



Dr. Lindsey Hall, Superintendent  
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May 21, 2020

Hello Bulldog Families,

Yesterday, I sent home a link to a video with information about closing out this school year and starting to plan for next year. I mentioned in the video that we need your help with planning for the 20-21 school year by filling out a brief survey. The purpose of this survey is to gather your valued feedback and other information that will help us in starting to plan for the 20-21 school year. Please know that we are only in the very beginning stages of thinking of next school year, and there is much we do know yet now.

The survey will take 5 minutes or less, please complete the survey by **6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 26, 2020.**

Here is the link to the survey:

<https://forms.gle/cxN7LguRFexAEPuD6>

Thank you for your feedback!

Sincerely,

Dr. Lindsey A. Hall

Superintendent of Schools

**In case you had any issues with watching or hearing the video sent home on May 20, 2020, here is the written transcript of what I said:**

Hello Bulldog Families,

As we close out this school year, I want to sincerely Thank you for all that you've done to support your children our teachers and all of our employees since the time since mid-March when we started our Remote Learning Days. We are so appreciative of all that you've done to help us and help your children, we are grateful for you during a time when life got very complicated for all of us.

We now have our eyes and plans on returning to school in the fall. With this note, I'm sharing our thoughts, questions that are being posed, and advance planning to update you. My intention is to help you start to plan and adhere to our priority to communicate with you often.

"Committed to Excellence"

Since the end of March, our top 3 priorities in moving ahead into summer time and next year are, and will continue to be:

1. **The health, all aspects of health--of our students, staff and families.**
2. **Actively connecting and engaging with our students and families, and as we move into next year, refocusing on and redefining teaching and learning.**
3. **Clear communication**

In anticipation of next year's reopening, we are pouring over content and planning and guidance from the [Centers for Disease Control & Prevention](#) (CDC), [Illinois Department of Public Health](#) (IDPH), other state plans and professional association guidelines for returning to school. We anticipate the release of guidance from the Il State Board of Education in the next few days or weeks.

It is my sincere goal to share a plan for the next school year with you by June 30, 2020. I want to be clear that much is still not known about what next year will look like, and we know that families need answers and want a plan in place. Please know that we understand that need. To reach this goal, we have formed a ReOpening Task Force, which is comprised of 25 staff members representing all of our employee groups. We are starting to meet next week. This group will be focusing on two major areas: Instruction/learning and Operations. In order to develop plans for how we will address a multitude of areas.

I'd like to briefly talk specifically about the educational component--instruction and learning.

Our planning will be focused on keeping student learning at the forefront - safe, healthy, and intentional focus on learning. We are also conscious of the fact that there could be further interruptions experienced during the 2020-21 school year due to a resurgence of COVID-19.

Generally, we are anticipating three prongs as we return to school:

1. **In-Person schooling - with health safeguards**  
  
--We are waiting for the Illinois Department of Public Health/Illinois State Board of Education return to schooling guidance
2. **Hybrid Approach - some in-person schooling and some on-line teaching**
3. **Totally on-line teaching--mostly in case we are directed to close our buildings again for a potential resurgence of COVID 19.**

Some Questions we are working through in order to prepare for the school year 2020-2021:

- **As information continues to evolve, is it reasonable for our schools to be safely open as normal? What are health and safety protocols that need to be instituted?**
- **What modifications should be made to safely open our schools, and is it possible for our schools to make those modifications? We don't want to make false promises. We are eager to open but safety and health are #1 priorities and considerations.**
- **How should we modify our "return to work/school" protocols?**
- **What do we do with students or staff that are not safe in returning to school?**
- **How do we determine if learning loss has occurred for some of our students?**
- **How will custodial protocols change to meet current best practice?**
- **If the State does not allow us to begin the school year in person, what does returning to school actually look like?**

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**In order to help us plan, I am asking all of our households to please participate in a brief survey you will receive, via email, by the end of this week, to provide feedback to us. Your input and feedback is vitally important as we move ahead with planning for next year. Please take a few moments to fill out the survey and click “submit”-your voice is an crucial piece of the puzzle.**

**Again, we know that the past few months have been challenging. Our students, staff, and families continue to be in our thoughts as we collectively experience this pandemic. We are stronger when we work together and appreciate the support, care, and attention that our staff and you have provided our students during this difficult time.**

**Thanks for listening and remember, it's always a great day to be a Bulldog!**