

**Monthly Committee of the Whole Board Meeting**

Duluth Public Schools, ISD 709

Agenda

Tuesday, August 4, 2020

VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

Google Meet

Duluth, MN 55802

4:30 PM

**1. CALL TO ORDER****2. ROLL CALL****3. AGENDA ITEMS****A. Curriculum and Instruction****1) Action Items - Consent Agenda****a. Presentation Items Requiring Approval****b. Other Action Items****c. Resolutions****2) Informational Items****a. Presentations****(1) 2020 Return to Learn Re-opening Plan Overview  
Superintendent John Magas**2**B. Other****4. ADJOURN**

## 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR



### DULUTH PUBLIC SCHOOLS RETURN TO LEARN PLANNING

[www.ISD709.org/ReturnToLearn](http://www.ISD709.org/ReturnToLearn)

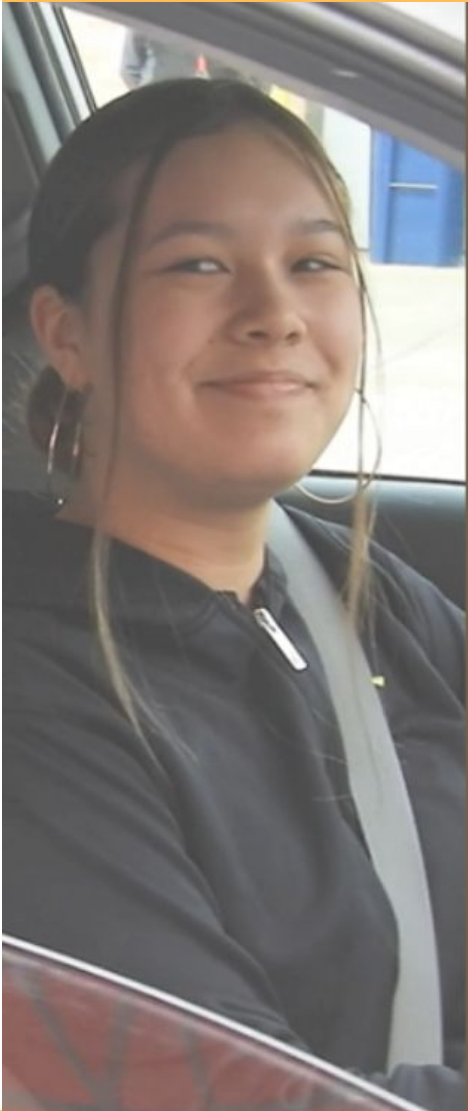
# 2020 Return to Learn

## *Re-Opening Plan Overview*

*August 4, 2020*



# 2020 Return to Learn



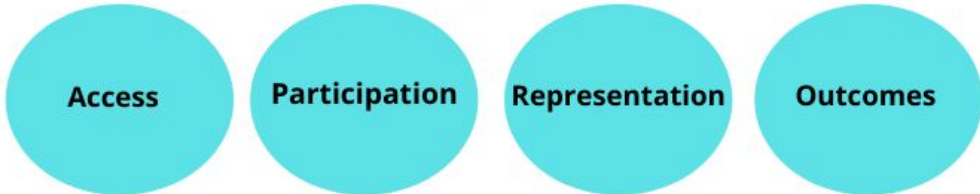
ISD 709

## Guiding Principles

FOR RE-OPENING SCHOOLS

- 1 Ensure the safety and wellness of students and staff
- 2 Deliver high-quality instruction to students, regardless of delivery model
- 3 Equity: Ensuring all means all
- 4 Optimize use of resources (space & materials)
- 5 Community and stakeholder engagement in plan development

### Equity Criteria:



[ISD709.org/Equity](https://ISD709.org/Equity)

# State Guidance, Local Input

## Duluth Public Schools 2020 Return to Learn Plan

[www.ISD709.org/ReturnToLearn](http://www.ISD709.org/ReturnToLearn)

[Governor Walz's Emergency Executive Order 20-82](#)

[MDE Safe Learning Plan for the 2020-21 School Year](#)

[MDE 2020-21 Planning Guidance for Minnesota Public Schools](#)

[MDH 2020-21 Planning Guidance for Schools](#)

- **Family Surveys:** April 2020, [July 2020](#)
- **Staff Surveys:** July 2020 and DFT Teacher Surveys
- **Meetings with leadership:** Teachers, Principals, Administration, Parents
- **Additional Stakeholder Input:** Suggestions from Board

# State Guidance, Local Input

## Duluth Public Schools 2020 Return to Learn Plan

[www.ISD709.org/ReturnToLearn](http://www.ISD709.org/ReturnToLearn)

- County COVID #s, State Thresholds Influence Learning Model
- Emphasize Safety of Students and Staff
- Prioritize In-Person Learning, Especially for Young Students
- Flexibility for Local Decisions
- State Support for Local COVID Response Throughout the Year

*The Duluth Public Schools Return to Learn Plan is a working document to be updated as changes occur.*

## State Guidance, Local Input

### *MDE Safe Learning Model Guidelines*

Policy Option	Range (14-day case rate per 10,000 people)
In-person learning for all students	0 to less than 10
Elementary in-person, Middle/high school hybrid	10 to less than 20
Both hybrid	20 to less than 30
Elementary hybrid, Middle/high school distance	30 to less than 50
Both distance	50 or more

# Stakeholder Input and Engagement

## Family Survey

### 5,803 Responses, separate survey for each student

- 63% Intend to send their student to school for in-person or hybrid learning.
- Would not/uncertain, common themes:
  - *Student and teacher safety*
  - *Need to see plans related to safety*
  - *Ability of schools to manage social distancing and cleaning*
  - *COVID situation when school begins*
  - *Family health considerations*
- In terms of safety, respondents strongly support:
  - *Making sanitizing supplies, including hand sanitizers readily available*
  - *Classrooms and other gathering spaces cleaned and sanitized daily*
  - *Symptom checks of employees required before entering school/workplace*
  - *Department of Health and CDC regulations being followed*
  - *Symptom checks of students before entering school*
  - *Maintaining social distancing protocols.*

## Family Survey

### 5,737 Responses, separate survey for each student

- In a distance learning or hybrid environment it's important that students:
  - *Are interested and engaged by learning*
  - *Feel supported and have direct contact or ability to interact in a virtual setting with a classroom teacher*
  - *Are receiving feedback on their work*
  - *Are being taught directly by their teacher, i.e. video conferencing or pre-recorded teaching*
  - *Are introduced to new learning*
  - *Other: Families indicated it was important to have direct contact with teachers and communications with teachers. Some expressed concerns about family ability to teach and the need for training for teachers in using online platforms.*

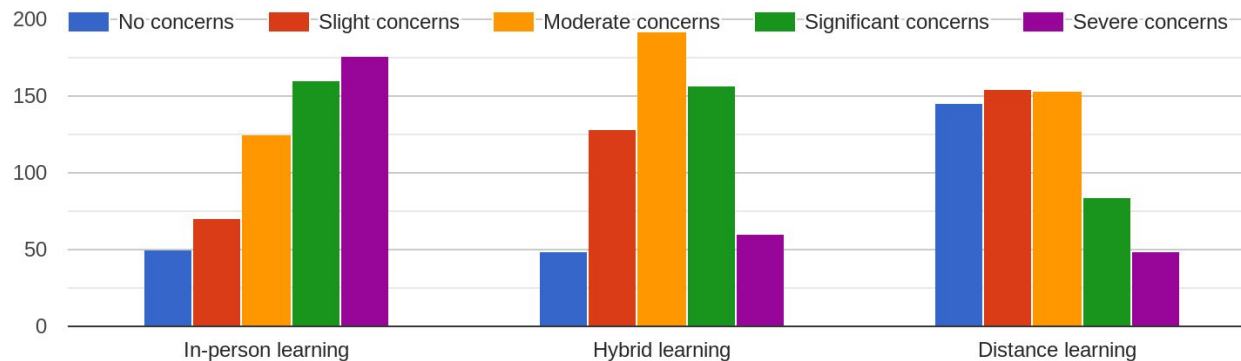
## 2020 Return to Learn

# Staff Survey

### 694 Responses (64% teachers)

- In general, staff feel more comfortable with Distance Learning
- In general, almost all plan on returning but have some concerns, primarily related to safety and the pandemic

Please indicate your comfort level with continuing to and/or returning to work in your building when the school year resumes.



## Additional Considerations

There are a variety of ISD 709 factors that must be considered:

- Interpretation of ever changing guidance
- Need for students, families and staff to have answers to make decisions
- Workforce concerns
- Childcare needs during hybrid
- Space constraints
- Transportation capacity
- Budgetary impacts

# Ensuring the Safety and Wellness of Students and Staff

## Health & Safety: Top Priority

### Procedures in place:

- Maintain six-feet between individuals
- Wear face coverings
- Screen for COVID-19 symptoms
- Practice good hygiene protocols, hand washing, cleaning and disinfecting
- Limit group gatherings
- Plan for short-term school closures (directed by MDH/MDE) if suspect or confirmed COVID-19 case
- Updated reporting system for individuals with COVID-19 symptoms
- Hand sanitizer, disinfectant spray and wipes available throughout the schools



## Health & Safety: Top Priority

### Procedures in place:

- Continuation of cleaning plan in place since March
- Air handling systems bring 100% fresh air into each building, and discharge 100% of the air to the outside through heat recovery units
- Final analysis of classroom capacity, cafeteria and kitchen layouts to ensure safe service
- Signage around masking, social distancing/floor markings, health screening checklist, handwashing and COVID-19 symptoms
- Changes to food service including minimizing self-service options and additional eating spaces
- Adapting buses to facilitate social distancing, cleaning buses
- Final analysis of classroom capacity, cafeteria and kitchen layouts to ensure safe service

# Decision Making Processes

## Reopening Schools - Decision Tree

**Analyze Health  
Data and Capacity**

MN Governor's Office and MN Dept of Health  
monitor metrics at State and Regional Levels



**Determine Plan**

MN Governor's Office and MN Dept of Health, in  
consultation with MN Dept of Education, determine  
which Plan schools districts must follow.



**Implement Plan**

In-Person  
Learning

Hybrid  
Learning

Distance  
Learning

## District Specific Model Selection

Following MDE and MDH guidance, districts must use the statistical guidance above as our primary consideration. They are then to consider stakeholder input and district specific strengths and challenges as secondary considerations as they decide upon the model best meets the needs of the current situation.

Districts must be prepared to implement all three models throughout the year. It is also possible that the intended initial model could change prior to the start of the year, or that the model must changed very quickly based on changing safety factors.

## District Advisory Committee

MDE guidance also recommends meeting with a wide variety of stakeholders as they make their initial decision. We have met with parents, teachers, administrators, county health officials, representatives from each of our bargaining groups, and many others as we considered our initial recommendation to the board.

Moving forward, we will form a district advisory committee made up of similar members to produce a decision making rubric to ensure that district administration continues to look at these secondary criteria as it makes future determinations on model changes.

# District Scenarios

## Planning for 3 Scenarios



**In-Person**



**Hybrid**

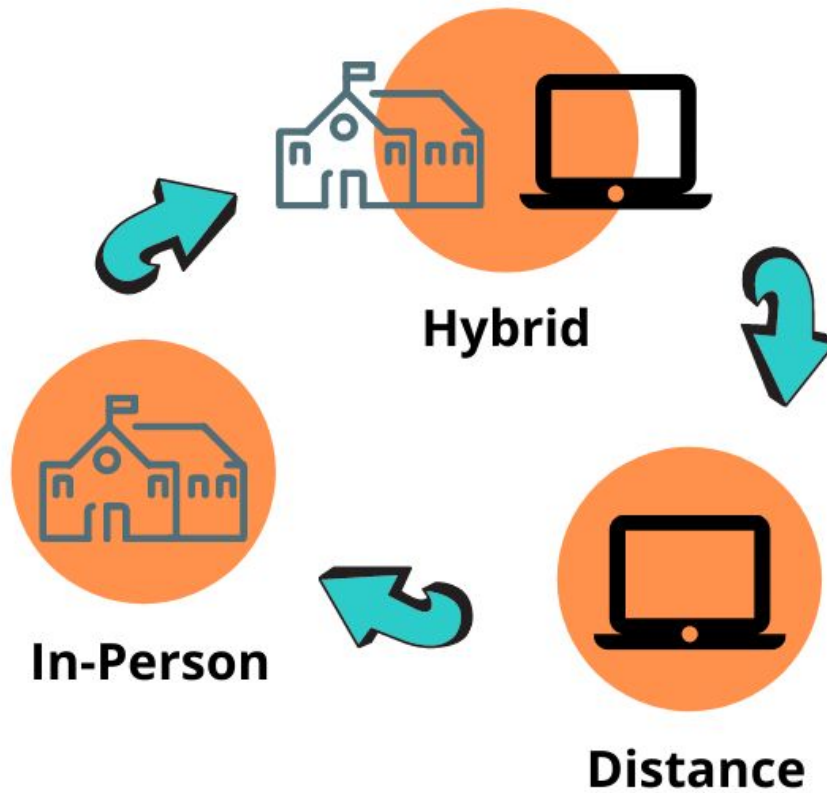


**Distance**

- **In-person learning:** All can attend school in person
- **Hybrid learning:** Combination of in-person and distance learning.
- **Distance Learning 2.0:** Students learning through digital platforms

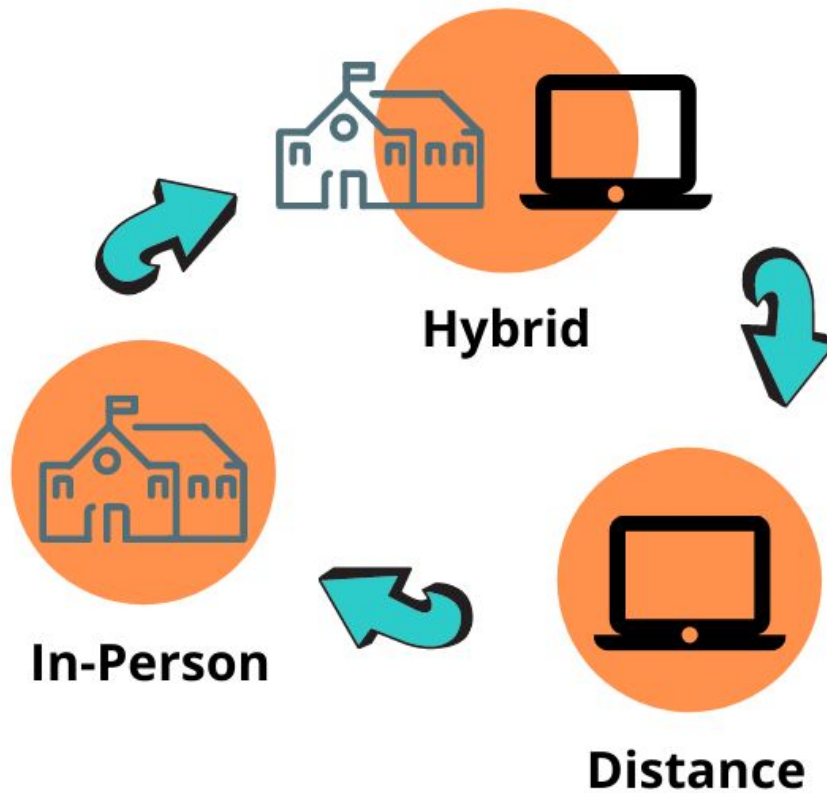
*We will offer a distance learning model to all families who choose not to attend in-person learning following state guidance. We may also use different scenarios at different levels at the same time based on needs.*

## Flexibility



Depending on the spread of COVID-19 in our community, Duluth Public Schools may move between the three models based on state criteria and guidance from the St. Louis County Health Department.

## Moving Between Models



To ensure we are providing the best learning environment in the safest manner, the district will continuously monitor COVID transmission in the state and county and provide updates. Processes will be created to provide smooth transitions for staff, students, and families.

## 2020 Return to Learn



### In-Person Learning



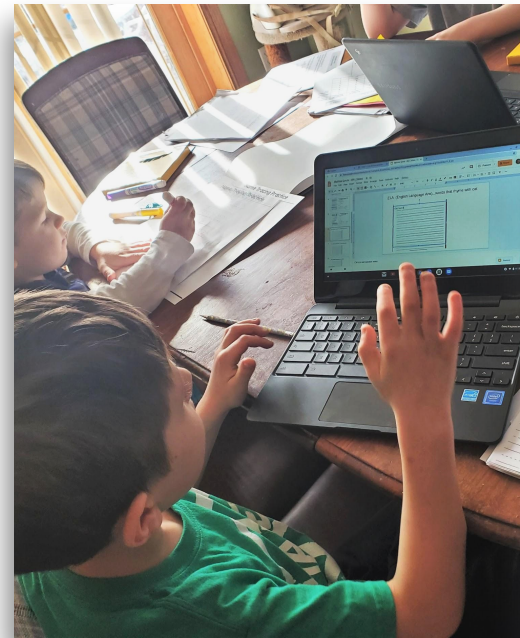
- All students can attend school in-person
- Schools and school buses create as much space between people as practical.
- They follow good hygiene practices like frequent hand washing, symptom checks and frequent cleaning and sanitizing of spaces.
- Reduce student movement
- Families who do not wish to send their child to in-person learning can choose distance learning

## 2020 Return to Learn



# Distance Learning 2.0

- Learning from home
- Significantly improved over spring emergency model
- Investments in devices for students
- Working to provide internet accessibility through hotspots
- Elementary platform: SeeSaw
- Middle & High School platform: Canvas
- Create high quality, engaging learning, tailored to individual student needs
- More interaction with teachers and classmates



## 2020 Return to Learn



# Hybrid Learning

- A combination of distance learning and in-person learning
- Students divided into groups and attend school in-person part time.
- Schools effectively open for a group of the student population each day.
- Allows for more social distancing, cleaning and sanitizing
- Priority given to elementary age students
- # of days of in-person limited by social distancing guidelines and facility constraints

## 2020 Return to Learn



### Potential Elementary Hybrid

<i>Monday &amp; Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday &amp; Friday</i>
<p>Group A at School</p> <p>Group B at Home with Distance Learning</p>	<p>All students home with distance learning</p> <p>Staff professional development, curriculum planning and connection with students</p>	<p>Group B at School</p> <p>Group A at Home with Distance Learning</p>

- Reduce student transitions
- Students participate in enhanced distance learning on virtual days
- Prioritizing additional in-person time for students with the most need

## 2020 Return to Learn



### Potential Middle School Hybrid

Middle school students will be grouped and scheduled to attend school in-person one day per week.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Group A <u>In</u> Person	Group B <u>In</u> Person	All students home with distance learning  Staff professional development, curriculum planning and connection with students	Group C <u>In</u> Person	Group D <u>In</u> Person
Groups B, C, D Distance Learning	Groups A, C, D Distance Learning		Groups A, B, D Distance Learning	Groups A, B, C Distance Learning
Other Groups <u>In</u> Person: Setting III IEP, Group D: Setting I/II IEP for Support	Other Groups <u>In</u> Person: Setting III IEP, Group A: Setting I/II IEP for Support		Other Groups <u>In</u> Person: Setting III IEP, Group B: Setting I/II IEP for Support	Other Groups <u>In</u> Person: Setting III IEP, Group C: Setting I/II IEP for Support

*\*Work to incorporate Tier 2/Tier 3 intervention students to additional In Person instruction..*

## 2020 Return to Learn



# Potential High School Hybrid

High school students will be grouped and scheduled to attend school in-person one day per week.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Group A <u>In</u> Person	Group B <u>In</u> Person	All students home with distance learning  Staff professional development, curriculum planning and connection with students	Group C <u>In</u> Person	Group D <u>In</u> Person
Groups B, C, D Distance Learning	Groups A, C, D Distance Learning		Groups A, B, D Distance Learning	Groups A, B, C Distance Learning
Other Groups <u>In</u> Person: Setting III IEP, Group D: Setting I/II IEP for Support	Other Groups <u>In</u> Person: Setting III IEP, Group A: Setting I/II IEP for Support		Other Groups <u>In</u> Person: Setting III IEP, Group B: Setting I/II IEP for Support	Other Groups <u>In</u> Person: Setting III IEP, Group C: Setting I/II IEP for Support

*\*Work to incorporate Tier 2/Tier 3 intervention students to additional In Person instruction..*

# District Recommendation

## 2020 Return to Learn

*Based on the safe learning guidelines, we are recommending an initial model of **elementary in-person learning and secondary hybrid learning.***

### *MDE Safe Learning Model Guidelines*

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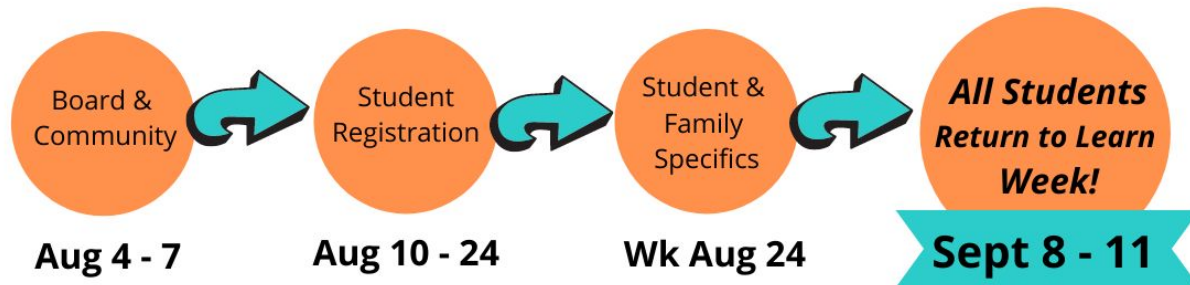
## Why This Model?

***Our objective is to meaningfully engage all learners while keeping students and staff healthy and safe***

Some of the considerations for this model include:

- State-established thresholds and local COVID 19 data
- Younger children benefit from in-person
- Younger children less likely to contract and spread the virus
- Secondary students are better able to engage in enhanced distance learning
- Ability to provide family choice

## 2020 Return to Learn



## Next Steps:

**August 4 - 7:** School Board presentation and resolution / community review

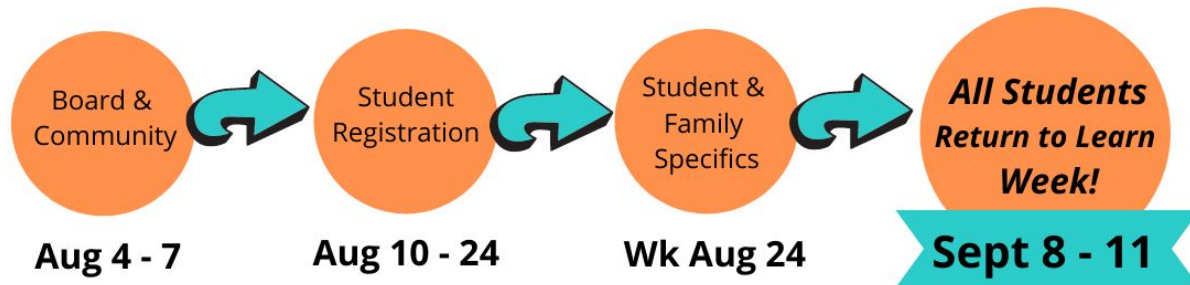
**August 10 - 21:** Student registration

**Wk of August 24:** Share student & family-specific information

**September 8 - 10:** **All Students Return to Learn Week**

- Welcome activities with teachers
- Student & family training in classroom digital tools
- Training in Internet Safety
- Setting expectations for learning
- All students in distance learning this week

## 2020 Return to Learn



## Information:

- [www.ISD709.org/ReturnToLearn](http://www.ISD709.org/ReturnToLearn)
- Email: [ReturnToLearn@ISD709.org](mailto:ReturnToLearn@ISD709.org)
- Family & Staff E-Newsletters
- Phone Call Notifications
- Direct Mail
- Facebook, Twitter, Instagram
- Local Media
- Other communication venues

## Questions and Consideration