



2020 – 21: Manitowoc Public School District

LEADING WITH LEARNING

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11/13/20

Dear MPSD Staff, Families and Community:

We are five weeks into our transition to 100% distance (at home) learning, and I know families, students, staff and the community are wondering when we will be able to bring our students back to our school buildings. Many worry about the impacts on students the longer that we continue learning from home. I am grateful that for the first five weeks of the 2020-2021 school year MPSD was able to provide students and families a blended learning model with a combination of both in-person and distance learning.

Our goal is to return to our blended learning model -- and ultimately to our #1 preferred learning model of 100% five days a week, in-person learning in our schools. But those transitions will depend on when our greater community can stem the spread of COVID-19 and reverse the trend of rising positive cases. Currently our county's [burden rate](#) and weekly positive case rate is significantly greater than when we began school in September.

Criteria to Return to District-wide Blended Learning

When the MPSD Board of Education approved a plan to move to 100% distance learning for all students effective October 12, the Board also shared [gating criteria](#) that the district will follow to determine transitions between blended and full virtual learning models. District leaders also continue to communicate weekly with state and local health professionals. Our goal remains to return all students to in-person learning in our schools as soon as safely possible. Therefore, in addition to our gating criteria, we are studying ways we might be able to increase in-person learning for some students. Our initial plans will be shared with the Board of Education at the next board meeting.

We recognize the emotional toll caused by the pandemic and its changes to our traditional educational model. We are offering mental health resources to our students, staff and families. Our district website has resources listed under the "Blended and Distance Learning" tab. This CDC link, [Coping with Stress](#), provides additional information and crisis resources.



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Now more than ever it is our shared responsibility to do all we can to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 so our students can return to school. We will continue to provide regular updates to our families, students, staff and community.

Take care and be well.

Mark Holzman
Superintendent
Manitowoc Public School District