

Dr. Rick Cobb Superintendent

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Friday, July 31, 2020

Dear Mid-Del Community,

This morning at a special board meeting, the Mid-Del Board of Education approved revisions to our Return-to-School plan. During the past month, the Oklahoma Department of Health has implemented a color-coded <u>Covid-19 Alert System</u>. Using this system, the Oklahoma State Department of Education has issued a set of <u>school safety protocols</u>. While the State Board of Education did not adopt these protocols as a mandate, we used them as a guideline for amending the plan we adopted on July 13. The changes are listed below.

en (fewer than 1.43 new positive cases per day based on 100,000 residents

- The school district will provide traditional, in-person instruction for all students every day.
- The district recommends that all staff and students wear a mask at all times in district facilities, except for meal times.
- Schools will limit, but not prohibit visitors to school buildings.
- Schools will limit, but not prohibit, schoolwide assemblies.

Yellow (more than 1.43 but fewer than 14.39 new positive cases per day based on 100,000 residents)

- The school district will provide traditional, in-person instruction for all students every day.
- The district requires that all staff and students wear a mask at all times in district facilities, except for meal times.
- Schools will not allow visitors to enter the building past the front office area.
- Schools will not hold schoolwide assemblies.

Orange (more than 14.39 new positive cases per day based on 100,000 residents)

- The school district will provide instruction every day of the academic calendar, but students will attend in-person on an alternating basis, using an A/B schedule. Students on the A schedule will attend on Mondays and Tuesdays. Students on the B schedule will attend on Thursdays and Fridays. Students will attend in person on Wednesdays on an alternating basis.
- The district requires that all staff and students wear a mask at all times in district facilities, except for meal times.
- Schools will not allow visitors to enter the building past the front office area.
- Schools will not hold schoolwide assemblies.

Red (more than 14.39 new positive cases per day based on 100,000 residents, plus additional gates triggered)

- The school district will provide instruction every day of the academic calendar, but students will be working remotely.
- The district requires that all staff and students wear a mask at all times in district facilities, except for meal times.

For each of the past three weeks, Oklahoma County has been designated at the Orange Risk Level, with numbers continuing to climb. For that reason, we have made the difficult decision to begin the school year on Monday, August 24, using an alternating A/B schedule. We will make a decision about continuing in this format for another month in mid-September, following the data provided in updates from state and local health officials.

I realize that this isn't the way any of us truly *want* to start the school year. Feedback we have received from parents and staff consistently emphasize both the importance of educating our children and following the safety protocols put forth by health experts. This plan balances those two priorities.

As quickly as possible, we will start notifying families whether they will follow the A schedule or B schedule. Our school sites will work with households that may have students assigned to both groups to help make any necessary changes.

Professional Development/Work Days - No School
Vacation/Holiday - No School
In-Person Day for "A" Students
In-Person Day for "B" Students
NO SCHOOL DATES
Labor Day - September 7

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Next week, we will be sending out updates about changes to our elementary back-to-school nights and our secondary schedule pick-ups. Additionally, any student who has applied to the Mid-Del Virtual Academy and would like to change back to in-person instruction based on this update, should reach out to their school and let them know as soon as possible.

As always, it is a privilege to serve this community and the families in it! I appreciate your flexibility, understanding, and support.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rick Cobb

Richel D. Cell

Superintendent