

A Lamoni Community School District Task Force consisting of 22 staff members was assembled and met during the month of June with the goal of developing a Return to Learn (R2L) plan to submit to the Iowa Department of Education by July 1.

The R2L Task Force identified five significant considerations as a result of this work, including:

- Lamoni Community Schools intend to begin school on August 26 with students and staff in person - even if the structure and the schedule may look different at the start of or at different times throughout the school year.
- Lamoni Community Schools believes there will be a need to provide online and differently structured learning options and resources for individual students that may not be able to be on campus due to health concerns.
- Lamoni Community Schools will develop learning options and resources for all students and staff should we not be able to learn in person and on campus as a result of increasing COVID-19 cases in the community.
- Lamoni Community Schools will share an actionable plan with specific details for returning to learn in late July/early August when the District can evaluate current conditions and make decisions that best serve the needs of students, families and staff at that time.
- Education has never experienced an event like this in modern history. For any plan to be successful, students, families, staff, and the community will need to work together and be willing to accept that what we do moving forward will be different than what we have always done.

As the District R2L Task Force met in June, the group ultimately determined it was critical to create a plan that allowed for continuous learning to ensure all students could actively engage in meaningful learning, regardless of what the health climate was and ensure the District could transition seamlessly from one model of learning to another as circumstances may dictate. As such, the District R2L Task Force identified three learning models, including:

- *On Site* - Learning in person on campus
- *Remote* - Learning online from home
- *Hybrid* - A combination of the two models that would include learning in person and online.

Seven areas of critical consideration were also identified as the District R2L Task Force developed each of the learning models. These critical considerations, along with distinguishing elements, include:

- *Leadership*
 - Develop and implement a plan that meets the District mission and goals, regardless of learning model.
 - Ensure communication with staff, students, families and the community while implementing the plan in August and throughout the school year.
- *Infrastructure*
 - Evaluate the capacity and needs of departments (Transportation, Nutrition, Athletics/Activities) to support students and families in each of the learning models.
 - Ensure coordination among the various departments, buildings and groups as students, staff and families transitioned through phases of continuous learning.
- *Academics and Data*

- Develop plans to ensure students and families can better understand key academic expectations and ways to support student success.
- Utilize assessment data as students return to remediate, differentiate, and accelerate student learning.
- *Safety and Health*
 - Coordinate with the Iowa Departments of Education and Public Health, following current recommendations and guidelines to ensure a safe and healthy learning environment for students and staff.
 - Ensure increased cleaning practices to promote a healthy learning environment.
- *Social Emotional Behavioral Health*
 - The assessment and identification of resources and supports students, families and staff may need as they return to school and engage in learning throughout the school year.
- *Equity*
 - Ensure all students at all times can access elements of each model in the continuous learning plan.

The Return to Learn document submitted to the Iowa Department of Education, as well as additional details regarding the critical considerations, can be found on the Lamoni Community Schools District website @ www.lamonischools.org. Readers will note that the details on the website and in the District Return to Learn plan are broad considerations, not specific details. While the District R2L Task Force wants to ensure parents and students are prepared to successfully return in August, the group was intentional in not providing a specific plan in order to ensure no one needlessly prepared for a scenario and because not all learning resources that could be utilized have been established.

It is Lamoni Community School District's goal to return to school in August in a traditional in-person model, while meeting Iowa Department of Education (DoE) and Public Health guidelines. We believe that students learn best when they have opportunities to interact with their teachers and peers in a face to face format. However, we must also plan for circumstances which would prevent a traditional return. An actionable plan will be finalized and communicated in August so that we can ensure the best, safest and most education for all students.

While the path forward may not be entirely clear, Lamoni Community School District is confident that a plan will be developed that will provide support for all students and families, ensure all students can learn in a variety of formats, and that will follow all appropriate guidance so that the District can continue to invest in our greatest resource - our students.