



School District of Onalaska

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July 27, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This evening our Board of Education discussed plans for reopening schools in the fall. Unfortunately, due to the delay in the release of county guidance, we were not able to present the detailed plan that we had anticipated at this meeting. We know that many families are still considering their options related to the Coulee Region Virtual Academy. We are working diligently through the course of this week in order to bring a detailed plan to the Board at a special meeting next Monday, August 3rd. Please be assured that we will continue to work with families needing additional time or information as they make this very important decision.

The plan that was presented this evening calls for a virtual start to the school year for the first 30 days with decision points for moving to the blended model depending on the current status of the Coulee Compass for La Crosse County. You can [see the discussion from tonight's board meeting](#) starting at the 14:45 minute mark.

Last Friday I shared with our staff that the county expected to release new guidance on Monday (today). We received word today that this would be delayed until later this week. Based on communication with the county, we believe the following parameters will be in place for public and private K-12 schools:

- No in-person learning when the Coulee Compass is in red;
- Blended learning with group number restrictions when the Coulee Compass is in orange;
- Mandate the use of face masks for staff and students in accordance with the CDC guidelines;
- An option for schools to provide emergency daytime services.

COVID-19 is a health emergency that is affecting school functioning. We are working to ensure the safe return to school for our students and staff and are reliant on the county health department to inform us of what safe is. To do anything short of following the guidelines would be to fall short on our promise to ensure the safety of our students, staff and families.

Planning continues at the building level related to each mode of instruction. Communication will follow from building administrators as to specific details. Please let me know if you have any questions, concerns or input on the proposed plan. While this is not the start to the school year any of us would hope for, we believe it is in the best interest of students, staff, and the community.

Thank you,

Todd L. Antony
Superintendent

Board of Education

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