

2020–2021 SCHOOL RE-OPENING RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the school district was closed during a portion of the 2019–2020 school year based on the statewide outbreak of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the President and the Governor have declared a state of emergency; and

WHEREAS, the State of Nebraska and West Central District Health Department (WCDHD) have issued various directed health measures in response to the novel coronavirus and the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the directed health measures currently in place allow the school facilities to be reopened to in-person student attendance; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education wishes to support student learning while taking reasonable precautions to keep students, staff, and administrators safe; and

WHEREAS, the school district is also completing reopening plans with contingencies for changes in circumstances, but for the time being, the Board of Education believes it is important to address these critical issues to assist the administration in preparing for plans when school resumes;

WHEREAS, the circumstances changing quickly does not defeat the overall mission of the school district and Board of Education, which is to educate students safely through in-person learning when possible; and

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Board of Education has determined as follows:

Site for Instruction

WCDHD will announce on a weekly basis a four-stage dial of the COVID risk assessment. The four stages will be defined as Green, Yellow, Orange, and Red.

When the dial is in Yellow or Orange

Student instruction will occur in-person in the classroom unless otherwise required by law. All students who are enrolled in the school district must attend school on all days when school is open for in-person instruction unless the student's illness makes attendance impossible or impractical or is otherwise excused by board policy.

When the dial is Red

Instruction will occur exclusively via remote learning. No students will attend school in person unless required to access services.

Masks

When the dial is Yellow

District teachers, staff, employees, and volunteers:

There will be specific times when some staff are required to wear mask, however mask will not be required at all times, but will be strongly encouraged to wear mask.

All Students

Will not be required to wear face coverings at all times but will be strongly encouraged to do so.

When the dial is Orange

District teachers, staff, employees, and volunteers:

Must wear face coverings at all times unless the nature of the instruction or other activity makes face covering unsafe or impossible. Employees who suffer from a disabling condition that necessitates a reasonable accommodation to this requirement must notify their supervising administrator immediately of the employee's physical or mental impairment and the accommodation the employee seeks.

All Students

Must wear face coverings in all areas.

A student may opt from face coverings if one of the following exceptions applies:

- o The student has a disability and a reasonable accommodation excuses the student from wearing a mask for some or all of the school day;
- o The student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) team has determined that wearing a mask for some or all of the school day would interfere with the student's ability to receive a free, appropriate public education and that determination is documented in the student's IEP;

- o The student's Section 504 committee has determined that wearing a mask for some or all of the school day would interfere with the student's ability to receive a free, appropriate public education and that determination is documented in the student's Section 504 Plan; OR
- o Another legally valid reason exists to excuse the student from the face covering requirement and such reason has been approved in writing by the building Principal.

The superintendent is authorized to take all reasonable and necessary action to implement this resolution without further action of the Board. *This includes deviating from the Resolution and any reopening plans or contingencies used by the school district and/or approved by the Board of Education, when such actions allow the school district to continue pursuing its goal of in-person instruction. An example of this would be deviating from the criteria used in determining masking requirements, without further action of the Board of Education, when in collaboration with the Board President and public health officials the superintendent determines such a deviation will aid the school district in pursuing the stated goals and objectives.*

If there is any conflict between this resolution and any provision of Board policy or of staff or student handbooks, the terms in this resolution shall control.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it finally resolved that this resolution will expire upon the sooner of action taken by the Board to rescind it or the expiration of the 2020-2021 school year.

Approved by the Board on July 20, 2020.

Updated by the Board on August 27, 2020

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end, positioned above a horizontal line.

Board President