

Dear CCSD93 Community,

**It is with deep regret that we share that CCSD93 must begin this school year with all students learning fully remotely.** Until this week, all guidance CCSD93 received from public health organizations indicated that our schools could reopen safely if we were to strictly follow the health and safety recommendations that we have been provided. We developed protocols to adhere to these recommendations that we believed to maximize our ability to educate students safely in person while minimizing disruptions in learning for the vast majority of students should COVID-19 become present in any of our schools.

Unfortunately, this is no longer the case. This week, CCSD93 has received updated public health guidance indicating:

1. The need for much wider-reaching quarantine protocols than previous guidance indicated, which would affect far more students should COVID-19 become present in a school.
2. The lack of access to rapid testing, which had been projected to be more widely available by this point, is an increasingly concerning factor in our ability to hold in-person learning.

These two pieces of information, combined with rising numbers of state and local COVID-19 cases, make opening schools in a manner that was previously considered safe no longer possible. As a result, we cannot welcome students into our buildings at this time.

We understand that fully Remote Learning will be challenging for many families who were planning for Hybrid Learning. The results of our [parent survey last month](#) indicated the vast majority of our families were leaning toward having their children back in school if possible, and indeed roughly 2/3 of our students' families have been planning to participate in Hybrid Learning. Please know that CCSD93's administrators considered it our responsibility to our community to work to meet the wishes of our parents: to provide a fully remote option for those who preferred it, and to enable the most in-person learning opportunities we could safely provide for all others. Our incredibly dedicated staff members were prepared to take on an entirely new method of teaching and learning in Hybrid Learning in order to best meet the needs of our students, our families, and our community. We wanted nothing more than to welcome our students back into our buildings on the first day of school.

However, as always, we must act with health and safety as our primary lens for decision-making. From the beginning of the pandemic, we all acknowledged that this scenario was unprecedented in our lifetimes and would constantly evolve. We thank our public health organizations for following and studying every development, consistently providing updated guidance for the health and safety of our students and staff, and working in the best interest of our citizens.

We will continue to be in consistent contact with our public health departments, and we do hope to transition back to offering the Hybrid Learning option when it is safe and logistically possible to do so. We are unable to place a timeline on if or when the current circumstances will change, and all families should plan on participating in fully Remote Learning until further notice. Should you need childcare, please visit the Childcare Options section of the [www.ccsd93.com/COVID19](http://www.ccsd93.com/COVID19) for links to childcare organizations within our community.

You can find more information on Remote Learning on page 17 of the Reopening CCSD93 Plan document at [www.ccsd93.com/Reopening](http://www.ccsd93.com/Reopening). Please know, as opposed to the spring, the following will be in place:

- Student attendance will be taken daily.
- Student work will be evaluated and will be counted toward their standard scores.
- There will be a greater emphasis on students progressing and learning new standards.
- Special education services will be provided in a more robust fashion through an Individual Remote Learning Plan.

**The first day of school remains August 20, 2020. Please mark your calendar for the following key dates, and we will reach out to you with further details in the coming days.**

- August 18 - Student placement information will be emailed to you. Please know all students will be placed with teachers at their home school.
- August 18 & 19 - Students will be invited to pick up devices and/or supplies at each school.
- August 20 - This will be the first day of school, with all students learning remotely. Students will be sent instructions on connecting to teachers online.

Please watch for more information, including the opportunity to meet your child's teacher(s) virtually, in the coming days.

Sincerely,

David H. Hill, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools

CCSD93

Keith Briggs

School Board President

CCSD93