

Board Meeting Recap from Dr. Ganan

Dear District 105 Staff and Families,

Please read below for a recap of some items discussed at the Board of Education meeting held on 2/22/21.



Full In-Person Target Date:

At the January 2021 School Board meeting, the Board discussed setting a target date to implement a full in-person learning model after Spring Break. The next step was to survey parents to determine if this was an option they were interested in. Based on data received from the survey, the Board has set a **target** for implementing a full in-person learning program option. **The target date is April 8, 2021. (Note: April 5th and 6th are already non-student attendance days).** While we anticipate meeting this target date, metrics and more information about COVID-19 variants can impact this decision. We will do everything we can to fully open and remain that way for the rest of the school year.

Following Spring Break, during the week of March 29th-April 2nd, students will return to their current instructional model (Hybrid or Remote Only). The district will **not** be fully remote during this first week back.

We ask those that are traveling to abide by travel guidance which may include either a quarantine period or a negative PCR test within 72 hours of returning to Illinois. If a quarantine is needed, this timing assures that those students do not miss the initial transition to the new model. With the start date to full in-person being April 8th, this plan also:

- keeps schools closed for students on the April 6, 2021 election day.
- provides two days for teachers to prepare for the shift.
- utilizes April 7th as our final state-provided Return to Learn Planning Day
- Includes two days of saliva screening.
- Does not increase the interrupted instructional weeks any further on the calendar.

The Learning Program Commitment Survey will be sent out on Friday. It will close on Friday, March 5, 2021

Metrics:

The Board of Education had a lengthy discussion about setting parameters for a decision to implement a full in-person learning program on April 8, 2021. The decision is to use CDC's recommendation of 5% or less local positivity rate as a primary metric. A secondary metric will be less than 1% of clinically significant saliva samples. If the metrics are not met, the Board will come together to discuss next steps.

Note: While the decision was not to use the 50 new cases per 100,000 metric recommended by the CDC, it may still be used as a data point to support the decision making process.

Program Shifts:

If we do move to a full in-person option on April 8th, the hybrid program will no longer be offered. If we do not move to a full in-person model at that time, we will continue to offer the hybrid model. Therefore, unless previously approved by your building principal, we will not be moving students from one program to another until the April 8th date. This is also the case because of our current class sizes in both programs and need to keep our six feet of social distance until the potential shift to full in-person.

Change in Teacher:

It is expected that students who move from full remote to full in-person or full in-person to full remote will have a change of teacher. We will do everything we can not to adjust teachers for those that are already in an in-person model, hybrid, and moving to full in-person as well as for those students remaining in the full remote program. If this cannot be done in specific situations, families will be contacted individually to discuss the situation.

Quarantine:

If the target date is met, our quarantine procedures will be required to change. Since students will be sitting three to four feet apart, all children sitting less than six feet from the positive case will need to quarantine. This is typically the children sitting in front, in back and to the side of the student. In rare cases, we may need to quarantine entire classes, grade levels and buildings.

Students riding the school bus will be seated three feet apart. Only siblings can sit directly next to each other.