

02-12-2021

Dear EVW Families,

As COVID-19 infections continue to decline across the state, county, and local communities, we've been discussing and weighing the pros and cons of transitioning our secondary students to in-person learning. These decisions are extremely difficult as multiple variables and personal ideologies impact families, students, and staff in unique ways.

As an educator, administrator, and parent, I share your frustrations with the challenges and uncertainty created by COVID. On behalf of all educators, administrators, and board members, we wholeheartedly believe in balancing your families educational needs with the safety and well-being of all vested stakeholders.

Please know that our administrative team, staff, and board members agonized over this difficult decision to transition our secondary students back to in-person learning. I want to commend our staff, students, and families for following the CDC safety guidelines, and encourage continued compliance with hygiene and masks. We recognize this change and transition in learning model will create challenges for some of our students, staff, and families, and this decision may not be popular with some. I assure you, our EVW staff are prepared to provide a quality distance learning experience for those families choosing this option.

Meeker County Public Health and the Regional Response Coordinator from the SWWC Service Cooperative approved our timeline this morning. Following is an update on our transition plan and timeline for secondary in-person learning:

- PreK-6 will maintain the current model of Hybrid M-TH, with office hours and student support on Fridays
- Friday, March 5 will be a secondary staff planning day, no distance learning, no secondary students grades 7-12.
- Monday, March 8 grades 7-9 will transition to in-person M-Th, with office hours and student support on Fridays. Grades 10-12 will maintain the current hybrid cohort model of learning
- Friday, March 19 will be a secondary staff planning day, no distance learning, no secondary students grades 7-12.
- Monday, March 22 grades 10-12 will transition to in-person M-Th, with office hours and student support on Fridays

- The week of Monday, March 22 will have all PreK-12th grade students transitioned to in-person learning on M-Th, with Friday used for staff office hours and student support. Based on the Governor's Executive Order 20-94 there is added flexibility and planning time that is required to prepare and deliver distance learning for those families choosing this option.

Keep in mind, the transition back to in-person learning for grades 7-12 and identified dates is a projection based on current COVID case rates, and the academic, mental, and emotional needs of our student population. Additional information on transitioning grades 7-12 back to in-person learning will be provided in future notifications.

The school board and administration do not take this decision lightly and will work closely with our students, families, and staff to create the best possible experience for secondary students transitioning back to in-person learning.

Sincerely,  
Mark Messman  
Superintendent  
Eden Valley-Watkins School District