East Grand Forks ISD 595
2020-21 Back to School Fact Sheet

As part of our state of preparedness, East Grand Forks Public Schools has established a team to develop a Return to School Plan for the 2020-2021 school year based on guidance from public health officials, state agencies, and national organizations. The plan will continue to be updated this summer as the pandemic continues to evolve.

What We Know

● The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) announced that three learning environment scenarios will be prepared for the 2020-21 school year. The MDE 2020 Planning Guidance for Minnesota Public Schools (MDE 2020 Planning Guidance) describes the three scenarios in depth.

● The three scenarios for the 2020-2021 school year are adaptive depending on local and state conditions. We are planning for some level of restrictions to occur throughout the school year. As directed by the MN Department of Education, EGF ISD 595 is preparing for three different scenarios for returning to school, including:

  ● Scenario 1: In-person learning for all students
    ○ This scenario will be implemented if public health data indicates that the COVID-19 pandemic has sufficiently stabilized and/or improved to permit a reopening of schools. As students return to school, the school district should maximize the space between students and others, though it may not be feasible to enforce 6 feet of social distancing during classroom instructional time. Activities and extracurricular programming should continue to follow the COVID-19 Sports Guidance for Youth and Adults.

  ● Scenario 2: Hybrid learning with strict social distancing and capacity limits
    ○ This scenario will be implemented when state officials determine that COVID-19 metrics have worsened at a local, regional, or statewide level or if a cluster of COVID-19 infections occur in a classroom or school. Under Scenario 2, schools must:
      ■ limit the overall number of people in school facilities and on transportation vehicles to 50% maximum occupancy
      ■ ensure a minimum of 6 feet social distancing at all times. If this distancing cannot be achieved, the number of occupants must be reduced
      ■ plan for contactless pick-up and/or delivery of meals and school materials for days that students and staff are not in the building
implement a school age care program for critical workers

- **Scenario 3: Distance learning for all students**
  - This scenario will be implemented when state officials determine that COVID-19 metrics have worsened significantly enough at a local, regional, or statewide level to require suspension of in-person learning. Under Scenario 3, schools must follow federal and state requirements, ensure that students be able to participate equitably in their learning, and provide access for students to all relevant services and supports.

  - The MDE 2020 Planning Guidance offers substantial information school districts and charter schools may use to **enhance educational equity** — “the condition of justness, fairness, and inclusion systems of education so that all students have access to the opportunities to learn and develop to their fullest potential.”

  - Governor Walz and MDE Commissioner Ricker will be announcing return to school plans for the 2020-21 school year by Monday, July 27, 2020.

  - The MN Department of Health also developed guidance for returning to school and it can be found at [MN Department of Health 2020-2021 Planning Guide for Schools](#).

  - We are currently holding summer school classes in some of our buildings using distance learning and hybrid models.

  - We plan to start school the week of September 8, 2020.

  - Licensed staff members will be returning to work during the week of August 24, 2020 to prepare for the start of the school year.

**What We Do Not Know Yet**

- We currently do not know which of three scenarios or combinations of scenarios will be implemented to start the school year.

- If the MN State High School League will allow extracurricular activities.

- If we will allow facility rentals by groups outside of our school system this upcoming school year.

- Some classes may need modifications if social distancing is not feasible or when there is an increased risk for spreading the virus (ex: band, choir). We will work with students and families to ensure that information is shared and alternative options considered.

**What We Need You to Do**

- Please ensure you have access to a thermometer at home for student/employee health screening practices. More information will be emailed to you prior to the start of school.

- As we prepare for the possibility of remote learning, all of our students need reliable access to the internet at home. For those families who do not have access, please
visit the COVID-19 section of the school district website or click on the following link for assistance information.  **EGF ISD 595 COVID-19 Link**

- Please ensure your contact information is current in the student information system (ParentVue - Synergy). If your contact information needs to be updated, please contact the District Office at 218-773-3494 or individual building offices after August 3, 2020.
- Please stay up-to-date on your student’s vaccinations. The MDH reported a decrease in the number of vaccinations administered during COVID-19. You can find more information about which vaccines are required for school by going to the following links.
  - [https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/basics/imzform.pdf](https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/basics/imzform.pdf)
  - [https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/basics/readykidswhento.pdf](https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/basics/readykidswhento.pdf)
- It is important to continue safety precautions throughout the summer, including social distancing and wearing masks in public settings. These steps help to reduce transmission and keep the number of cases low, which would allow us to resume in-person learning in September.
- **All families** will be emailed/texted a link to the 2020-21 “Return to School” survey. Please complete the survey as soon as you are able, as it will assist us as we continue planning.
- **All employees** will be emailed/texted a link to a “Return to School” survey with a deadline of July 22, 2020.
- **Your participation in the survey process is critical to the District planning efforts and greatly appreciated. Thank you!**

We will continue to provide updates this summer as more guidance and information becomes available. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we all work together to plan for the upcoming school year. Keeping our students, families, and employees healthy is our number one priority.