



DCSD 50J HS Return to Learn Update

Message from Superintendent Gibson

I hope you are all finding the time to enjoy this beautiful fall weather! The leaves changing on the trees at the higher elevations reminds us that fall is a time of reflection. Over the course of this school year, we are constantly monitoring our Restart procedures and our ability to be responsive to the needs of our students and the impacts of the COVID-19 virus. I'm pleased to announce that our District will be moving towards 100% In-Person learning for our High School students beginning on Monday, October 19th. We are exercising this flexibility, as intended with our Restart plan, while monitoring the public health situation within our communities, ensuring that students are successful in their academics.

Delta County High Schools will remain in 100% In-Person learning unless directed to quarantine, as a cohort or school, by the School District or Delta County Health Department. When a quarantine is instituted the impacted classes/school will conduct Distance Learning as outlined in the 2020-2021 Restart Plan. Delta County High Schools will return to the Hybrid Learning model if the community spread of COVID-19 increases to a level that the Delta County Health Department and School District agree that a return to increased cohorting practices is needed at the High School level.

Delta County High Schools will continue to implement screening, social distancing, personal protective equipment, sanitation, and cleaning procedures that were outlined in our 2020-2021 Restart Plan. Each High School will tailor their school schedule and procedures to fit the resources and structure of their program. Our district's Online Learning Program is available for families who choose not to participate in In-Person instruction.

Why we're making this change now:

- The staff of Delta County School District have protocols and procedures in place to provide a safe, healthy, and caring learning environment.
- During the first seven weeks of the 2020-2021 school year, our elementary and middle school students have returned to 100% In-Person learning with minimal disruptions due to COVID-19.
- High School teachers and students have prepared for transitions in and out of Distance Learning, if required due to COVID-19 quarantines.
- We recognize that a hybrid model of instruction is not ideal for all of our students.
 - Teachers express that their pace of instruction has slowed down due to repeating lessons over two days.
 - Parents report that their children are not actively engaged in academic activities for the entirety of the school day.
 - Students report that there is a lack of social connection with their teachers and peers when they are in a hybrid learning environment.

We are very excited to be able to return to In-Person instruction with our high school students. We appreciate the effort our staff and students have put into the Hybrid schedule, and the support our community has shown us during these unprecedented times.

Kind Regards,

Caryn Gibson

Caryn Gibson
Superintendent