Dear Minden Parents/Guardians,

I am writing to share updated information and protocols for the start of the 2020-2021 school year. Our community’s response to this pandemic has been amazing. Thank you for all you do for our community and school. At Monday evening’s Board of Education meeting, safety protocols were discussed.

This pandemic has led to this plan on how Minden Public Schools will begin operations for the 2020-2021 school year on Thursday, August 13th. These new measures are intended for the safety of our student, families, and our staff and their families. Our goal every year is to give our students the highest level of education, this year will be no different. The education of our students is our primary mission, and the safety of our students and staff is our primary concern in fulfilling that mission. The American Academy of Pediatrics strongly advocates that all policy considerations for the coming school year should start with the goal of having students physically present in school. Our goal is to open our schools and keep them open safely.

The safety protocols linked [**here**](https://5il.co/id2r) are to help get students and staff back in school and keep them safe. We have purchased masks, hand sanitizers, additional thermometers, gloves, and cleaning equipment to disinfect our schools and give students and staff the things they need to be safe at school. We are not requiring masks for staff and students at this time but know that if our direct health measure changes, we will need to address this requirement. We will continue to evaluate our plan and continue to talk with our health officials as we go through the school year.

We realize that there may be disagreements about the plan; it has been developed based on the safety of our students and staff. We understand that our situation can change, and we will take all the steps necessary to keep our students in school learning and teachers working with our students. We will overcome this pandemic together and have a great 2020-2021 school year.

Sincerely,

James Widdifield

Superintendent

Minden Public Schools