers don't offer protection
- Follow all county health guidelines
- Documents efforts to adhere to county health guidelines specific to each sport
- The impact of a COVID19 related claim could result in the loss of governmental immunity and an increase in premiums

CHSAA also published a [comprehensive list of activities](#) and ranked their relative risk. This is the first step in conversations related to resuming athletics for 2020-2021.