



Elko County School District

Superintendent's Office

Telephone (775) 738-5196 – Fax (775)738-5857
850 Elm Street – Elko, Nevada 89801

July 24, 2020

Dear ECSD Community,

Time is moving and as we approach the start of the 2020-2021 school year, I want to continue to provide you with updates as the situation continues to change on a daily basis. First, I want to reiterate some of the information that was in my previous correspondence.

On April 30 Governor Sisolak released, *Nevada United Roadmap to Recovery*. In this plan he outlined the steps taken in Nevada to combat the spread of COVID-19. He described the criteria necessary to transition through Phases 1 - 4 of reopening of the state. We are currently in Phase 2 of his reopening plan. You may access the Governor's plan here: [Nevada United Roadmap to Recovery](#)

On May 28, the Governor signed Emergency Directive - 021 that identified the restrictions adherent to Phase 2. These restrictions, along with added restrictions identified in Directive 024 which mandates the use of face coverings for ages 10 and up, are still in effect and have acted as the guide for planning the opening of school for the 2020-2021 school year across the state.

On June 9, 2020, Governor Sisolak issued Emergency Directive 022 requiring that school districts and charter schools develop plans for reopening school buildings, providing instruction, and related activities. Directive 022 introduced *Nevada's Path Forward: A Framework for a Safe, Efficient, and Equitable Return to School Buildings*. This document and several subsequent guidance memos were issued by the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) to provide districts with support in drafting their reopening plans. You can access NDE's framework on our website or here: [Nevada Path Forward: A Framework for a Safe, Efficient, and Equitable Return to School Buildings](#).

At that point in June, ECSD invited parents, students, and staff to take part in a survey to aid in the planning for the return to school. To develop the required specialized educational plans, a committee of staff, parents, trustees, community members, and business partners was organized to study the restrictions identified in Phase 2 by the Governor, survey responses, and district resources. The committee set to work on the development of the three state required plans for returning to school. You may access survey results here: [ECSD Survey Results](#)

Survey results indicate that the preference for families is to return to school in the Fall without restrictions. We fully understand and share your varied concerns about health and safety, distance learning, the importance of face-to-face instruction, parents needing to work, the economy, and all of the other unexpected consequences of not being in school or being in school in a traditional method. Our goal is to find the best way to have our students safely in our buildings as frequently as possible to ensure the health and well-being of all.

The work before the committee was to develop three individual plans, identified by the NDE that would address a return to school as it would relate to the phases of reopening outlined by the Governor and include the strict restrictions identified. The committee was charged with creating plans to fit the following required models:

- Distance Learning Model
- Hybrid Learning Model
- In-Person Learning with Restrictions Model

I outlined the components of the plan in my July 17 correspondence which can be accessed on our website at:

[July 17 Communication](#)

New Information

Yesterday, the Nevada Interscholastic Athletic Association (NIAA) made adjustments to the 2020-2021 sports season. These adjustments reflect the current conditions and state restrictions in place relating to COVID-19 and on July 23, were presented to Superintendents with Member NIAA High Schools. The adjusted 2020-2021 sports season is as follows:

Winter Season Sports (6 competitive weeks):

Practice begins Saturday, January 2, 2021; First contest may be held Friday, January 15, 2021 Last contest Saturday, February 20, 2021

Fall Season Sports (6 competitive weeks):

Practice begins Saturday, February 20, 2021 (all sports except Football)

Practice begins Saturday, February 13, 2021 (Football)

First contest may be held Friday, March 5, 2021

Last contest Saturday, April 10, 2021

Spring Season Sports (6 competitive weeks):

Practice begins Saturday, April 3, 2021 First contest may be held Friday, April 16, 2021

Last contest Saturday, May 22, 2021

Out of season regulations (regulations traditionally in place during the summer) will be in place through January 1, 2021.

The Nevada Department of Education requires that districts present their plans to the community 20 days prior to the opening of school. We will be presenting the three required model plans to the community and the Elko County School District Board of Trustees at the July 28, 2020 Board meeting. **Please be aware that the state requirement to adhere to groupings of individuals to not exceed 50% of a room/space capacity or 50 people, whichever is less, will be in effect.**

The Board meeting and presentation will be livestreamed on the District's Youtube channel which can be accessed on our website at [Elko County School District](#). A Question/Comment form is available on the website and may be submitted during the meeting. All questions/comments will be read during the meeting.

Attached to this email, please find a draft of the plan of which we will be presenting to the community and Board of Trustees on Tuesday, July 28 at 5:30 pm. I would like to emphasize that this is a draft. Information from the state is changing constantly. We will continue to adjust the plan as is relevant and required.

The COVID pandemic and our state's response is very fluid. Information and guidance changes sometimes daily. It is our goal to keep you informed. What we know at this point in time is that school will look different in the fall. We will continue to work diligently in partnership with the Board of Trustees to prepare for the very best start to the 2020-21 school year we can possibly offer our students and families.

Thank you for your engagement and involvement with us during this process.

Sincerely,
Dr. Michele Robinson
School Superintendent
Elko County School District