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Dear Staff and Community of Pekin Community High School,

I hope this message finds you and your families safe and well. Yesterday, the Illinois State Board of Education released guidance for schools for the 2020-21 school year.

This 60-page document has been much anticipated and will go a long way toward answering critical questions all of us share about what the 2020-21 school year will look like in terms of in-person learning, scheduling, transportation, wearing masks, social distancing and other measures intended to keep everyone safe and healthy, while also re-engaging students in the learning process. The link to guidance is here: <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/Part-3-Transition-Planning-Phase-4.pdf>

Right now, we don't have all the answers to those questions as this document was released to school districts at the same time it was released to the public. Therefore, we kindly ask for your patience as our staff thoroughly reviews this detailed guidance and implements the suggestions into our district's own transition plan.

We are keenly aware of the urgent need to communicate to families about what to expect next school year and anticipate releasing our own transition plan by the middle of July.

We have been meeting throughout the summer and discussing viable options knowing that our ultimate desire is to do what is best for students and believing that students are best served in our building face-to-face with teachers as much as possible. This guidance will accelerate those conversations, and I'm confident our district can put forth a plan that prioritizes the health and safety of our students while maintaining a dynamic learning environment.

Thank you again for your patience, understanding, and flexibility as our entire district navigates a situation together that none of us could have imagined.

I will be in touch soon. In the meantime, stay safe and enjoy your summer.

Sincerely,

The opportunity is here.



The fire is within.