



July 28, 2020

Dear DCSD Families, Staff, and Community,

As we approach the beginning of the school year, I know there are many questions you have regarding our plans for the 2020-2021 school year. This week we are finalizing our plans and procedures with the Delta County Health Department and will be publishing our final *Restart Plan* on August 5th. That plan, along with an associated Frequently Asked Questions page will be on our District website to help answer the many questions that we have received and anticipate families having. As District leadership, we are looking at this issue through the lens of a parent perspective because most of us have children and grandchildren in the Delta County Schools.

There are three main components of our Restart Plan. As described in the outline released last week, those three components are Health and Safety Protocols, Continuity of Learning, and Conditions of Learning. Here are the items we will be addressing within each component:

Health and Safety Protocols

This section of our Restart Plan will outline the procedures and expectations around screening, symptomatic individuals, contact tracing, social distancing, personal protective equipment, and enhanced cleaning and sanitation. We are aware that there is a lot of concern about what requirements will be in place regarding the use of face coverings during the school day. Our plan has to comply with the requirements of current Executive Orders from the Governor's office, as well as guidance from the Colorado Department of Education and Department of Public Health and Environment.

Continuity of Learning

Our intent is to have students in classrooms, with learning looking as close to normal as possible this year. We will address strategies to reduce the number of students in traditionally congested areas of our schools, such as hallways and cafeterias. At the high school level, where cohorting is not possible due to class variety, students will alternate between in-person and remote learning. There will be an Online Learning Program available for students that are not able to return to In-Person learning this school year. This section of our Restart Plan will address the structure of the school day as well as support for special populations, social emotional learning, and other school activities.

Conditions of Learning

This section of our Restart Plan is dedicated to the impact of restarting school on the various departments of our District. We want to restart school with as little disruption as possible, but must recognize that school will be different as a result of the current pandemic.



The emphasis of our final Restart Plan will be to resume schooling with as little disruption as possible for our students, staff, and families. Thank you for your continued patience as we finalize planning around health, safety, learning, and routines. Our 2020-2021 *Restart Plan Working Group* has been working in coordination with the Delta County Health Department for several weeks to analyze the many options, opportunities, guidelines, and requirements that are impacting the 2020-2021 school year. Guidelines continue to change daily, and we want to release as complete a plan as possible without having to make significant changes before the school year.

On-line registration for returning students begins Monday, August 3rd. Please take the time to review our plan when it is released next week and then decide whether it is best for your child to return to In-Person Learning or participate in our Online Learning Program. I am confident that our learning options will meet the needs of our Delta County students, and continue to show that at Delta County School District we are *Caring, Challenging, Learning....Every Student, Every Day*. We are excited to see our students again, and are appreciative of your continued support of Delta County School District!

Sincerely,

Caryn Gibson

Superintendent

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