

February 11, 2021

Dear NSSEO Families,

Our NSSEO community and neighboring districts have continued to be encouraged by the steady decline of the positivity rates not only in our region but across our state over the past several weeks. Since the last correspondence, we have continued to meet with our NSSEO Re-Engage in Learning Committee, provided updates to our NSSEO Governing Board and other stakeholder groups and reviewed valuable feedback received from our recent parent survey regarding enrollment preferences and associated comments. We will continue to brainstorm ideas with staff and leaders to best address several priority areas.

This week, we shared with the committee an update of our NSSEO external/Internal considerations for instructional models that strongly support our decision to move to full-day in-person learning for approximately 75% of the families across NSSEO that have selected the full day in person option for their children. We will remain diligent and thoughtful in providing the recommended safety guardrails and adjust as necessary. It is important that NSSEO meets the needs of our students in the most optimal and safe learning environments possible. In addition to the encouraging trends in our communities, we were very fortunate to receive the opportunity for more than 200 NSSEO staff to be vaccinated through Northwest Community Hospital last week, a reflection of the ongoing partnership with NSSEO. It was a collaborative effort that took place with very short notice and reflects the commitment and flexibility of staff, families and partners working together. To date, approximately 63% of all NSSEO staff have received at least the first dose of the vaccination and additional opportunities for vaccinations will be provided in upcoming weeks.

Our first day of students in full in-person learning is scheduled for **Monday, March 1st at Kirk School, Miner School, and Timber Ridge School**. DHH classrooms will continue to follow the schedules of their host school buildings. Please look for additional communication from your child's classroom team if they attend an NSSEO DHH classroom. For all of our programs we are currently working with our transportation carriers, program teams and other partners to address the details of adjusted schedules, refining learning environments and addressing the priorities of the committee to be ready for a full in-person schedule.

Please note that there are a few upcoming calendar changes for Kirk, Miner and Timber Ridge Schools over the next few weeks. DHH classrooms will continue to follow the schedules of their host school buildings. Please look for additional communication from your child's classroom team if they attend an NSSEO DHH classroom.

- **Friday, February 19th AM - Remote Learning**
 - All students will participate in a half-day of remote learning in the morning.
- **Friday, February 19th PM - Teacher Planning**
 - In preparation for moving to full in-person learning, we will implement a half-day of planning and team time for our staff in the afternoon.
- **Friday, February 26th - Non-attendance Day for All Students**
 - Will be a non-attendance day as reflected on the 2020-2021 calendar. NSSEO has a previously scheduled Teacher Institute Day for this day.
- **Monday, March 1st - First Day of Full In-person Learning**

- **Week of March 1st - Remote Learning Day(s) for 2nd Vaccine**
 - Staff who recently received their first dose of the COVID vaccine are expected to receive their second dose in the latter part of the week of March 1st. **We anticipate a possible need to temporarily shift into remote learning to allow staff to work remotely based on expected symptoms from the vaccine.** A final decision will be made and communicated once we receive official notice from Northwest Community Hospital on the exact date they will provide staff with the second round of the vaccination.
- **Late Start on Fridays - Beginning on March 5th**
 - NSSEO day programs will have a 90-minute late start for students every Friday to coordinate team planning for both in-person and remote learning. This will continue for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year. DHH classrooms are currently coordinating schedules with their host school buildings. Please look for additional communication from your child's classroom team if they attend an NSSEO DHH classroom.
 - Friday's Arrival Times for Students
 - Kirk - 10:00 AM
 - Timber Ridge 10:30 AM
 - Miner 10:45 AM
 - DHH to be determined by classroom teams

Once the **NSSEO Re-Engage in Learning Plan** is updated to reflect the additional guidance and clarifications to further refine various areas of instruction and safety, we will send it out to our NSSEO community and post it on our website. The next few weeks of preparation will include time for further refinement of the plan, finalize transportation and address areas requiring greater specificity or guidance.

This journey through the pandemic has been long and twisted but the days ahead have more sun and promise in the extended forecast. We are encouraged by that promise and are so thankful that we have come so far together. The patience, understanding and flexibility expended to offset the fatigue, challenges and associated frustration is a testament to your persistence, care and support for one another. A very special thank you to all.

Warm regards,



Judy Hackett
NSSEO Superintendent