

**Special School Board Meeting - Calendar**

Duluth Public Schools, ISD 709

Agenda

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

Denfeld High School Media Center

401 N 44th Ave W

Duluth, MN 55807

5:00 PM

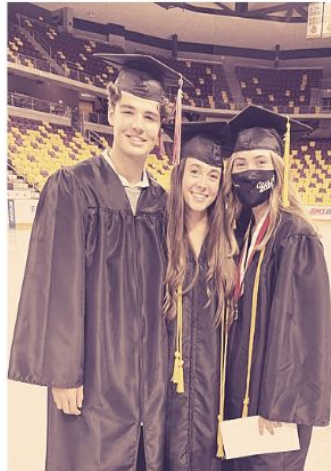
**1. Call to Order****2. Roll Call****3. Resolution SP-12-21-3854 - FY22 Calendar Changes****2****4. Adjournment**

# Safe Learning Update

*Committee of the Whole Board Meeting*

*December 7, 2021*

# 2021-22 Safe Learning Plan



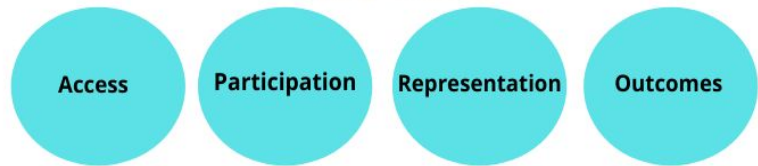
ISD 709

## Guiding Principles

FOR SAFE IN-PERSON LEARNING

- 1 Ensure the safety and wellness of students and staff
- 2 Deliver high-quality instruction to students
- 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)

# Current COVID Rates

- 8/29-9/11 - 35.62
- 9/5-9/18 - 42.02
- 9/12-9/25 - 41.27
- 9/19-10/2 - 46.92
- 9/26-10/09 - 60.33
- 10/03-10/16 - 59.25
- 10/10-10/23 - 54.50
- 10/17-10/20 - 57.25
- 10/24-11/6 - 74.14
- 10/31-11/13 - 92.12
- 11/7-11/20 - 109.59

# Proposed Calendar Changes

Based on current safety and operational needs, we are asking the board to consider the following modifications in our calendar by adding two district wide closure days - Wednesday December 22 and Monday January 3

- No school for students - School and district offices will be closed
- Purpose:
  - a. to address staff and student safety due the impact of staffing shortages on district operations
  - b. to address staff and student safety by providing opportunities for booster clinics prior to break and testing prior to returning
  - c. to recognize the stress of our staff and students due to the extreme efforts and sacrifices they have made over the last 21 months

# Providing Needed Supports

We also recognize that food service, childcare, and other needs must be acknowledged and supported and are proud to be working with our community partners to assist with these vital needs.

- Key Zone childcare will be provided through the YMCA
- Additional Programming through Boys and Girls Club, Valley Youth Services, and other supports
- Mental health supports through Northwoods
- Resource mapping and outreach regarding food programmings and other needs
- Broad recognition and support by a wide range of additional organizations, including Essentia Health, St. Louis County, the City of Duluth, Educational Equity Alliance, Duluth Superior Foundation and many others

# Need for Increased Safety Precautions

The Minnesota Department of Health continues to encourage us to on our safety layering in the areas of:

- Promoting vaccines and boosters
- Universal masking
- Staying home when sick
- Testing
- Notification
- Additional layers of safety

**Resolution**  
FY22 Calendar Change

**WHEREAS**, Duluth Public Schools is proposing action to address staff and student safety, including the impact of staffing shortages on district operations by extending the 2021-2022 Winter Break; and

**WHEREAS**, with general staffing shortages, every position in the district has been impacted; and

**WHEREAS**, the district needs to ensure that sufficient custodial, clerical, child nutrition, paraprofessional, transportation, support, childcare, and instructional staff to safely serve our students; and

**WHEREAS**, the district wants to ensure student, staff and family safety by providing COVID testing opportunities for students and staff as they return to school from winter break; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the recent increases in case numbers, as well as the unknowns related to the new variant, the district is planning to offer testing through local public health and our community partners on Monday, January 3rd; and

**WHEREAS**, the district also recognizes and acknowledges the stress and challenges both families and staff are facing due to the pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, the district wants to give students, school staff and their families an extended break to recognize these efforts and sacrifices and encourage everyone to use this time to get vaccinated or get a booster shot if eligible and haven't already done so; and

**WHEREAS**, the district recognizes that food service and child care needs must be acknowledged and supported and the district is proud to be working with our community partners to assist with these vital needs; and

**WHEREAS**, the district has proposed the addition of two district wide closure dates as part of the calendar modification plan after reviewing staffing trends on days prior to and immediately following breaks

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 709 that Wednesday, December 22, 2021 and Monday, January 3, 2022 will be non-school days, the district will be closed, and staff will be compensated.