



--sent 2/12/21--

LPS Community,

We hope this message finds each of you doing well as we enter into a long and cold Presidents' Day weekend. It is hard to believe we are already in the month of February. As we plan for the remainder of this school year and look to the 2021-2022 school year ahead, we want to take a moment to provide you with an update on our *Return to Learn* planning efforts.

As we have shared over the course of this school year, we remain committed to exploring opportunities to provide additional in-person learning experiences for our secondary students, if and when it is deemed safe to do so by local, state, and federal health officials. At the present time, we remain in Phase 2, Step 2 of the [Clay County Public Health Center Public Health Emergency Order](#) that was initially released last summer. We are in regular contact with the CCPHC and local health officials as updates are made to this order.

Earlier today, we shared a vaccine update with our staff. Delays in the COVID-19 vaccine rollout have prevented us from providing our staff with vaccination opportunities as soon as we had hoped. Our team has been coordinating with several of our local health agencies to provide on-site vaccination clinics when the vaccine is made available to school district staff. We believe that access to the vaccine is an integral part to inform our *Return to Learn* plans.

Our leadership team has been hard at work developing several *Return to Learn* scenarios for our secondary in-person learners later this semester. While there remains uncertainty with respect to the timeline and details of these options, we did want to share with you the plans currently being considered:

- **Status Quo**: Continue in our current hybrid model for secondary students.
- **Bring Back Certain Secondary Sub-Groups**: Increase in-person learning to four days a week for several of our subgroups (Special Education | students with disabilities | at-risk of failing). Wednesdays would remain a virtual learning day.
- **Bring Back Certain Secondary Sub-Groups + Reclaim Wednesdays as In-Person Learning**: Subgroups return for five days of in-person learning and Wednesday as an A/B day (hybrid students would essentially attend in-person every other day).
- **Allow All Secondary Students the Option to Return for Four Days/Week In-Person Learning**: All secondary students would be allowed the option to attend

in-person Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Virtual Wednesdays would continue for all secondary students. *Should this change occur prior to any reduction in distancing standards, it would result in the District being out of compliance with mitigation protocols established by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Clay County Public Health Center (CCPHC) mitigation protocols.*

- **All Secondary Students the Option to Return to Five-Days/Week In-Person Learning:** All secondary students would be allowed the option to attend in-person Monday - Friday. *Should this change occur prior to any reduction in distancing standards, it would result in the District being out of compliance with mitigation protocols established by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Clay County Public Health Center (CCPHC).*

Earlier today, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) released an update specific to school opening guidance. We will be reviewing this update, but it appears as though our current plan is consistent with the updated guidance that has been shared.

We, too, desire to increase in-person learning opportunities, but will only do so in a learning environment that is as safe and healthy as possible for our staff and students. The District is compelled to comply with CCPHC guidance on all public health matters (per Board policy) and would likely continue to follow their guidance with respect to all mitigation protocols, including distancing. Currently, we would not expect any of the proposed plans/options listed above to be implemented until after our spring break (March 22, 2021). While we wish we could provide you with a definitive date for one of our plan scenarios to take effect, the situation remains incredibly fluid.

Finally, please know that our team is also working toward the ultimate goal of returning to fully operational, in-person learning with the start of the 2021-2022 school year. For those families electing for a fully virtual learning modality, Liberty Virtual School will continue to serve families PK-12 who believe this is the best learning environment for their child. We can't thank our families enough for your support through this challenging time. As we approach the one-year anniversary since the start of the pandemic, we have been proud of the fact that we have been able to continue in-person learning, uninterrupted, since the beginning of the school year. This has been made possible due to, in large part, the support of our school community and our ability to work our Return to Learn plan and adhere to our mitigation protocols.

As always, we thank you for your patience, grace, and flexibility, and we will plan to provide another update later this month.

Be well!

Dr. M. Jeremy Tucker

Superintendent - Liberty Public Schools