



December 29, 2020

We hope this communication finds you all healthy and relaxing during the vacation from school. At the December 18 Special Board of Education meeting, Seymour Schools shared a plan designed to safely introduce increased numbers of students for in-person learning in a progressive manner. We recognize that our efforts to increase numbers of students in our buildings may be a relief for many families, and may cause concern in others. It remains important for the district to maintain the ability to flexibly move amongst our learning models (including hybrid, remote, and full in person) in order to responsibly respond to the potential spread of Coronavirus.

The team held the following goals in the forefront of all discussions:

- Maintain safety of staff and students
- Increase student and teacher in-person contact
- Focusing on equity of learning opportunity for the students with highest needs

Please realize these are target dates. We will continue to carefully monitor our student and staff COVID cases, quarantines, and staffing numbers throughout the holiday break and into early January and will continue to communicate with families the specific plans in early January.

Families must continue reporting to building administration or the district nurse all COVID-19 cases and quarantines during the coming weeks. This information is critical for us to ensure a safe reopening. In order for the target dates to occur, our partnership with NVHD and any state/government guidelines at the time would confirm the safety of allowing these to occur.

Phase 1: January 19- welcome back to current hybrid model. **Additional high needs identified students invited to join in-person learning K-12. These families will be contacted by building administration Jan 4-8.**

Phase 2: Target date February 1- **PK-5 schools welcome all students back for in-person learning** for 4.5 days a week. Wednesdays become in-person and remain as early release for professional learning. Grades 6-12 utilize Wednesdays as additional in-person hybrid learning days in a 3:2 rotation communicated by administration.

Phase 3: Target date TBD (possibly February 17) **6-12 grades welcome all students back for in-person learning**, 4.5 days weekly. At this point, it is anticipated that all students are back in-person learning with the exception of those opting into the full remote learning model. As always, health metrics play a critical role in this.

A few important changes to note:

- Bus routes will be returning to original routes. There will be days that the bus passes your homes during the hybrid model that your children will NOT board the bus. Schedules will be clearly communicated to families from our Business Manager who handles transportation.
- Current students in temporary full distance learning that wish to remain in temporary full distance learning, would remain with their currently assigned temporary full distance learning teachers.
- After we return in January, any additional students who wish to become temporary full at home distance learners will remain with their currently assigned teachers and would remote in just like they do on the hybrid days.
- The transition for students opting to return to in-person from full distance learning will be limited to the beginning and mid-point of marking periods.

Many questions may be answered in the Frequently Asked Questions document that will be shared as a separate document. Additional information will be sent out on January 4& 6, 2021. Please reach out to your building administrators with any specific questions that you may have. We are looking forward to seeing our students.

Sincerely,

Michael Wilson, Superintendent

Vonda Tencza, Associate Superintendent