



Hello District families,

We promised that we would continue to provide regular updates during the summer as we prepare for the 2020-21 school year. Here are the latest updates as of July 10:

1. What can you report about the work of the fall instructional planning teams?

The teams have continued to meet virtually over the past couple of weeks since our last update. They have been looking at a handful of potential options, including all in-person, all virtual and hybrid models that would include in-person and virtual.

The teams are currently using a matrix to determine which options have the most merit. They have also reviewed the results of the recent survey that families were asked to participate in.

The teams will be making a presentation to the School Board on their work and the options they are recommending for consideration, at the virtual meeting on Monday, July 13.

There are also teams looking at operational impact of any plans for 2020-21, student and staff health safety, and communications.

2. Can you tell us more about the survey?

Nearly 2,800 participated in the survey, which was available from June 20-30 and asked a handful of questions of families to better understand their willingness and concerns regarding having children return to school buildings for the 2020-21 school year.

Approximately 84 percent of respondents indicated they currently plan to send their children to school starting Sept. 1 should guidance from Public Health Madison & Dane County and the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction indicate it is safe to return to schools, Director of Communications Perry Hibner said. He noted of that total 30 percent had no concerns right now. Approximately 6 percent of respondents indicated they don't plan to send their child to school in the fall.

Forty-two percent of respondents indicated they plan to drive their child to school in 2020-21. Twenty percent indicated they want their child to ride a District bus but only if students and drivers wear masks, while another 17 percent requested that social distancing be enforced on buses.

Hibner noted the survey participants were asked to include their name with the survey in part to help the District plan for transportation needs for the upcoming school year.

[Visit the District website to learn more about the survey results.](#)

3. When will a decision be reached about the 2020-21 school year?

The Board of Education will discuss the options the fall instructional planning teams are recommending for consideration on Monday, July 13. The School Board is expected to vote on which model will be used for the 2020-21 school, which starts on Sept. 1, at its meeting on Monday, July 20.

It is important to note that the District has been working on multiple options in case circumstances require a different model be used due to new information, changes in the number of COVID-19 cases, or changing requirements or guidance from local and state health officials.

“This is a complex effort and there are no easy answers,” Hibner said. “Ideas and options that seem great one day are often outdated 24 hours later. This situation remains fluid and it is a moving target.”

4. Am I able to address the School Board about this?

Yes, you can submit comments by emailing Cheryl Janssen at cjanssen@mcpasd.k12.wi.us. Your comments must be submitted before noon on July 13 or noon on July 20 for the next meeting. Please limit your comments to no more than 3 minutes.

The two meetings in July will again be held virtually in order to ensure the safety of our School Board members. You can listen to the meetings live by calling 608-829-2371 and entering meeting #2701 when prompted. Video from the meetings will be available on the [District’s Facebook page](#), usually within 24 hours after the meeting has ended.

5. Are there any online resources available you would recommend?

Please visit the [District website’s COVID-19 Information & Updates page](#) for community resources, social and emotional learning resources, and educational resources.

[Madison College is also offering free courses](#) to parents and students to help navigate virtual learning. Each session is only 30 minutes long. While we are sharing information about the courses, please don’t make assumptions about what it might mean for instruction for 2020-21 in the District.

6. Any updates on the meal distribution or personal hygiene supplies programs?

Some locations and times for the meal distribution sites changed on July 1. Please visit the [District website’s COVID-19 Information & Updates page](#) for a list of locations and the new times.

The sites continue to provide free breakfast and lunch to all children ages 18 and under. Meals can also be picked up by parents. No meals will be consumed on site. We continue to follow best practices for social distancing at all of the sites.

There are two more opportunities this summer – on Monday, July 20 and Monday, Aug. 10 – to get personal hygiene supplies. Boxes of supplies will be available at each of the meal distribution sites on a first-come, first-served basis. Close to 1,000 boxes of supplies have been distributed to date.