

August 24, 2021

Greetings EGF ISD 595 Families and Staff Members,

The EGF ISD 595 Board of Education formally approved the 2021-22 Safe Return to In-Person Learning Plan at the regular school board meeting on Monday, August 23, 2021. The plan states that masking will be optional for students and staff members when they return to school in a couple of weeks. It also lists quarantine guidance for close contacts and potential exceptions for individuals who are fully vaccinated, masked, or tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days. There are very strong opinions on both sides of the masking debate and school district leaders greatly appreciate all of the feedback regarding the plan. Comments about the plan will continue to be monitored and updated on the school district website. A link to the approved plan, as well as a public input link and updated comments can be found at the following link. **I want to be very clear in stating that the approved plan is fluid and will be adjusted if there is a need. I will be working closely with officials from Polk County Public Health and members of the EGF ISD 595 Incident Command Team to monitor the latest COVID-19 data on a daily basis.** A question was asked about how much notice would be provided to families and staff members if changes are made to the plan. The answer is not concrete and will be based on the size of the changes made to the plan and the number of people who will be impacted by the adjustments. It could be a change to mitigation strategies for a certain classroom, grade level, building, or the entire school district and transition timeline could be immediate, within 24 hours, or in a three to five day period.

[Link to East Grand Forks ISD 595 21-22 Safe Return to In-Person Learning Plan Information Safe](#)

## **PLEASE READ**

### **EGF ISD 595 Online Learning Option Survey for Grades K-8**

MN school districts are no longer required to offer a distance learning option for families, but the MDE encouraged all districts to obtain temporary approval to be an online learning provider during the 21-22 school year. EGF ISD 595 has received temporary approval to be an online provider, but a detailed plan has not been developed or approved at the district level. The primary purpose of this survey is to find out if there is enough interest in a full time online learning option for students in grades K-8 to offer the service locally. The District would ask families to commit for at least a nine-week period of time. NOTE - The intent of this option is NOT for students who have been sent home to quarantine.

Please complete the following survey if you are interested in having your child(ren) in grades K-8 enroll in a full time online learning option through EGF ISD 595. Filling out the survey does not mean you are obligated to participate in the option. District leaders are trying to collect as much information as possible before moving forward with formal plans. A formal enrollment plan with much more details will be provided to families as early as Monday, August 30th. The deadline for this survey is 2:00 p.m. on Friday, August 27, 2021.

**PLEASE COMPLETE A SEPARATE SURVEY FOR EACH CHILD YOU HAVE INTEREST IN ENROLLING IN THE ONLINE LEARNING OPTION BY GOING TO:**

**[2021-22 EGF ISD 595 Online Learning Option Survey](#)**

In closing I would like to say that many of the decisions regarding bringing students and staff members back to school safely can be very difficult. There are strong differences of opinion, but everyone involved in the process needs to be respectful of each other. All of us want children to return to school for in-person learning and be as safe as possible. We will continue to work together to provide both for all of our kids.

Please be on the lookout for district updates and feel free to contact me at [mkolness@egf.k12.mn.us](mailto:mkolness@egf.k12.mn.us) or 218-793-2880 if you have any questions about the Safe Return to School Plan, online learning option, or other district related business.

Thank you!

***Mike Kolness***

Superintendent of Schools  
EGF ISD 595  
218-793-2880