



Established 1894
Tecumseh
Public Schools

Robert Kinsey
Superintendent

Brandi Burks
Assistant Superintendent

January 14, 2022

Dear Tecumseh Families,

I want to thank you for your patience and flexibility as our homes, our schools, and our community have been hit hard by this latest wave of COVID. Please know that it is our desire to transition back to in-person learning with students physically in attendance at all of our sites as soon as it is safely possible to do so. Over the last week, four of our five sites moved to distance learning because of a lack of available staff to fill gaps left by teachers who were sick or those who needed to be home with sick family members. In addition to the positive cases that we have seen from our staff, we also have heard from you about a number of our students who have tested positive for COVID over the past week. Just as they are state-wide, positive COVID numbers have hit all-time highs in our district both among our students and our staff this week.

Please let me take a moment to thank our teaching staff, our support staff, our district's bus drivers, our child nutrition workers, our substitute teachers, and our administrative team for working hard this week through the difficult situation. Many of these great workers were called on to alter their typical job assignment to fill gaps in our schedules at various sites, and all of them stepped up and answered the call valiantly! I want to thank you as well for your hard work in ensuring that our students who are participating in distance learning at home have logged in and completed their lessons.

Please note that all sites will be closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day next Monday, January 17th.

As we look to our plans for next week, we continue to see gaps in staffing at many of our sites. In working with principals over the past few days to project our staffing needs for next Tuesday, we currently have the following staffing needs for instructional positions at each site:

At THS, we need 7 substitutes and have 2 available.

At TMS, we need 7 substitutes and have 4 available.

At Cross Timbers, we need 9 substitutes and have 1 available.

At Barnard, we need 7 substitutes and have 0 available.

At TECC, we need 2 substitutes and have 0 available.

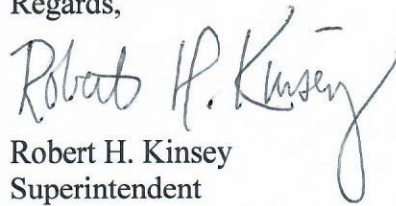
These needs reflect the best case scenario for next Tuesday.

Based on these needs, I have decided to keep Tecumseh Early Childhood Center open for in-person instruction next Tuesday, January 18th. All other sites will continue with distance learning on that day. In reviewing the staffing needs for the remainder of next week, I believe at this time that all sites can transition back to in-person instruction on next Wednesday, January 19th.

These plans are based on our current projections of staffing needs and could change. I wanted to share this information with you as soon as possible so that you would have time to develop plans for each of your children as we move forward. We have new reports of illnesses in our staff members and their families each day. I would ask that all families keep plans for distance learning in mind even when we return to in-person instruction in case our staffing situation changes. The district will notify all families of any changes to these plans as soon as possible through our school messenger system.

It is my hope that we will not be in this dire situation for much longer, but, once again, I appreciate your support of our schools, your flexibility, and your patience with us as we strive to do what is best for the education and the health of our students, our staff, and our community. I will be in communication with you again next week to address any changes that are necessary. Please stay safe!

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert H. Kinsey". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name.

Robert H. Kinsey
Superintendent
Tecumseh Public Schools