

# White Bear Lake Area Schools

## FALL 2020

### RETURN TO SCHOOL

July 31, 2020  
School Board Meeting

[See meeting video here.](#)



# PROCESS

## Three Options

- In-person Learning Model
- Hybrid Learning Model
- Distance Learning Model

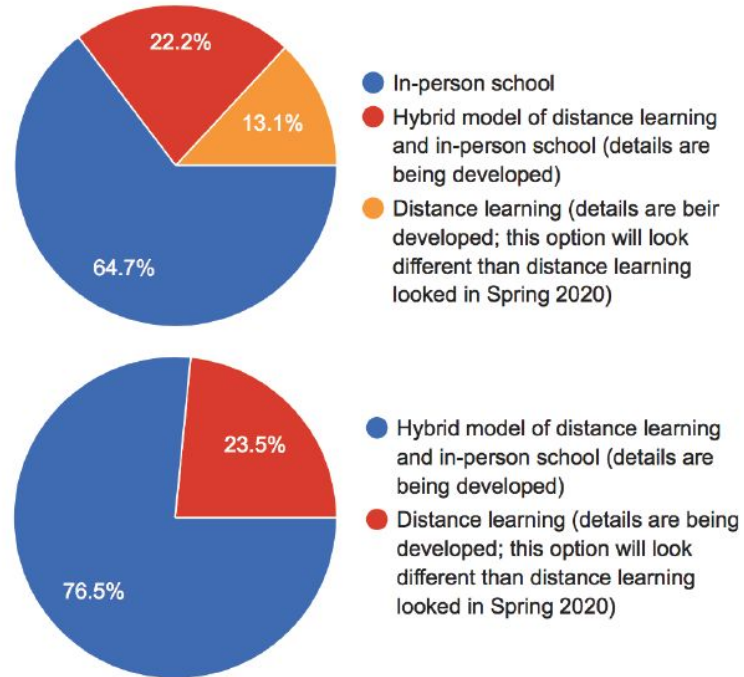
## Committee Structure:

- Instructional / Special Education / Technology
- Human Resources
- Community Services
- Operational / Health Services / Technology

# FAMILY INPUT (SURVEY)

## June Survey Results

- The June survey had 5,971 responses.
- 59.1% of families indicated they would have their child use district transportation if school were In-person.
- When asked about preferred learning model, the In-person Learning Model was preferred by 64.7% of respondents.
- When asked about preferred learning model when In-person Learning was not available, a Hybrid Model was preferred by 76.5% of respondents.



# FAMILY INPUT (THOUGHTEXCHANGE)

## **thoughtexchange Results**

- The July thoughtexchange had 2,681 participants, 4,237 thoughts shared, and 102,806 ratings given.
- Common themes:
  - Results were pretty evenly split between those who wish for students to go back to school in person and those who wish for the distance learning model to be implemented.
  - Safety was a strong theme that resonated with exchange participants, regardless of feelings about in-person or distance learning.
  - Participants voiced the opinion that if Distance Learning were to be used this fall, it must look different than the model looked in the spring.
  - Participants asked for frequent communication from the district.

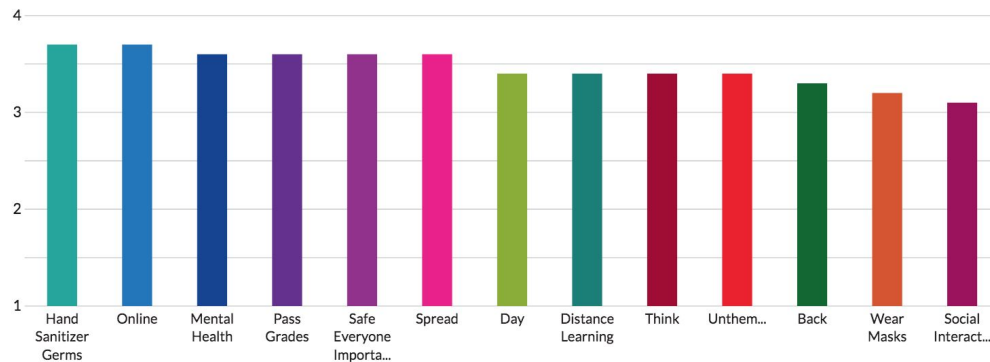
# STUDENT & STAFF INPUT (THOUGHTEXCHANGE)

## Top Thoughts (Students)

526 student participants

593 thoughts

11,127 ratings

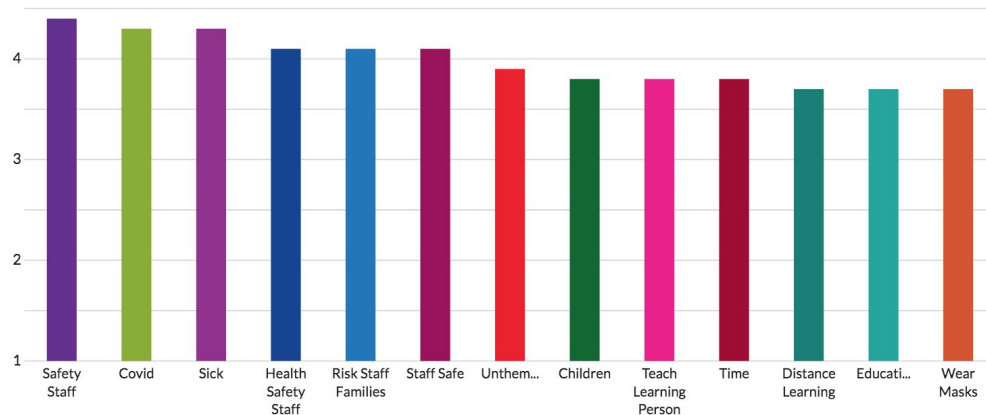


## Top Thoughts (Staff)

895 staff participants

1,408 thoughts

58,364 ratings



# PLANNING FOR FALL 2020

***How might we provide the best education possible for our students given each scenario?***

- We will ensure that **high-quality educational experiences** are delivered to our students across our PK-12+ system.
- We need to build upon the foundation that was set during distance learning and **enhance the learning experiences** that our students experience regardless of the platform and/or precautions that are implemented due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Distance Learning will need to be a component** regardless of whether we are in a model that includes face-to-face interactions, due to necessary precautions for either medically fragile students and families and/or a confirmed case of COVID-19 (those who were within “close contact” as determined by the MDH).
- This model will give us an even stronger foundation from which to build throughout the 2020-21 school year as we anticipate being together again face-to-face in a system that **meets students’ needs in ways we may never have imagined.**

# EQUITY AND ACCESS

***We are committed to equity and access to quality instruction for all students supported with safe and best practices.***

- **Requesting an Interpreter** - Families can request that a district staff member call them through the use of an interpreter who speaks the language they speak.
- **Cultural Liaisons** - Liaisons work with students, families, and staff throughout the district to increase student and parent engagement with various programs and district activities.
- **Access to Student Supports** - Our Student Support Services Department, Special Education and Section 504 staff members will work with families to ensure their child receives the appropriate accommodations, services and supports.
- **Access to Technology** - All middle school and high school students are provided with district-issued Chromebooks. Elementary families who are in need of a Chromebook for their student may request one from the district. District-issued wifi hotspots are available to families who are in need of internet access. Parent Tech Help Line offers technology assistance.

# MDE/MDH GUIDANCE

## How do schools determine their safe learning model?

### STEP 1

Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) will use data from counties to determine a base learning model for public schools.

### STEP 2

Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) will share county data and the consultative process for public schools to engage with education and public health experts to review their county health data and safe learning plans.

### STEP 3

Public schools, with their incident command team, will evaluate their ability to implement required and recommended health best practices.

### STEP 4

Public schools, in consultation with public health, will determine a learning model to begin the school year and communicate that decision with their school community.\*

### STEP 5

Public schools and MDH will monitor the community and school-level impact of COVID-19 on a regular basis. Adjustments will be made to the learning model if needed.

## Safe learning models:



Distance learning



Hybrid learning



In-person learning

\* Regardless of learning model, all public schools must offer an equitable distance learning option to all families.

# MDE/MDH GUIDANCE

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{Total number of cases for} \\ \text{last 14 days} \end{array} \div \left( \frac{\text{County population}}{10,000} \right) = \begin{array}{c} \text{14-day county case level} \\ \text{rate per 10,000} \end{array}$$

# MDE/MDH GUIDANCE

## Learning Model Parameters

Number of cases per 10,000 over 14 days, by county of residence	Learning Model
0-9	In-person learning for all students
10-19	In-person learning for elementary students; hybrid learning for secondary students
20-29	Hybrid learning for all students
30-49	Hybrid learning for elementary students; distance learning for secondary students
50+	Distance learning for all students

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### Two-Week County Case Data (7/5 - 7/18)

- Anoka County - 15.54
- Ramsey County - 16.51
- Washington County - 14.84

# HYBRID MODEL - ELEMENTARY & EC (PreK-5)

Students will attend school on-site at least 3 days Mon-Thu. Each student will be assigned one distance learning day Mon-Thu to ensure social distancing guidelines can be met.

When students are home, they will access their classroom mini-lessons for that day digitally and utilize their learning board for additional independent learning activities.

Small group check-ins will be scheduled as needed per student on Fridays when all students are home for an independent learning day.

*The Early Childhood Program will be prepared to support early learners and families in a hybrid model.*

## HYBRID MODEL - SECONDARY (6-12+)

Half the students will attend school in-person on Mon and Wed and the other half will attend in person on Tue and Thu.

When students aren't attending school in person, they will work individually or in virtual small groups online on learning assigned by their teachers.

Small group check-ins will be scheduled as needed per student on Fridays when all students are home for an independent learning day.

*Transition Education Center will follow the same model.*

# DISTANCE LEARNING

- **Elementary (PreK-5)** - Students will receive live digital mini-lessons in literacy including reading and writing, math, and morning meeting/social and emotional learning daily Mon-Thu. Digital mini-lessons in either science or social studies will be delivered at least twice weekly. Learning Boards will serve as the foundation for communication of weekly learning goals and will include reinforcement and enrichment activities. Specialist time will be added after the school year starts. This schedule will be created in collaboration with specialist educators. Small group digital check-ins will be scheduled as needed per individual student.
- **Secondary (6-12+)** - Students will receive live digital lessons with their teachers twice weekly. On days when students aren't attending digital lessons, they will work individually, in virtual small groups online, and/or attend small group check-ins with their teachers.

# ATTENDANCE AND GRADING

**Attendance** - The White Bear Lake Area School District will follow the Minnesota Department of Education attendance reporting requirements. Students who choose a Distance Learning model option will be required to attend class and meet attendance requirements.

**Grading** - The grading process will be an agenda item at the August 24 Work-Study School Board Meeting, with the intention that action can be taken at the September 14 Regular School Board meeting.

# ACTIVITIES

**White Bear Lake Area High School Activities** - The WBLAHS Activities Office will offer extracurricular activities as appropriate. Each activity affiliated with the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) will adhere to the established guidelines as defined by the MSHSL, CDC, and MDH for health and safety.

**Youth Enrichment, Recreation, Middle School Sports** - Community Services & Recreation provides safe programs and opportunities for students and families, following guidelines from the MDH, MDE, and CDC. Programs will be adapted as necessary to be able to provide opportunities for all while following the most current guidance provided by the state.

Students who choose the District's virtual learning option will still be allowed to participate in athletics/extracurricular activities.

# SCHOOL-AGE CARE

- **In-person Learning Model** - A fee-based before and after school childcare option will be available for interested families.
- **Hybrid Learning Model** - School day childcare options will be available at no cost for children of Tier 1 critical workers as defined by the state during regular school hours. A fee-based before and after school childcare option will be available for interested families outside of the regular school hours.
- **Distance Learning Model** - School day childcare options will be available at no cost for children of Tier 1 critical workers as defined by the state during regular school hours. A fee-based before and after school childcare option will be available for interested families outside of the regular school hours.

# NUTRITION SERVICES

## **In-Person Learning Model:**

- Breakfast and Lunch available on-site each day.
- Meals pre-packaged or served directly, no self-service.
- Meal times relocated to small-group settings (ex. distanced in cafeteria, in classrooms, in other indoor or outdoor spaces when feasible).
- Students will pick up meals at cafeteria on staggered schedule.

## **Hybrid Learning Model:**

- Breakfast and lunch meals provided for days students are not in school.

## **Distance Learning Model:**

- Pre-packaged breakfast and lunch meals at designated sites throughout the District. Meal availability and fees will be based on state/federal funding.

# TRANSPORTATION

***Transporting students safely to school is a significant challenge during these times. Families are encouraged to transport students to school when possible.***

A sampling of the transportation protocols that will be followed:

- Distances to qualify for transportation may be extended.
- Families expected to screen child for symptoms prior to boarding the bus.
- All riders and staff will be required to wear face masks.
- Students will spread out to the extent possible.
- All riders will need to request transportation.
- Only one bus address per student. We may not be able to coordinate different stops on different days.

# STAY HEALTHY

## General Safety Precautions Throughout the Day

- Staff will disinfect high touch areas in classrooms, hallways, and restrooms throughout the day. Disinfecting wipes and/or spray disinfectant will be supplied.
- Building ventilation systems will be running at peak capacity a minimum of 2 hours before school occupancy and throughout the day. (Waiting on final MDH guidance)
- Enhanced disinfecting will take place each evening following MDH guidance.
- Hand sanitizers will be provided in various locations throughout the buildings.
- Classrooms with sinks will be supplied with sufficient inventory of soap and paper towels for handwashing.
- Drinking fountains will be disabled, but the bottle filler function will still work (we added several of these over the summer.)
- Front office and health office desks will be provided a plexiglass barrier.

## Classroom Procedures

- Staff and students will wear face coverings and use social distancing.
- Regular hand washing will be encouraged throughout the day.
- Classroom surfaces will be cleaned throughout day.
- Classrooms will be disinfected every evening.

# STAY APART

**Schools will implement the following strategies to maintain smaller groups of students in shared spaces:**

- Modify school schedules and/or courses if social distancing is not feasible or if there is an increased risk of spread (Ex. Choir, Band); Alternative accommodations and options will be considered.
- Face coverings required inside district buildings.
- Limit visitors on campus.
- Keep students in smaller groups.
- Serve meals in small group settings.
- Space desks further apart to ensure to the extent possible for desks to be spaced six feet apart, but no fewer than three feet apart, and facing the same direction.
- Serve individually plated or boxed meals.
- Where possible, keep student groups from mixing.
- Stagger lunches, recesses, and other transition times.
- Do not host large gatherings such as assemblies and dances.
- Identify a sick room for students who are not feeling well to minimize contact with others until they are able to go home.



# PERSONAL PROTECTION - STUDENTS

- Masks required for students in K-12 program
- Optimize physical distancing
- Hand sanitizer in various locations throughout the building
- Cleaning solution for desks
- Health screening
- Building ventilation at optimum capacity
- Restrict sharing of school supplies

# PERSONAL PROTECTION - STAFF

- Masks required and provided
- Face shields available
- Optimize physical distancing
- Hand sanitizer in various locations throughout the building
- Cleaning solution for desks and other frequently touched surfaces
- Health screening
- Building ventilation at optimum capacity

# COURSE OF ACTION

- Follow Learning Model Parameters provided by MDE/MDH to determine Learning Model (In-person, Hybrid, or Distance Learning)
  - Distance Learning Model will be available for all students
- Monitor 14-day county case level rate per 10,000 people provided by MDH
- Survey parents/guardians to determine degree of preference for Distance Learning Model
- Continue to refine Learning Model Plans
- Learning Model decision for the start of the 2020-21 school year to be made, shared August 20

# **School Board Special Work Session**

July 31, 2020