

21-23 SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON LEARNING PLAN

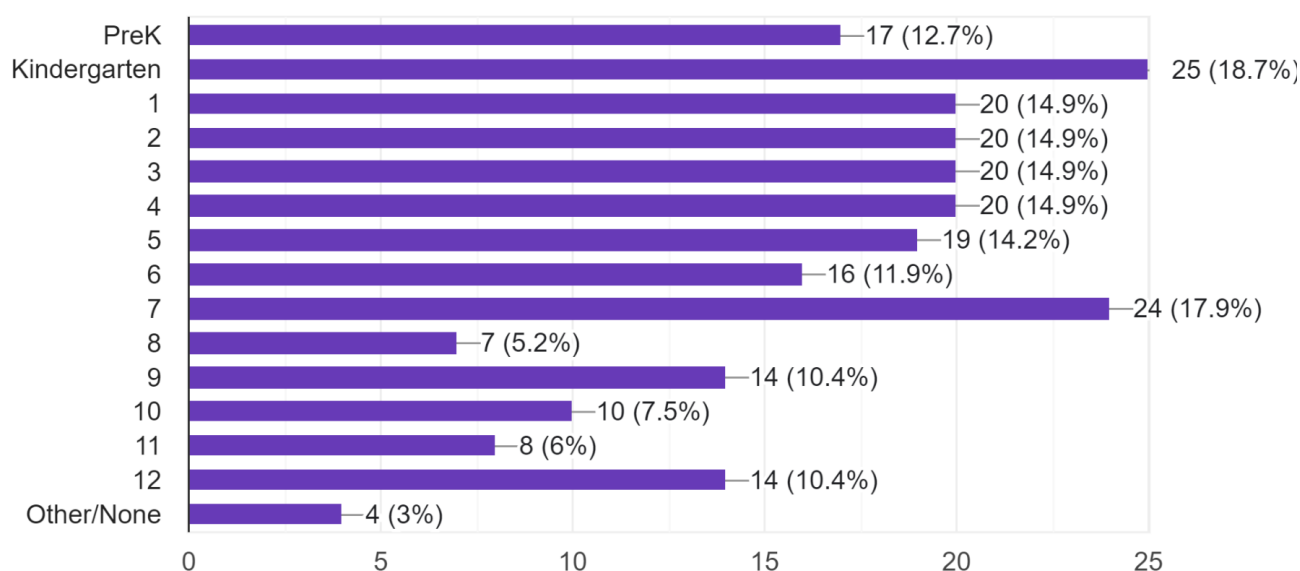
Public Comment and Input Results

134 people have responded to the survey as of 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, July 13, 2022. The survey has been posted on the school district website since June 21, 2021, and a link to the survey was sent to the EGF ISD 595 staff and parent lists.

Question #1 Results:

What Grades are your children in?

134 responses



Question #2 Results: What suggestions do you have to improve our safe learning plan?

- The safe learning plan looks great. Is there a reason why there would still be masks required on buses?
- Encouraging vaccination
- The one thing I would suggest has little to do with COVID-19 more when both elementary schools dismiss at the same time it is difficult if you have a 1st and 3rd grader to pick both up. Would it not make sense to have north side (new heights and sr high) schools dismissed at the same time and south side (cms and sp) at the same time. Just a thought.

- Continue in person
- Counselors and Social Workers for each egf school (possible 2 per each school due to ratio and needs) Dyslexia programming and support for students. Busing/transportation before 7am is early. Can we add an extra route? A student catching a bus at 6:45am is early and makes for a long day.
- If student is fully vaccinated, they should not be required to quarantine due to close contact unless they develop symptoms
- Change each elementary school to k-5. This would allow less families in multiple schools and reduce mass exposure. Reduce the 14-day quarantine for those that test negative. Put a video system in place and if someone comes to school with COVID, look back on the video to determine who was in close contact. Don't assume the whole class was.
- The children should not be required to wear masks.
- Please encourage parents to update their information on parentvue. We had a rough issue with a parent (contact information) that could have avoided lots of problems IF the divorced parents would have updated their parentvue information. Please include actual directions to do this, and explanations of what the difference between primary households is with contact information. and secondary households and if they click no notifications- that they are saying they don't want to be informed if their child is missing school...etc. Thank you.
- Try to return to normalcy without masks and face to face learning
- Will there be an online variation available to students unable to physically attend school for whatever reasons, so they don't fall behind?
- No Masks!!!
- Require all eligible students and staff to be vaccinated to attend in person. Have water available for students to refill their water bottles. Keep classes smaller and continue to safe distance.
- Do away with masks, for both in class and on the bus.
- I like the plan in place.
- I think the draft looks good, I am hoping no masks are needed, but understand if at that time masks are needed for children.
- Looks good
- Can you put a provision if your child has been vaccinated, they won't have to quarantine? Also, not totally related to the plan, but please edit the calendar so that all days off or early out have a marking on the date and not just a note on the side. It's so frustrating to have to read all the notes and there is no marker on the date. Any change in the normal schedule should have a box or a color indicating you need to read the note. This is usually just for Elementary.
- My concern is that my child will still be required to wear a mask as he is not eligible for vaccination. I do not feel that is appropriate for those younger kids to be required for masking.
- All staff get vaccinated to protect themselves and our kids. Let the kids be free of masks. Monitor and request Covid tests as needed for those displaying symptoms.
- Less Chromebook for math especially.
- Drop all masks
- One thing that has always bothered me is school start and end times. A lot of working families depend on older siblings to help care for younger siblings and yet they are in school and get off the buses a lot later than their younger siblings. Also, school start times are difficult when navigating 3 different schools and start times on opposite ends of town.
- I would like to see smaller class sizes and more teachers/student
- According to the latest medical research and the CDC's own tracking systems, middle school children and younger are at statistically zero risk for contracting COVID-19. High school and college students are statistically at the absolute most minimal risk for contracting COVID-19. The most current medical research indicates that masking protocols and plexiglass partitions do virtually nothing to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. There are even studies to suggest that the masking protocols increase the spread of COVID-19 due to the aerosol effect of squeezing saliva through the holes in the mask when coughing or sneezing. There are new studies released in the last 1-2 weeks that indicate the masking protocols dangerously increase the amount of carbon dioxide that children breathe in. There are many studies released that highlight how detrimental the masking, distancing, partitioning, and isolation protocols have been to the social emotional development of school aged children who have missed valuable time and opportunity to develop friendships and conflict management skills through play and routine interaction. There are even multiple new studies released that indicate quarantine and isolation of "close contacts" do not mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Lastly, new research suggests that the vaccinations are having severe adverse effects on the reproductive and cardiopulmonary systems of men, women, and teenagers. Please review the latest medical research from reputable medical journals and adjust

your safe learning plan accordingly to discontinue masking, social distancing, and isolation/quarantine. Do not discuss or advise students on vaccination as that is a discussion protected by HIPPA between an individual and their medical provider and is most definitely outside the scope and education of teachers to weigh in on.

- No masks for anything at any time, even on buses. No quarantine periods.
- Have at least one class per grade with masks mandatory for students for those parents who are following the CDC guidelines of mask wearing for kids under 12yo who are not yet eligible for vaccination. This ensures that kids that have health conditions or other concerns have the option of being in a safe space and allows parents who want to continue protection until vaccinations are approved can do so. This also allows other kids in other classes to not wear masks if their parents chose this for them. The delta variant is spreading and will be the dominant strain in the US by the end of summer. We are seeing high delta infection rates in UK and Israel schools from the delta variant, and this will occur in the US without greater precautions.
- The plan as presented looks good and consistent with other districts planning. Much is beyond your control I recognize.
- PLEASE consider mental health and the effects masks have had on these kids. While my family has been and will be cautious, my (soon to be) Kindergartener has been going to preschool in-person maskless this entire time and we haven't had ONE single quarantine incident (teachers maskless as well). My (soon to be) 3rd grader has been maskless all summer long around 30 some kids and everything has gone so smoothly. These kids need some sort of normalcy back! I realize the state ultimately will make this decision, but I think I speak for many parents :) Thank you for all of your hard work!
- Don't require kids to quarantine if they were vaccinated or if masks were worn during the close contact incident. Permanent smaller class sizes.
- EGF schools should not mandate masks for students who are unvaccinated. If we are saying students don't have to wear masks then it should be the same for all children. Covid has caused enough distancing, isolation, and mistrust amongst children of all ages. This leads to discrimination, disrespectful language, and isolation of children and should not be acceptable in our community! Kids can be mean at times and calling out a particular set of children (unvaccinated) is setting our community up for long term discrimination and hate. If the goal is to keep our community safe, then singling kids out is not the answer! This will cause a huge divide in our community and can lead to violence, bullying, and then hate aimed at the kids who are unable to be vaccinated (due to health concerns, parents choice, anxiety, etc.) We do not want to cause any emotional, physical, or mental issues for the children in our community!
- **COMMENTS from 7.26.21 - 8.17.21**
- I would like more specifications on quarantine for those exposed who have been vaccinated. Most places only require quarantine if unvaccinated, or have symptoms after being exposed. If those vaccinated still have to quarantine and wear masks, what was the purpose of the vaccine?
- I also do not like the start times. My son gets on the bus at south point, goes to new heights to pick up kids, then back to the middle school, then back to the high school before he starts his route home. Having the north end and south end with the same times would eliminate the back and forth and the extended time he is on the bus. To me, the bussing provides the most exposure to a variety of people during the day vs the classrooms. Even with masking (which does not do much for an airborne spread virus), eliminating the time on the busses would decrease the new contacts. Please provide some rationale for the staggering of times.
- NO MASKS!!
- Mandate vaccines for all employees of EGF public schools - the Supreme Court established the legality of vaccine mandates a long time ago; Mandate masks for all people, regardless of vaccination status; allow parents to match their kids to teachers based on vaccination status; allow for more flexible distance learning plans
- Leave masks up to the parents
- We need to have an IN PERSON meeting for ALL parents to discuss this re-entry of school. We need to be made more able to have A SAY in what we want our kids to do, not this what's your comments stuff. THIS IS ENOUGH, ENOUGH IS ENOUGH, NO MASKS!!! at all, not walking anywhere, not up with plexiglass like a prison. RESPECT OUR KIDS AND LET THEM LIVE. Our 3 children will not be attending school if masks are REQUIRED in any form. Let people who want their kids to wear them, wear them, Let those that want their kids to have a normal existence in society ALONE. Leave them alone!
- Masks should be optional and the parents choose what they would like for their family's needs. It is harmful to their development. My daughter is deaf in one ear and relies on lip reading when she can not hear someone.
- Mask mandate in elementary schools.
- Masks, social distancing, and like, they did in elementary- keep classes separate.
- No masks. The children have suffered enough. They learn fear from the adults which creates distrust and mental health issues. Masks cause physical health issues as well as learning deficits. Children are not robots. Also, healthy people should not be quarantined. If they are not presenting symptoms, they should not be forced out.
- No masks

- No masks
- Masks need to be voluntary for kids and staff. Let us parents make that decision.
- I would encourage you to keep following the MN and CDC guidelines and require masks if needed. My kids had no issues wearing masks. It is normal to them. I want school to remain a safe space that I feel comfortable sending my children to since they cannot yet be vaccinated. We interact with people who cannot be vaccinated for various reasons and want to minimize the chance of spreading anything to them.
- I think the school should go back to the way it was. These kids have been together all summer and to mask them up just to get extra funding does not have anyone's best interest other than the usual game of greed in the name of extra funding. The numbers don't lie, stop creating fear in these small children. Funny how private schools seem to do just fine. Hate to see you lose even more funding to private schools or home schooling . Keep pushing people, it will happen.
- Having the option of distance learning for the first part of the year while there is a surge of new covid variants.
- Let kids be kids. No masks. Get back to the "old normal". The damage of masking both physically and mentally will do far more damage than the virus will throughout their lives. The kids have been through enough.
- Many schools have stated that if the class your child is in wears masks and someone turns up positive in that class the whole class WILL NOT be quarantined. I really think that aspect needs to be reconsidered if the option is left up to the schools, which at the moment it is. It was ridiculous how many times my child was quarantined last year because a child 2 tables away with a mask on tested positive. Does not make sense.
- Enough with the masks and quarantine. Time to let adults be adults and decide what is best for THEIR children. We have gone all Summer without masks without issues. Let these kids be kids!
- Do not require masks all day. This is absolutely absurd when the risk to children is so low. I am very worried about my child's mental health and respiratory issues he may get from wearing this mask all day and breathing in disgusting germs from his mouth. This to me is much more concerning than the risk of covid. We know masks don't work and this is just getting out of hand. Someone needs to think about the kids in all of this. Masks are not the answer!
- Enough forcing masks and forcing fear onto these kids. Let parents decide if they want their kid wearing a mask or not.
- Keeping the recommendation of not having to wear masks or making it up to the families to decide if their child should have to wear a mask.
- We need to keep going with what works, wash hands frequently, 6 ft apart, mask up, get vaccinated. We are not going to get rid of this by putting our guards down now and pretending it is all over because some people have gotten vaccinated. If you haven't done all these and are able to, you are not doing your part to keep our community safe.
- My only concern with the plan is that I thought the quarantine time was decreased to 7 days.
- **DO NOT MAKE THESE CHILDREN WEAR MASKS!!!!** This insanity needs to stop. These children have better than a 99% chance of survival and yet we are destroying so much of their childhood and eventually adulthood because of it. Stop the madness. East Grand Forks did a fantastic job last year keeping our children in school in light of the unknown. Now another year has passed and we have so much better information. Please, please understand that we will not take it again. I will pull my children from your school if you continue on this path and that will not be because of a failure from the EGF School system but because my children will not be caught up in the politics and manifest fear. I had covid and didn't miss a beat. My son had it and I didn't even know that he was sick in any way. I am sure that my daughter had it but the flawed test somehow returned negative. How can that be and why should we upend the lives of our children because of nothing. I trust that all involved will continue to do whatever it takes to do the right thing - make masks optional. We as parents are the ones that should be making this decision, not the state.
- The big question for me is Why? Why are we back here discussing masks? Why are we back at this point of anxiety and unknown again? Last year was the worst year ever for our children and for everyone involved. Why are we considering masks again and not making it a personal choice? The vaccine is out, if people choose to vaccinate that is their choice and they are getting their protection, last year that wasn't an option so it was understood why there was the fear of contracting the virus and not being protected. Now people have the choice and the option to go get it. Just like in the past people could choose to get the flu vaccine or not get the flu vaccine. It is their right to choose. Did you know according to a CDC report, the Flu's annual deaths in the US are HIGHER than Covid deaths among our children (which I don't believe I can attach to this form? But I am happy to share the pic with anyone who wants to see it). When I point this statistic out my point is this: we have NEVER, EVER shut down the school, went to distance learning, wore masks, did contact tracing, or made people quarantine for the flu or any other virus. So why are we considering it, once again, with Covid? There have been years in the past when I remember hearing "the flu or cold is running rampant through the schools" and SO many kids were gone from school. But the season passed and life went on and people stayed home when they had symptoms and went back to school when they were 24 hours symptom free. In the past did you ever do contact tracing for those flus or colds or make kids stay home because they were in close contact with those viruses? Did you ever in the past contact parents and make other kids stay home for 14 days because they were possibly in contact with a sick student? Did you ever in the past make kids miss sporting events, band concerts, special ceremonies, theater, school, any event because they were in close contact with someone 48 hours before that sick person developed a symptom?? NO!!! Did we have times of the year that kids were more sick or a flu was going through? Yep, but we did not shut down the world or shut down the schools or

events because of it. Covid is another virus that isn't going to go away, just like the flu or cold virus isn't going to go away. There is a vaccine for covid and there is a vaccine for the flu that people have the choice to get. The flu shot has never been required at school. Have we ever had to go to masks/distance learning/close contact quarantine because of the flu and the flu (according to the CDC chart I attached) is worse than Covid for our children. The risk on our children for Covid is SO low that I cannot believe we are back at this point discussing all these things again. And we have a vaccine out for 12 years and up for anyone that wants it. There are different variants of the flu that people may not be protected against with the annual vaccine that is administered, just as there will be different variants of covid that will develop, but again we have never gone to these extremes with the flu. Have there been years of higher flu cases? Absolutely! Have we had to wear masks and quarantine because of it? No. There is a 99.5% survival rate with covid, WHY are we talking about this masking again? WHY are we back at this point? Our children need normalcy, our children want to go to school and see people's faces and go to events and be with their friends and support their friends at events. We are damaging our children more with mental health issues that will have longer effects on them than if they got sick for a few days and stayed home. PLEASE stop doing this to our kids, it's time to let them be kids. We can be safe and follow rules of staying home if our children are sick with multiple symptoms, like we have always done in the past. But stop the quarantining and masking. You can let parents know if their child has been in close contact and to let us monitor for symptoms, but they should not have to quarantine and miss out on life when they feel good and have no symptoms. Two of my children were quarantined a couple times last year because they sat by someone in class who tested positive. My children literally sat at home bored as can be, not learning in school (because distance learning was not something they learned from), and they never developed a symptom. They missed out on events because they "could possibly" develop a symptom, which neither of them EVER did, not ONE single symptom, but 14 wasted days. If we lived life because we could possibly develop a symptom 48 hours in the future, we will NEVER be able to live life normally again because we do not know the future. My oldest and middle son have been at the school literally Monday thru Thursday the entire summer and around classmates/teammates lifting. My middle son has also been playing basketball and playing football the entire summer and also was in numerous leagues, camps, etc. No one ever wore a mask, and they didn't social distance, and there was NEVER an issue all summer, not ONE single issue, if someone didn't feel well, they stayed home and that was that. My daughter was at the school as well in June to July and played basketball around girls aged 6th grade to 12th and never was there any issues—not one. My son has told me numerous times how this was the best summer ever and it was because he got to be mask-free and have fun with friends and get back to normal and you can see it in all the kids' faces how happy they are. Don't make them go backward and go back to the masks and worry about close contact quarantining. If kids choose to wear masks, let them, but don't force our kids to put those masks back on because there is SO much controversy on their effectiveness on them. I would also like to attach a list of 50+ schools and 49 of them are letting masks be a CHOICE. As far as quarantining please stop with this as well. If kids develop multiple symptoms, kids can stay home until 24 hour symptom free like we've always done, but keeping healthy kids at home and not learning is only hurting our kids as well—and now with distance learning not being an option, they will just get further and further behind and I've already seen a decline in my kids learning from last year. I know someone that was quarantined for over 70 days last year and NEVER once got covid or ever developed a symptom!!!! It was only for close contact—look at all she missed out on. SO sad! Please consider masks as a choice and people stay home with multiple symptoms, and no close contact quarantining. Thank you for your time.

- Here is a list of schools who are making masks optional and those that are requiring masks. 49 optional and 5 are requiring. <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1bk0npxBTr2RD7s8f9vSlRv6QDmwfrUAQnfz7Xcw/edit?fbclid=IwAR0NJJGeuntTO7niIFJpMNqRpiDWyww6cqZqMkw4eIN9XnJzJt8JeZlI6Hv8#gid=0>
- I fully support the plan of returning all children to in person learning 5 days a week.
- It's very clear and understandable that our community is "over" the pandemic. However, the reality is- it is not over. We need to continue to follow science in our decision making just as we did last year. With numbers approaching what they were last fall, and the transmissibility of the Delta variant in children, masks may need to be worn. Educators have an obligation to keep all students safe and provide an opportunity for all children to learn at school - including those who are immunocompromised. Masking is one way to do this. I also think it is worth exploring/continuing shortest possible bus routes and classroom cohorts for lunch and recess as the data deems necessary - keeping a fluid model.
- Have the elementary schools serve k-5 each to reduce exposure
- I like the plan so far. I understand the mask mandate on buses as that's public transportation and that's enforced by the state. I think masks should stay optional for students! It's uncomfortable enough as an adult to wear one, and even tougher for young children to keep one on! Social distance, and stay home if sick.
- Let the kids be kids. Let them experience proper social interaction without being afraid and hidden behind a mask. Where were these mandates when the flu was killing thousands per year?
- Let families decide if their kids wear masks or not.
- It has been proven that the masks don't work, vaccines are not doing what we were all told to believe and I don't think these kids need to wear masks or get vaccinated due to this. I don't think ANYONE should be forced to get the vaccine and until it is proven to work effectively, we will not be getting them in my household. We have talked about moving across the river if you mandate vaccines and it will be on the top of our list if you actually do!! I know we are

not the only ones thinking this way. Also, we had the hottest July on record and the heat did nothing to help kill this virus off like we were also told to believe, so in all honesty no one knows what is right or wrong and just guessing with other people's lives is unethical.

- Require masks for unvaccinated children. It's the best way to keep kids safe and in school instead of quarantine.
- Hybrid like last year would be a good idea with the rising cases of the Delta variant!
- It must be a recommendation, not a mandate. Leave it up to the parents.
- optional for masks or no masks. People opposed to this have the option of distance learning. The kids have been through enough let them be little-and no vaccinations mandatory
- Mandatory mask usage throughout the school unless a medical condition prevents its use. Not everyone is following CDC recommendations to get vaccinated. The recent surge in cases with the Delta variant has shown how quickly an outbreak can occur.
- I want our kids safe but I do not believe that making a 5 year old wear a mask all day is safe for her physical well being or her mental well being. Children this young need to see faces so that it can help them learn and develop socially by reading other peoples faces especially their teachers face. It's hard for them to grow socially when everyone's face is covered. Make sure the kids wash their hands regularly.
- I think that it is important for all of the community members to read the full document associated with the funding that governs our policy regarding how we conduct this school year.
 - o <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/04/22/2021-08359/american-rescue-plan-act-elementary-and-secondary-school-emergency-relief-fund>
- The plan should include the circumstances for how children will continue to learn if they are deemed a close contact and need to remain quarantined for 14 days.
- None, but we appreciate your hard work and dedication and are in favor of this plan. We will happily follow any guidelines and recommendations set in place by the EGF school system faculty and staff.
- I'm asking that masks be required for all students and staff until vaccinations are available for all students (which is hopefully soon) along with lowered case count numbers. *We have absolutely nothing to lose and everything to gain from it to protect our kids during this time.
- No masks. Part of kids learning is visual. I want my children to be able to see the excitement/ sadness on another's face. I want my children to learn in a non-threatening maskless environment. I believe parents have the right to choose if their children wear masks.
- Please consider reinstating a mask requirement in elementary schools, as the delta variant is now a concern and vaccines are still not available for kids under 12. I recognize that this is a highly divisive issue unfortunately, but the safety and health of young children and their families should be prioritized. Thank you for your consideration.
- Use the CDC's recommendations/guidance to dictate the safe learning plan, & DO NOT use people's emotions/YouTube 'research'.
- I think masks should be the choice of each individual family.
- Right now I have two concerns in regards to going back to school. I'll start with the idea of masking . I'm concerned about the long term as well as the short term effects of masking. I know there has been a lot of back and forth on this topic and so I am sharing a link with some information in regards to efficacy as well as the well being in regards to masking:
 - o https://americasfrontlinedoctors.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/607fd1afaab96830b63db9b5_Stanford-Mask-Study.pdf
- Being we wore masks all of last year when there were so many unknowns, I'd hope we could move forward knowing more about the negative effects to not force masks if they are truly not stopping the spread of Covid.
- My next concern is the possibility of mandating vaccines for staff. Regardless of one's stance on the vaccine, this is not ok. No one should be forced to inject their body with a vaccine (an experimental one at that). We aren't just talking about anything, we are talking about something that cannot be undone or taken back. I get it, Covid is scary but at the end of the day, it should be an individual's personal choice whether or not to get vaccinated.
- I have many more links I could share with you if you are interested. I fully understand this is not an easy decision to make and one I don't envy having to make. Thank you for allowing people to share their concerns and being open to the conversation. I also understand this isn't necessarily a suggestion to improve the plan but rather a concern to discuss and consider when addressing the plan and moving forward to finalize the plan.
- Improve safe learning? My question is, has everyone on the school board lived in a bubble all summer? My goodness, let the kids be kids. They have played together all summer whether it be during Playground, swimming, sports, just hanging out, birthday parties etc... Nobody that my daughter has been around has been sick or has shown any signs of being sick, yet none of them ever wore masks and I see kids hanging out riding bikes, etc and they still are not wearing masks. What do you think this is doing to the kids and their mental health? They can't see a smile when they are doing a good job, they are not able to see facial expressions or read lips as some need to do. What I do not understand and this: You don't have to wear a mask if it's for medical reasons. What happens if all kids have a sensory issue and can't wear them, they have breathing problems and can't wear a mask? Where do you draw the line? Anyone can say that. Let the kids be kids! They do not need masks, they do not need to eat in their classrooms, they do not need to be let outside for recess 1 class or 2 classes at a time! Why has everyone gotten so weak over this? Yes Covid has taken family members from me (or so they say) but you have to remember, Covid has

also taken away the common cold, the flu, allergies, etc... Every little cough, sneeze are you going to send them home to get tested? They will not learn this way!

- Masks should be up to the parents and students. I do not see the benefit of them, they do very little to stop the spread of coronavirus. Also the students are in the age bracket where if they do get it, their symptoms are usually very minimal. I also believe that the vaccine should be a personal choice. No mandate on masks or vaccines.
- I am just wondering how you plan to deal with the extreme amounts of quarantines that will happen without at least masking those that aren't vaccinated. My understanding is that quarantine can only be avoided if masks are being worn or the individual is vaccinated. Making masks voluntary pretty much guarantees that the unvaccinated won't be wearing them so you will end up with students in and out of quarantine every time they are in close contact. No one wants to be wearing a mask all day but isn't it the only way to make sure the kids get to participate in sports/extra curricular activities and attend as much in-person school as possible? Also having only the kids who are likely vaccinated volunteer to wear masks really defeats the purpose of the masks. As science has proven I wear a mask to protect you and you wear a mask to protect me.
- I get that we are all tired of this but we need to protect the entire student body especially since there is no option for remote learning this year. Part of that protection means setting rules that will ensure the least disruption from being quarantined over and over again. We are in the significant transmission category and it will only get worse once the kids go back to school. We know this from last year.
- No masks! No segregation between vaccinated and unvaccinated.
- Please require teachers and staff to be vaccinated against Covid and require masks for everyone.
- Promote a culture of responsible personal hygiene.
- Please keep in mind students that may have a compromised immune system. If optional masking is in place, my child's mask will do her no good. The Delta variant is highly contagious and many children are hospitalized due to contracting it. Many schools who have gone with optional masking are now seeing major surges in Covid and hospitalizations among their student populations. I'm not sure that I would be able to send my child to school if her classmates weren't masked. It's really not worth the risk for us. We may have to explore other educational avenues. My child wants and has the right to be in school with her peers. Masking students will help mitigate the spread of this very dangerous variant. I know and understand children and adults may not like the idea of masking, but at what cost? We are talking about lives. If optional masking is put in place, is there a plan in place for some of our students with compromised immune systems? Maybe having a choice to be in a classroom with other students whose parents also want to keep their kids masked (all masked class). Please follow the science and CDC guidance. A vaccine is not an option for my 1st grader at this time. Thank you for your time.
- I think the plan looks reasonable. Please make every effort to make the choice to wear a mask up to each family. I personally do NOT want kids wearing masks ever again, but respect the right of others to wear masks as they choose to.
- I think all of you are doing the best you can with the resources that you have.
- Follow what the CDC is strongly recommending and require masks indoors. If not, we will repeat exactly what happened last year. It's already happening across the country and our county is $\approx 35\%$ vaccinated. Children are 85% more likely to catch this strain and at least 2.5 X's more likely to be hospitalized. Frankly, none of you are more qualified than the CDC to make public health choices, and they are telling you what to do. Respectfully, if you can't understand how science works (and that evidence sometimes changes, especially during a pandemic) then you have no business being on a school board controlling science curriculum.
- Please do not follow the lead of politicians. Listen to what the CDC, the state, and local hospitals are telling you. At this point many states are running out of pediatric beds to take care of kids. This is a chance to possibly avoid the same thing in our community.
- *Too many, but I will try to contain my answers. These suggestions are for kids and staff.
- Un- vaccinated individuals should be REQUIRED to wear a mask and all other age appropriate vaccinated individuals should have the option to wear or not wear a mask.
- OR- ALL age appropriate individuals should wear masks if you are not able to mandate un-vaccinated persons to wear masks. The safety of our kids and school staff should be prioritized. If kids/staff must be immunized prior to beginning school/work then why not add the COVID vaccine/ COVID boosters
- (& boosters if future requires it) to the list of immunization requirements.
- If a parent /individual chooses not to vaccinate their child or themselves it must be in writing and be attached to a handwritten statement by a primary physician or a virologist as to what medical reasons the child/staff cannot be vaccinated and then if the child/staff cannot be vaccinated due to medical reasons then that child/individual must wear a mask or protective wear or do online learning/teaching if they cannot wear protective wear due to medical condition. Religious beliefs should not play a factor in this vaccination. This virus has already taken TOO many lives. We should not stand by while it continues to take more lives, especially children who don't make the decision to vaccinate or not vaccinate (their parents decide). Wearing a mask isn't fun (as my kids have stated over & over again, but wearing a protective mask is far better than being on a ventilator or breathing apparatus.
- I now have to use a nebulizer machine twice daily and have to use a CPAP machine when I sleep because I had COVID so bad last fall. I now have heart concerns and will probably have to continue to see a pulmonologist for the

rest of my life due to COVID. It isn't a joke or shouldn't be taken lightly. We lost a family member in February to COVID. This virus isn't picky with who it chooses to attack, it can attack anyone, even the healthy!

- School needs to be a safe space for children. Considering the vaccination status of many adults in our community is low and that children under 12 cannot be vaccinated, masks should be worn to mitigate the spread. I believe we all want in-person learning to happen but if we're not following the science and public health measures, we risk going back to virtual learning.
- Normalcy. The kids need that. Last year was a flop and could have just as well not even had school.
- In person learning
- If we look at other places who have already started school with no mask mandate you see a huge increase in cases. In SC a school has over 500 people in quarantine after 9 days. Why not put mandates in place to prevent the increase in cases? So we can all stay in school. Why just wait for cases to happen before mandating masks? We've been through this last year, and know what was working to keep our school safe. The sooner we work together on prevention and work on getting everyone who could get a vaccine get vaccinated. The sooner we can get back to the normalcy we all want. If you can't put a mask mandate at the school we need distant learning, or classrooms for people who want mask mandates and keep them separate at least till all kids can get vaccinated.
- A mask requirement should be based on hospitalization capacity at regional med centers, positivity rates with East Grand Forks and grand forks, positive cases within the school system, and public health statistics. It will be almost impossible to engage the community (staff and students) to wear masks if there is no data to back up the reasoning. Setting a mask mandate now with 25 positive cases in the county is not logical or reasonable. Discard current CDC data regarding Polk County transmission rates, this data is not based on current positive cases within the country...
- Return as normal as possible without quarantining classes or kids, stay home if you're sick. People are getting better at staying home and keeping their kids at home when they need to. Making a class distance learning for 10-14 days is too hard on the younger kids!
- Follow the science not the money - let the parents decide what is best for their kids
- Mask requirements for all unvaccinated staff and students.
- I would like to see options that would benefit the students and staff that are fully vaccinated.
 - o Options could include:
 - Masks may be removed while seated at your desk or social distancing is practical.
 - No need to quarantine if deemed a close contact and not showing symptoms/ negative test.
 - I do support a mask requirement for anyone who is too young or unable/willing to be vaccinated, especially during times when distancing measures are not practical such as classroom shuffling or waiting in lines.
- Why wait for cases to rise? This delta variant is more likely to make a child sick, or die. Is that what we are waiting for the death of a child in our community? It has happened in other places, yes there are more cases in these places, but why not try to stay ahead of this virus. We should be doing all that we can do to stop the spread now.
- No distance learning for those who need extra help.
- Regardless of the push for vaccination, there are still going to be a large number of parents who choose to not vaccinate their children, largely due to the lack of long term studies on the potential side effects. As a parent, I also know how frustrating it is to try to get my children to comply consistently with mask wearing. One thing that I think would be a HUGE incentive for students (and their parents) is if they could know that if all parties in close contact with each other were wearing masks at the time of exposure, they would not need to quarantine for 14 days but simply monitor for symptoms. That is what was adopted for child care centers in ND last fall and it dramatically increased compliance with mask wearing. Because people are skeptical about the effectiveness of masks and want to preserve their freedoms, they needed an incentive to wear them more religiously. Wearing a mask does not cause potential lasting health risks like vaccine side effects can. But people need to know their lives will be made easier if they comply with mask wearing. I think if you tell parents their child won't have to miss 2 weeks of school or 2 weeks of their chosen sport if they, and the friends they spend time with, wear masks consistently, they will be much more likely to wear them voluntarily. I believe in the power of freedom to choose what is best for the health and well-being of our children. I feel if the incentive to choose masking is strong enough, parents will choose that sooner than changing their position on vaccination. I also believe we need to stop advocating for division of our society based on our personal health choices. I wish you luck in your decision making. I don't envy you. As a business owner that employs more than 60 people and serves nearly 300 clients, the pressure to make the best choice for everyone is huge...and there is no possible way to please everyone. God bless!
- No mask normalcy is the key I believe my son is just entering kindergarten and the preschool didn't make them wear them kids his age can not stop from messing with the mask so it's pointless in my opinion also my son and family have have covid 2 times already we are all good if he becomes sick he will stay home just like normal these kids need normalcy that is the answer we all know it.
- Those in my family that can be vaccinated have. But due to the rise in covid cases and the variants, we have been wearing masks to prevent those that cannot be vaccinated, our 5 year old. It's not about what is comfortable for ourselves, but what we can do for others. Showing kindness and concern for others' well being.

8.24.21 and 8.25.21 updates

- If you should need to switch to a mask mandate, I feel it will be important to have parameters in place that somewhat lay out at what point masks become required and when they go away. The more upfront you can be, the better people will be able to accept and adjust. No one wants to play a game if they don't know the rules.
- Simple. Go back to 2019 when there was "nothing we can do about a virus. It has to run its course"
- Require masks
- A mask mandate WILL not stop a Covid droplet or prevent kids from getting Covid or from spreading Covid, so therefore masks do not work as science has shown mask don't work otherwise we wouldn't have see so many people get sick from Covid this past year when masks were mandatory. A Covid droplet is .06 .0-14 microns a N95 mask only protects down to a .3 micron so a N95 mask still can't stop Covid and that's if you have a tight seal around the mouth and nose. So do you think these kids with these homemade non OSHA test masks are really gonna stop Covid from spreading, cmon as teachers of our little ones please teach them what you know and not what you think you know.
- No mask. They do not work. There is absolutely no benefit to masking a child.
- I suggest that masks should be up to the parents.
- Mandate masks
- Thank you for giving parents the opportunity to choose whether our students will wear a mask this year. I truly hope people are responsible enough to stay home when they are sick and to wear a mask if they feel necessary without judging others who choose not to wear a mask.
- Thank you for all you do for our students!
- Thank you for giving parents the opportunity to choose whether our students will wear a mask this year. I truly hope people are responsible enough to stay home when they are sick and to wear a mask if they feel necessary without judging others who choose not to wear a mask.
- Thank you for all you do for our students!
- I was very disappointed to see that masks were not required. My GF is getting bad. UND required it, GF public schools have required it. It's just too bad that the EGF School board doesn't care about their students that may have health issues or need that extra protection. My kids are in great health and they don't have to worry too much but I know others that aren't and it's too bad that the board doesn't care about them.
- Please everyone should wear a mask. We also have another variant lurking around the corner called the delta.
- A number of people have suggested this, and it goes beyond COVID-19 to general health and safety for elementary students: each elementary school should serve K-5 for the neighborhood they are a part of. This would reduce the need for buses by allowing students to walk or ride bikes to school, which would reduce traffic around schools and the number of idling vehicles (buses included). Emissions from idling vehicles aren't great for anybody, and the more we can encourage students to be active, the better.
- Go back to normal .
- In person
- As a healthcare professional I am disheartened at the fact that EGF will not be mandating masks. It is safe and effective and the only way we will be able to safely keep our kids in the classroom. If masks will not be mandated I would request that for all group projects and seating arrangements that my children are grouped with children in their classroom who are wearing masks. I can not afford to get COVID or be out of work because of exposure or close contact. One of my children is at high risk and they are not of the age to be vaccinated. Or, classrooms should be rearranged so that all masked children are in the same classroom.
- I would like to see masks mandated. I understand that there are strong opinions on all sides. Our kids are under the age of 12 and it doesn't feel safe to send them to school unvaccinated with few people wearing masks. The Delta Variant will spread rapidly without masking, Students/staff (especially the unvaccinated) will be quarantined frequently and this will add burden to teachers and to families needing to stay home from work. Additionally, our schools are part of a broader community and could contribute to the rapid spread of the virus once in session without masking. This will result in overtaxing our healthcare system, more illness and deaths. I hope we can all be free of masks soon, but right now the freedom for our children and beloved educators to be safe and return to sustainable normalcy sooner is what matters most.
- I am a father of four with my oldest two being in 1st and 2nd grade. I believe that masking our children is nothing more than political theater that could certainly have long term negative effects. I am thankful that as of right now they are not required, but if things do change I will certainly find another alternative for education. Thanks
- I am quite amazed to see Grand Forks ND require masks in their schools and a few minutes away, we see an optional mask policy in East Grand. Cases continue to rise. While (most) children will likely recover without too many issues, who they spread it to may not. I feel this does no justice to the protection of our educators and I wonder how they feel about this.
- Daughter will be wearing a mask.
- Try offering protections to the students - the current plan is a joke and is going to lead to an outbreak in the schoForms response chart. Question title: What Grades are your children in?. Number of responses: 127 responses. Also try leading by example and wear a mask if it is recommended - be leaders! Practical suggestions are to mandate masks, offer distance learning to those that don't want to mask, offer classrooms that require masks

and follow spring COVID mitigation efforts. Require quarantine of those exposed and let parents know if their children have been exposed.

- What about a classroom for each grade that mandates masks? The parents not comfortable sending their kids without masks can send their children to a safe masked environment(including teachers) that keeps their kids separate from those who refuse to wear them. We should NOT have to choose between endangering our children and sending them to school. Schools should protect all kids.
- I just want everyone to stop living in fear. Let's just take a step back, take a deep breath and look at this with some perspective. The news tells us COVID cases are up, hospitalization numbers are up, deaths are up, but let's look at the population of those numbers. The elderly, the morbidly obese, and those with underlying health concerns. The same groups that are at risk for the flu or any other upper respiratory virus. Texas: 1,00+ new COVID cases, it's running rampant, and they closed the schools. But how many of the kids are showing symptoms, how many are in the hospital, how many have died? They don't tell us that. Study after study has shown that a healthy child has a 99.999% survival rate. Do you realize that our kids have a greater risk of dying from the flu than from COVID? As for the masks, there are also many studies that show they are not doing anything. The N95 masks do a little good but they must be properly fitted and as soon as you touch it or fiddle with it, it is no longer effective. Let's compare North and South Dakota last year. Neither state implemented a mask mandate. Then cases spiked and North Dakota implemented a mandate and cases dropped. Everyone said the masks worked. However, looking at South Dakota their numbers dropped at the same time as North Dakota's numbers, and they didn't have a mask mandate. So, was it the masks or was it the natural ebb and flow of the virus? Private schools didn't implement mask mandates last year and they didn't have any huge outbreaks of COVID. Churches that didn't implement mask mandates didn't see any huge outbreaks of COVID. Masks aren't the answer!!!
- I don't appreciate the amount of fear we are instilling in our children over this virus which again has a proven 99.999% survival rate. There is no reason for it. Children should not have to live in fear. In my mind that is child abuse. I ask you to lead with wisdom, knowledge, and courage rather than fear.
- No masks! It's child abuse. Oxygen deprivation is a real thing too. Follow the REAL science. Who do you people think you are masking our children? Making them breathe in their own bacteria all day. Shame on you all. My kids deserve fresh air and to see their classmates' faces. Stop living in fear from a virus with a 99.7% survival rate. If you or your kids want to wear a mask then do it, but don't force it on us. It has nothing to do with safety, it's all politicized.
- No masks!!!!
- Drop the masks... our 3 kids will be homeschooled along with a mass majority of other students shortly!