



Delta County School District 50J
145 West 4th Street, Delta, CO 81416
970-874-4438 www.deltaschools.com

Hello Staff, Parents, and Delta County Community Members,

I would like to thank you for your continued support and understanding as we respond to the unexpected consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. I am very proud of the way our Delta County students, parents, and staff have handled the demands to educate, feed, and support our students during the most unusual of circumstances. As you know, there continues to be concerns and questions related to how our schools plan to reopen in August 2020. While we are in the business of educating, our first priority is the safety of our students and our employees. Be assured, we continue to work diligently on our District 2020-2021 restart plans.

The results from a recent parent survey with 2,195 respondents showed that 90% of our Delta County School District families are willing and interested in coming back to school in a traditional in-person learning environment with safety precautions. In the interest of serving the needs of our students and community, the Delta County School District intends to return to traditional in-person schooling in the fall, five days a week. The School District will also have a remote/distance learning option at each school for any student and/or family that are not ready to return to traditional school. The School District has implemented a comprehensive working group to review our outline of a school reopening plan that will be shared the first week of August. While this is our plan, the evolving nature of this health crisis will require us to remain flexible as we plan for the start of the school year and beyond.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics' guidance for school re-entry, "Schools are fundamental to child and adolescent development and well-being and provide our children and adolescents with academic instruction, social and emotional skills, safety, reliable nutrition, physical/speech and mental health therapy, and opportunities for physical activity, among other benefits. Beyond supporting the educational development of children and adolescents, schools play a critical role in addressing racial and social inequity." DCSD believes the social interaction of the in-person work environment and our academic and social emotional needs are equal to or greater than the risks associated with gathering students in classrooms. We are committed to ensure the health and welfare of staff and students.

We look forward to being back in school and keeping you and your students safe and healthy. Thank you for your continued support and positivity as we strive to do what is best for ALL of our students and employees during these challenging times.

Kind Regards,

Caryn Gibson

Caryn Gibson, Superintendent

"Caring, Challenging, Learning—Every Student, Every Day"