



July 17, 2020

Dear Wyoming Public Schools Families and Community,

I hope you are well and enjoying summer break. The purpose of this communication is to share where we are in the planning process for our 2020-2021 school year. While things continue to change, it would be premature to finalize any plan at this time. However, it is important for you to be informed of the process and progress of both the WPS Safe Schools Committee and the WPS Safe Schools Roadmap.

Governor Whitmer's MI Safe Return to School Plan was released on June 30th and it is a thorough document. Given the many components to keep students and staff safe, along with parent feedback that was gathered through the survey you had the opportunity to complete in June, a WPS Safe Schools Committee has been formed and will serve as an advisory board to listen, ask questions, and offer suggestions and support, as a comprehensive plan is put into place for our 2020-2021 school year.

At this time, our region is in Phase 4 of the Governor's reopening plan. If we remain in Phase 4 or higher, we will be able to offer an in-person option to have students return to school, as well as an online option. If we should move to Phase 3 (which is more restrictive), all schools in the State of Michigan will be required to support students remotely, with no in-person option available. Our WPS Safe Schools Roadmap is focused on Phase 4 and higher, but will be fully ready to support students remotely, as an online option will be offered regardless of which Phase, we are in.

We have identified five areas (& subcommittees) that are crucial to the success of any plan that we create. The role of the subcommittees is to make recommendations to the WPS Safe Schools Committee on how we will meet the Governor's required and highly recommended guidelines for a safe return for staff and students. Before we begin in-person instruction in the fall, the WPS Board of Education will need to approve our comprehensive plan, which will then need approval from the Michigan Department of Education.

The WPS Safe Schools Committee launched on Wednesday, July 15. As a result of this meeting, we are building a comprehensive plan to best serve students, staff, and families. As part of our work, we are asking for your input regarding your plan for your student(s) in the fall. Please select either the English or Spanish survey that will provide the WPS Safe Schools Committee with more data to use in planning for our staff and students.

[Return to School - in English](#)

[Return to School - in Spanish](#)

In addition to the survey, we would like to address any questions you might have at this time. We understand the stress related to the uncertainty around what school will look like in the fall for our families and our employees. Guidance from the CDC, the MDE, and the Kent County Health Department is evolving, so we may not have all of the answers yet, but understanding your concerns are extremely important to the WPS Board of Education and administration. Seeing your questions will help us to create the best possible plan for safely serving our students and supporting our dedicated employees for the upcoming 2020-21 school year. If you are interested in asking a question, please click on the following link: [WPS Return to School Q&A](#).



We will post responses regularly (at least weekly) to a document linked on the district's homepage: www.wyomingps.org.

With your feedback and support, and with the hard work of these committees, we will be able to offer meaningful learning experiences for students, while continuing to focus on the safety and well-being of students, families, and staff. Thank you for your continued support and trust as we work together to ensure a safe, successful start to the 2020-2021 school year.

Sincerely,

Craig Hoekstra
Superintendent
Wyoming Public Schools