Fall Reopening Plan
2020-2021

July 31, 2020 – 2:30 PM
West Ada School District Community,

Public education across America this spring was unprecedented as schools across the country closed for the remainder of the year. Students, parents, and staff stepped up to provide education remotely. The sudden shift to remote learning provided many lessons about how to make sure learning continues for students this fall regardless of the status of the coronavirus pandemic.

Results from a parent and staff survey regarding opening school provided important input into the planning for next fall. Parents and Staff offered a wide range of expectations, concerns, and ideas for this fall’s start of school. The common theme, however, was that students need to continue to learn in school at high levels in the fall.

The information from the parent survey was reinforced by participants in a series of seven separate focus groups that represented teachers, principals, district support staff, parents, businesses, students, and elected officials.

Guidance from public health officials was also an important part of developing the plans for next fall. West Ada has a complete pandemic plan that has been approved by Central District Health.

In the fall students will be assessed to identify any gaps in learning that need to be addressed. Our plan has options for all three categories of community spread and additionally West Ada is offering a fully online option through the expanded Virtual School House.
Planning for Changes

- The information contained in this document is based on what we know as of today.
- The nature of this pandemic has resulted in rapidly changing information.
- As information changes, we will update this document with the necessary modifications and provide the updates to staff and parents.

Our Mission:
Preparing Today's Students for Tomorrow's Challenges

At the heart of our plan for reopening schools in the fall is our core belief in the importance of high levels of learning for all students.

As we continue to plan for the fall, we considered several factors:

- How do we educate our students safely?
  - What is best for our students? Both from a learning perspective as well as from a health and safety perspective.
  - What is best for our staff? Using both a teaching and learning lens, but also a health and safety lens.
- How can we best partner with our local health experts to ensure we can meet both our educational goals and the community goals for reducing virus transmission?
- Integrating guidance and collaboration with our local and national health experts (CDH & CDC)
- How can we provide choice to our families?
- How can we be flexible in how we approach problems and solutions?

Technology
West Ada will be deploying student devices, Pre-K-12 for the 20-21 School Year

Students and teachers need to be connected even if they are not able to meet in traditional classrooms. To accomplish this objective and ensure equitable access to district curriculum and online learning opportunities, the West Ada School District will issue a one-to-one (1:1) mobile device, device charger and case to all students.

- **Rationale:**
  1:1 device deployment for students will allow us to be flexible in our instructional approach and to continue to deliver high levels of teaching and learning throughout the various levels of community spread. Placing technology in the hands of every student will allow for increased student/teacher direct interaction when in a Yellow (Category 2) or Red (Category 3) scenario. The immersion of technology into the District instructional practice provides teachers a tool to deliver engaging personalized learning, resulting in a better model of delivery and engagement than was possible in the “paper packet model” available in the spring of 2020.

- **Primary Platform is Microsoft Teams:**
The use of Microsoft Teams as a learning platform has become an integral tool to help staff and students stay organized, collaborate, and access all the district's adopted technology tools in one place. Microsoft Teams allows students and teachers to collaborate in a safe and secure environment from anywhere at any time. The District will continue to train students, staff, and parents on the use of Microsoft Teams throughout the 20-21 school year.
Students in grades Pre-K-2 will be issued tablets or laptops, and students in grades 3-12 will be issued laptops. Concerns regarding internet access will be addressed as needed, including using Internet access points or “hotspots” and coordination with Internet providers for lower-cost connectivity.

These devices are becoming part of the everyday delivery of education. By integrating this technology into the learning process, students can receive instruction, turn in assignments, and receive feedback from their teacher even if school is not able to be held in a traditional classroom.

Providing computers for all students requires a significant investment. West Ada School District was able to make this investment without further reducing its operating budget or cutting programs. New computers were purchased using $7 million in local revenue from plant levy funds.

Training on the use of this technology is being provided to staff throughout the summer and immediately prior to the start of school. Information on the use of this technology will also be provided to parents and students.

Two important documents concerning the District’s One-To-Program have been posted to the West Ada Technology Support Web Site and included in the 2020-2021 Student Handbooks:

- West Ada School District Responsible Use Agreement - outlines the expectations for responsible, ethical, and lawful use of District technology both on and off school premises.

- 2020 Parent/Student Device Handbook – Detailed expectations for the care and use of District devices, including information on the availability of optional device insurance to cover accidental damage district devices.
Our framework, aligns with the Idaho Back to School Framework and Central District Health Levels of Community Spread, and helps West Ada to define the criteria that we will use to make decisions.

The district will utilize the weekly category recommendations provided by Central District Health to inform decisions on our category status for school operations.

Central District Health is currently planning to publish these recommendations weekly.

One of the lessons from this spring is that West Ada needs to be prepared for any scenario. In preparation for the 2020-2021 school year, school staff and district leaders have prepared for three scenarios when schools reopen and will also add an additional option for families who choose not to send their students to school because of concerns about COVID-19.

If West Ada enters the fall under orders that schools are closed, West Ada will go directly into remote learning with a computer device with access to the internet provided to every student.

### Framework for Decision Making

For the purposes of this document, community is defined as the geographic area encompassing the area in which the majority of students, their families, and school staff live and work.

Exposure is defined as an interaction with a positive person that occurred within 6 feet and lasted more than 15 minutes.

### Category – Operational Plans

**GREEN-Category 1:**
**No Transmission within School Community**

- All Students Attend Daily
- Schools open with increased safety precautions and preventative measures.
- In this scenario, we are running school in our new normal which includes increased safety precautions and preventative measures to help reduce potential spread of the virus.
YELLOW-Category 2: Minimal to Moderate Transmission within School Community

All school buildings are open:

- Alternating Day Schedule
- The goal of the alternating day schedule is to reduce class sizes to approximately 15 students to allow for increased physical distancing. Some programs which are already at that enrollment level, could potentially be allowed to attend daily.
- Increased physical distancing, sanitation, and preventative measures

Alternate Day Schedule:

- Students will be divided up by Team 1 and 2 for the purpose of this process.
- **Team 1 is physically in attendance for example on September 8th.**
  - Participating in Lesson and Activities as prepared by teacher.
  - Team 2 is participating in asynchronous online learning (not real time/live video participation)
- **Team 2 is physically in attendance for example on September 9th.**
  - Participating in Lesson and Activities as prepared by teacher.
  - Team 1 is participating in asynchronous online learning (not real time/live video participation)
- **Team 1 and Team 2 student designations have been identified for students in every school.**
  - Students living in the same household were placed on the same Team so that they are on the same schedule.
  - Parents will be able to see their students Team assignments on August 7th. If there is a need to change your students team assignment, please complete the [Team Change Request Form](#) and return to the building principal.

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
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### High School - Alternating Day Schedule

#### 1st Quarter - Students Take 4 Courses - Attend Every Other Day - 90 Minutes

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Our high schools traditionally run on an A/B alternating day block schedule. Students in that traditional schedule take 8 courses per semester (18 weeks). They take 4 classes on their A Day, and 4 different classes on their B Day. This A/B schedule is problematic when also trying to alternate students in order to reduce overall class sizes for physical distancing.

For the 1st Semester of the 20-21 school year, our High Schools will be utilizing a 4x4 Block Schedule. In this schedule, all students take 4 classes per quarter (9 weeks). In a Green/Category 1 scenario, students would go to these 4 classes for 90 minutes every day for the entire quarter. In a Yellow/Category 2 scenario the students physically attend these 4 classes every other day. At the start of Quarter 2, students would be assigned to 4 new courses for the entire 2nd Quarter. Determination regarding continuing this schedule for Semester 2 will be evaluated and made during the 2nd quarter of the school year.

**RED-Category 3:**

**Substantial Community Transmission**

- School(s) are closed – **Remote Learning Implemented**
- Because of our 1:1 device deployment; teachers will be able to deliver teaching and learning opportunities that are engaging and move learning forward in a remote setting. It will also allow for assessments and grading to continue.

**Teaching and Learning in YELLOW and RED**

- Fall Ready Assessments have been developed to allow teachers to identify their students’ readiness for the course/grade level content and to identify instructional needs for individual as well as groups of students.
- The teachers and staff have been provided and will continue to be provided with Professional Development and guided planning and collaboration around utilizing the 1:1 devices in a manner that will increase student engagement when the student is working remotely from home.
- The Remote Learning in Yellow or Red will **not** be paper packets as was done in the Spring.
- Components of remote learning in Yellow and Red will include:
  - Live (synchronous) opportunities for interactions with peers and teachers.
  - Live and Recorded teacher led instructional activities
  - Assigning and collecting assignments, formative and summative assessments.
  - Grading will continue in Yellow and Red schedule.
Safety Precautions & Preventative Measures

- All staff and students will be trained on the importance of watching for symptoms.

- Students and staff with symptoms are encouraged to stay home.
  - Symptoms include: *dry cough, sore throat, headache, congestion or runny nose, fatigue, new loss of taste or smell, difficulty breathing, fever, muscle or body aches, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea*

- Staff will conduct a verbal and visual check with students upon entry to school every day. “Hi Jane, how are you today? Do you have any symptoms?”

- Students with symptoms at school will be sent to Health Services Office and screened by staff to determine if there is a need to be sent home immediately.

- Frequent hand washing and/or hand sanitizing is of upmost importance in reducing the spread of COVID.
  - 1000 wall mount hand sanitizer stations have been purchased for placement in every classroom.
  - 2000 replacement cartridges of hand sanitizer have been purchased

- All staff and students trained on proper hand hygiene
  - All staff and students trained on precautions and preventative measures.

- Required use of masks/face shields by staff, students, and visitors as currently mandated.
  - Masks/facial coverings are required at this time based on local ordinance.

- All staff and students trained on proper mask use, and safety considerations for wearing masks

- Staff will be provided with face mask and/or face shield.

- Students are encouraged to provide their own face covering.

- WASD will have cloth face coverings available in each school for students that do not have or forget their face covering.

- Plexiglass shields have been purchased and will be installed in school reception and library circulation areas.

- WASD will be conducting daily disinfecting:
  - Frequently touched surfaces such as doors and door handles, light switches, and hand railings
  - 2 times a week schools will have a deeper disinfection:
    - desktops, tables, and other surfaces tops
    - 2 times a week locker fronts, and locker rooms will be disinfected.
General Classroom Protocols

- Staff and students trained in physical distancing, handwashing, respiratory etiquette and mask use to mitigate exposure
- Hand sanitizer and promotion of regular hand washing
- Regular sanitation of desks and other hard surfaces and frequently touched parts of school buildings using electrostatically charged sprayer with cleaner approved to kill the coronavirus
- Arrangement of desks to account for physical distancing
- Limit the use of shared materials and spaces
- Frequent checks with students regarding their social/emotional needs.

General Cafeteria – Food Service Protocols

- Lunch times staggered to reduce occupants in the cafeteria
- In addition to the cafeteria, alternative lunch locations will be available depending on the facility’s design
- Offer options to eat outside
- Hand sanitizer located in the cafeteria for students/staff
- Floor stickers will be used to physically distance students during meal service
- When in Yellow, curbside pick-up will be available for students that are not scheduled to be in the building.
- Contactless point-of-sale will be used.

Transportation

Student Transportation will mirror the district’s new normal safety precautions and preventative measures and align with the State’s “Idaho Back To School Framework 2020”

- Mask policies will mirror the district’s requirements for schools
- High-touch surfaces will be disinfected between groups of students and buses will be deep cleaned at the same frequency as schools

New Bus procedures include:

- Students will receive instruction on maintaining physical distancing while waiting for the bus
- Students will load and unload one seat at a time in an orderly manner
- Students will be seated with siblings
- Buses will be operated with windows down for airflow as conditions allow

Visitors to Schools

- Educational information will be posted about reducing the risk of spread of contagions
- No unscheduled visitors
- Limit visitors to parents and essential visitors on campus
- Develop parent pick-up and drop-off procedures at each school
Large School Gatherings

- Implement strategies at each school that discourage gatherings in areas such as the bus lane, restrooms, recess, hallways, lunch, before and after school
- Limit field trips, assemblies, and other large gatherings if physical distancing cannot be achieved

Building Health & Safety Plans

Each school is developing facility specific building health and safety plans using the district templates. Teachers are encouraged to work with their building principal and leadership team in developing the school specific plan.

Schools will publish their initial building specific plans on August 12th on their school website. These plans are subject to change based on additional guidance from Central District Health.

Athletics and Extracurricular Activities

West Ada works with the Idaho High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) and the Southern Idaho Conference (SIC) to develop plans for activities and athletics in fall of the 2020-2021 school year.

For extra-curricular programs/events, West Ada School District will follow the guidelines laid out in the IHSAA Guidance document, the Idaho Rebounds Stages, as well as any specific guidance from CDH related to activities/athletics.

For all extra-curricular events we:
- Encourage physical distancing.
- Teach and reinforce the use of face coverings whenever possible.
- Routinely clean and disinfect equipment and surfaces.
- Discourage sharing of water bottles and cups.
- Provide and encourage hand washing and use of hand sanitizer often.
- Encourage athletes to participate in individual drills and activities.
- Encourage participants to use their own equipment, when possible.
- Monitor athletes and coaches/staff for signs and symptoms of COVID, require ill persons to stay home.

IHSAA requirements include the following:

1. All schools who host events are required to have a plan in place for fans and team’s attendance. This must include reference to the Governors reopening guidelines for Stages 1, 2, 3 and 4. Each district's school board, in conjunction with guidance from the local health department must approve the plan before games can be hosted.
   a. School districts may use the Governors reopening guidelines or come up with guidelines of their own, in conjunction with guidance from the local health department.
2. A transportation plan, when applicable, for practices and games.
3. Plan to deal with positive test of student athlete or coach involved directly with the program formulated in conjunction with the local school board and local health department.
4. Return to participate plan formulated in conjunction with the local school board and local health department.

As additional information is available about fall activities, West Ada School District will provide that information to parents and students.
West Ada – Virtual School House

- Fully Online Option – For those who are not comfortable returning to a physical school location in the Fall or who choose a virtual school model for their education.
- All Grades K-12 & Early Intervention Preschool (IEP Only)
- Aligned with West Ada Curriculum
- Students can graduate from the Virtual School House
- Students who currently attend a school of choice or school with a capped enrollment and choose to enroll in the Virtual School House, may return to that school at the semester or in the Fall of the next school year. *(Pending Board of Trustees Approval)*

For specific questions about Virtual School House – Please Contact:

- Principal Dr. Sherawn Reberry @ reberry.sherawn@westada.org
- Region Director Marcus Myers @ myers.marcus@westada.org

Registration is open now!

www.WestAda.org/VSH
Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Category Information

Question: How is West Ada defining the categories that will be used to make decisions regarding whether school is in session?

Answer: Our Decision-Making Framework (shown below) is aligned with the Idaho Back to School Framework and the Central District Health guidelines and criteria.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category 1: - GREEN</th>
<th>Category 2: - YELLOW</th>
<th>Category 3: - RED</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>No Community Transmission</strong></td>
<td><strong>Minimal to Moderate Community Transmission</strong></td>
<td><strong>Substantial Community Transmission</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>DEFINITION:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Evidence of isolated cases,</td>
<td>- Widespread and/or sustained transmission with high likelihood or confirmed exposure within communal settings, with potential for rapid increase in suspected cases.</td>
<td>- Large-scale community transmission, healthcare staffing significantly impacted,</td>
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<td>- case investigations underway,</td>
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<td>- no evidence of exposure in communal settings</td>
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<td><strong>LEVEL OF OPERATION:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>School buildings open with physical distancing and sanitation</td>
<td>School buildings open but option of limited/staggered use of school buildings with physical distancing and sanitation. Utilize alternating day schedule</td>
<td>Targeted, short-term, or extended school closure.</td>
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**GREEN** – Category 1
- All Students Attend Daily
- School building open with physical distancing and sanitation.

**Yellow** – Category 2
- Alternating Day Schedule

**RED** – Category 3
- School(s) are closed – Remote Learning Implemented

Question: How do teachers effectively distance themselves from students when there are 25+ students in the classroom?

Answer: This is a complicated question and answer, as each building and classroom are different. We recommend removing any additional/unnecessary furniture from every classroom so that desks/student seating can be spread out as much as possible. In Category 2-Yellow, our plan is for an alternating day schedule which would reduce the number of students in each class by approximately 50% and make physical distancing much more possible.
**Question:** What is "physical distancing"? I think about this both in the classroom and when it talks about the library (and other places)... for example, the first grader's books/appropriate level of books is within a couple of areas which are grouped together in an area, for the most part. Can "physical distancing" be 3 feet apart?... 6 feet won't be happening. If we look at the classroom as a POD, this could be more along the lines of 3 feet for desk/table areas, movement, etc.

**Answer:** Close contact and/or exposure is defined as less than 6 feet, for 15 minutes or more, with or without a mask. Physical Distancing would be taking measures to reduce close contact and/or exposure by limiting situations where individuals are closer than 6 feet for an extended period of time.

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**Confirmed Case in School**

**Question:** If there is a confirmed case in my child’s school, what will the process be to determine what happens at that school?

**Answer:** Based on guidelines provided by Central District Health the following would be the process:

- Begin identifying anyone who may have been in close contact with the confirmed case.
  - Close contact is defined as less than 6 feet for more than 15 minutes.
- Follow local public health guidance for course of action. Recommendations will be given on case-by-case basis, which could include:
  - Excluding positive, suspected, and close contacts from school as they follow isolation or self-quarantine instructions until they can safely return.
  - A short-term closure for 1-2 days.
  - Extended school dismissal
  - These recommendations will be based on the investigation and what level of community transmission is determined.

**Question:** If a teacher tests positive, do all his/her students need to isolate for 14 days? And vice versa- if one of our students tests positive, do the staff also need to isolate?

**Answer:** See the answer for the question above. We would follow the same protocol as that of a confirmed case with a student.

**Question:** What happens if a student who tests positive has a sibling who attends school in another building?

**Answer:** Each time there is a confirmed case, the investigation will include any potential impact that that confirmed case in one-school community may have on any other school community within the district.

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**Preventative Measures**

**Question:** What preventative measures will be in place during this school year to minimize the spread of the virus?

**Answer:** The following preventative measures will be in place:
Frequent hand washing and/or hand sanitizing is of the utmost importance in the spread of COVID-19.

- 1000 wall mount hand sanitizer stations have been purchased for placement in every classroom.
- 2000 replacement cartridges of hand sanitizer have been purchased.
- WASD will be disinfecting daily:
  - Frequently touched surfaces such as doors and door handles, light switches and railings.
- 2 times per week schools will have a deeper disinfection:
  - Desktops, tables, and other surface tops.
  - Locker fronts, locker rooms
- Staff will conduct a verbal and visual check with students upon entry to school every day.
- Students and staff with symptoms are asked to stay home.
- Students presenting symptoms at school will be sent to Health Services Office and screened by staff to determine if there is a need to be sent home immediately.

**Question:** Will the district be providing masks for staff and students? Hand sanitizer? Disinfectant sprays and wipes?

**Answer:** Staff and students are encouraged to provide their own face covering, but WASD will have face coverings available in each school for students and/or staff that wish to wear one but do not have one.

**Question:** What will the procedure be for disinfecting rooms between classes?

**Answer:** There are no formal expectations for teachers or custodial staff to conduct disinfecting of classrooms between classes.

**Question:** Will the school/school district be testing students or staff for COVID-19?

**Answer:** There are no current protocols or procedures for the district to conduct any formal COVID-19 testing currently.

### Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

**Question:** Will students/staff be required to wear a face covering (mask or face shield)?

**Answer:** Required use of masks/face shields by staff, students and visitors as currently mandated.

- Masks/facial coverings are required at this time based on local ordinance.

**Question:** Will the school be providing face coverings (mask or face shield)?

**Answer:** Staff and students are encouraged to provide their own face covering, but WASD will have face coverings available in each school for students and/or staff that wish to wear one but do not have one.
**Family Considerations**

**Question:** What types of things should I be doing from home to minimize my students’ risk of contracting the virus?

**Answer:** All Parents, Staff and Students should take steps to prevent themselves from becoming ill from COVID-19. The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. Everyone should know how this virus spreads:

The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.

- Between people who are in close contact within one another (within about 6 feet)
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks
- These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs
- Some recent studies have suggested that COVID-19 may be spread by people who are not showing symptoms

Everyone Should:

- Wash your hands often
- Wear face covering
- Avoid close contact
- Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others
- Cover coughs and sneezes
- Clean and disinfect
- Monitor your health daily
- Stay home if you have symptoms

**Question:** If the school(s) must go into the Category 2 – Yellow, and utilize the alternating day schedule are my 3 students going to be attending school on different days?

**Answer:** No, our Team 1 and Team 2 designations for the alternating day schedule were designed to keep students in the same family/household on the same schedule.

**Staffing Considerations**

**Question:** I’m an employee with an underlying health condition which makes returning to work difficult with the current level of COVID-19 spread, what are my options?

**Answer:** Employees have several options to consider in this case:

Certified Staff:
- Apply to teach in the Virtual School House
- Consider taking a leave of absence - See Policy No. 401.40
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accommodations
  - An employee who has a health condition that results in them being susceptible to COVID-19 but chooses to return to work can engage the District in the ADA interactive
accommodation process to determine reasonable accommodations to help with performing the essential functions of their job

- Please contact Dave Roberts, Chief Human Resources Officer at roberts.dave@westada.org to initiate this process

- Emergency Paid Sick Leave
  - Eligible employees have access to 10 days of Emergency Paid Sick Leave as required by the Families First Corona Virus Response Act if they have a qualifying situation
  - For more information on Emergency Paid Sick Leave, please see the Families First Coronavirus Response Act document for detailed information

- Sick Leave
  - In addition to the leave available under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, employees who do not feel like they can return to work due to having health factors that make them susceptible to COVID-19, being immuno-compromised, or due to concerns for their health may be able to utilize their accrued sick leave with applicable documentation.

Classified Staff:

- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accommodations
  - An employee who has a health condition that results in them being susceptible to COVID-19 but chooses to return to work can engage the District in the ADA interactive accommodation process to determine reasonable accommodations to help with performing the essential functions of their job
  - Please contact Dave Roberts, Chief Human Resources Officer at roberts.dave@westada.org to initiate this process

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**Question:** If a teacher tests positive and/or has been exposed and must isolate for 14+ days, will those days be deducted from their personal sick leave? Or will the district cover those days?

**Answer:** These days will be eligible for Emergency Paid Sick Leave as described above for the first ten (10) days, the remainder of the days will be covered by any available sick leave or personal days that the employee has accrued.
**Question:** If a staff member contracts COVID-19 from a student and ends up needing hospitalization, will the district cover the employee’s medical bills?

**Answer:** West Ada School District has implemented the recommended safety and cleaning precautions in order to minimize the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases. There is no way to accurately determine the source of a COVID-19 exposure/infection or the exposure to any other type of infectious disease. West Ada also has available to eligible employees the option to participate in a very good medical insurance plan. The employee’s personal medical insurance is available to assist in paying for medical expenses caused by illness from COVID-19.

**Question:** Would catching COVID at school be considered a workplace injury, covered by workman’s comp?

**Answer:** There is no way to accurately determine the source of a COVID-19 exposure/infection, and therefore would unlikely be covered as a workplace injury.

**Question:** If a teacher refuses to work due to health concerns, is their job protected? Will they be allowed to deliver instruction remotely?

**Answer:** Any employee who refuses to meet their job obligations, without going through the proper process and procedure with Human Resources will not have job protection. Teachers who are interested in teaching full-time in a virtual setting are encouraged to apply for the teaching positions with our Virtual School House. At this time, Virtual School House teachers will be reporting to work at a school-building to deliver instruction to students, even though the students will be off-site to receive that instruction.

**Question:** Are teachers going to be required to offer full in-class AND online instruction? Is 100% of the in-class material to be made available online, and vice versa? If so, how will staff be compensated for their time?

**Answer:** No. In general, teachers who are part of the online Virtual School House will be employed solely as VSH teachers. Some teachers may be given the opportunity to teach additional sections of these online courses for additional compensation if needed. Teachers who work in our traditional, brick and mortar schools will work with their traditional students on their roster. These teachers and students would work together within Category 1 (Green), Category 2 (Yellow) and Category 3 (Red). In Category 2 (Yellow) teachers in grades 6-12 would be working with students on an alternating day schedule. In Category 3 (Red), all teachers would be working with students in full-time remote learning due to the school closure.

**Question:** What happens when there are not enough subs to cover classes for teachers who are required to stay home?

**Answer:** Depending on the level of sub coverage issues, this could be an issue that results in a school closure for a period of time.

**Communications**

**Question:** How will any changes between Green, Yellow, Red be communicated to parents, staff and students?
**Answer:** Communication of any changes between categories will be communicated from the district and the individual schools using a variety of formats of mass communication. Our district website will have an easily identifiable message that will allow parents to view the current category status of the district.

**Professional Development**

**Question:** What professional development is available for parents to be able to help their student?

**Answer:**

The Digital Integration Team plans to offer Parent/Guardian Night sessions in the fall. These Parent/Guardian Nights will be held online in a live format where parents can ask questions, and they will also be recorded so that families can review on their own time. Links to both the live and recorded sessions will be provided to schools to share with families. Parent/Guardian Nights will address the basics of logging into and navigating Microsoft Teams, accessing the student’s Microsoft 365 account and applications, tips for establishing an effective learning space at home, and information on how to receive technical support from the IT Service Desk. Parent/guardian and student resources are currently available in the [WASD Remote Learning Notebook](https://www.wasd.org/RemoteLearning) for teachers to copy and provide to students and families. In addition, more resources are being developed and will be provided in the fall.

**Question:** What professional development is available for staff to be prepared for the various circumstances for 2020-21 school year (reducing transmission, delivering blended learning, using technology/1-to-1, connecting to student remotely, identifying students at-risk, delivering student services remotely, parent support of student learning at home)?

**Answer:** Summer professional development is available. Sessions can be attended or viewed in the [Remote Summer PD Catalog](https://www.wasd.org/RemoteLearning). Professional development began in the spring, and those recorded sessions and resources can be found in the [WASD Remote Learning Notebook](https://www.wasd.org/RemoteLearning). District professional development will also be provided to teachers during their first days on contract.

**Question:** What training do teachers need to ensure they can properly instruct students on the use of PPE, reducing transmission, identifying symptoms, and using cleaning equipment and supplies?

**Answer:** Our nursing department has prepared a PowerPoint presentation that addresses these questions. This is available as part of the Remote PD offerings and will also be available to view during the professional development provided during the teachers’ first days on contract.

**Student Assessment**

**Question:** Because of the extended school closure, I’m worried my student is behind in their learning. How will the school/district assess whether students have any gaps in their knowledge and/or skills?

**Answer:** The district has developed and/or identified a variety of fall ready assessments that will measure student’s readiness for their current grade level and/or course. Additionally, teachers as they do every year, will use formative assessment strategies throughout to identify any additional learning difficulties and provide intervention.
Instruction

**Question:** What will teaching/learning/instruction look like for my student if we must move into an alternating day schedule?

**Answer:** All instruction, independent of color category will shift to a blended model of instruction to allow accommodation for movement between color categories successfully. In the alternating day schedule a student would expect to see direct instructional methods and collaborative teaching methods utilized in a safe and appropriate face-to-face manner. On days the student is physically at school the teacher and students will also utilize class time to prepare for the next day of learning that will be carried out from home.

**Question:** What will teaching/learning/instruction look like for my student if we must move to full remote learning?

**Answer:** Students engaged in a full remote learning environment should expect to see a continuation of the practices of blended learning. Use of one-to-one devices will be expected regardless of instructional delivery mode, face-to-face (green), alternating day (yellow), or full remote (red) using Teams as the West Ada School District learning management system. Students would be expected to log into Teams daily and follow an instructional schedule that provides them access to instructor led lessons and assignments. Work will be submitted for teacher feedback and appropriate assessment will be carried out to ensure students are demonstrating understanding of content.

**Question:** I’m interested in the fully online option the district is offering through the Virtual School House, what will the learning experience look like for my student?

**Answer:** The Virtual School House will offer an engaging learning environment focused on increasing the learning of enrolled students through full online delivery. While the use of instructional tools will vary from grade level to grade level the primary learning management systems will be Microsoft Teams at the elementary level and a variable mix of Teams and Fuel Education at the middle and high School levels. Students will be expected to follow a daily schedule and communicate frequently with instructors. Consistent attendance is an essential element of success and will be taken.

**Question:** What is the best way to communicate with teacher/school staff if we have instructional questions or concerns?

**Answer:** Multiple methods of communication are available to students and parents. Teachers will utilize Teams as a learning management system so communication through Teams is an expectation between teachers and students. Students and parents may also contact teachers or school staff through email or phone. Teachers will be working from their classrooms so the traditional contact methods parents have used prior to the pandemic will be available for utilization.

**Question:** As a parent what can I do to best support my student’s instruction?

**Answer:** The best way to support your student’s instruction is to primarily set-up an educational learning space for your student. What this learning space looks like, where it is located, and what items are required is dependent on your student and should be personalized with consideration of what will help your student successfully engage in learning. Secondarily, making sure your student has
reliable access to the internet, monitoring as possible, setting academic goals, and actively communicating with your student and school staff about your student’s educational program best promotes student success.

**Question:** Are we moving away from priority standards and proficiency scales due to the transition to blended learning and the unknowns of next school year?

**Answer:** No, in fact those priority standards and proficiency scales take on an even greater level of importance in a blended learning environment. Those targets for the teacher and student are critical to ensure that clarity exists regarding students and their learning progression.

**Question:** Can I graduate from the West Ada online school Virtual School House?

**Answer:** Yes!

**Social Emotional Learning**

**Question:** My student is very anxious about returning to school in the fall, how is the district going to help students feel safe and comfortable as they return to school?

**Answer:** School staff will create a plan to orient and welcome students back to school. Information will be communicated out to parents regarding this plan via email and Blackboard messaging. In the past, many elementary schools have an event for students and parents to come in and meet their teachers and drop off their school supplies. Secondary schools have orientation events for incoming 6th or 9th graders. These events may need to be modified to meet the social distancing rules.

For students with higher levels of anxiety, parents should consult with the school administrator, classroom teacher and school counselor to see what other specific supports can be put in place to help this individual student feel safe.

For parents it will be helpful to provide a consistent positive message to their children that schools will have important new rules and procedures to help keep everyone as safe as possible. By supporting these new procedures and rules students will be reassured that they are going to be safe at school. In addition, parents can provide supportive preventative measures such as their child’s temperature each morning prior to the student going to school and encouraging wearing a face mask whenever possible.

**Question:** With all of the precautions that you are taking, and the expectation that students stay 6 feet apart, are students going to be penalized for giving their friend a hug, or a high-five in the hallway?

**Answer:** All schools K-12 will need to clearly define, describe, and provide visual cues and examples regarding the new expectation of social distancing. Schools will also provide students with creative ways to greet their friends and interact with them in a safe, yet socially distant manner. Students who do not follow social distancing expectations will be redirected by a caring adult.

**Question:** I want my student to enjoy coming to school, I don’t want the school to feel like jail, how do you handle all these precautions without damaging the learning environment?

**Answer:** We trust our highly creative professional staff to come up with creative ways for students to interact and have fun while learning. Our staff deeply care about student safety. Staff will approach this challenge with compassion, kindness and understanding. Students are taught behavioral
expectations each fall. Social distancing and other new procedures related to COVID-19 will be integrated into these traditional behavioral expectations and routines. Just as adults have learned new expectations when going to the grocery store, to a restaurant, or hair salon, students too will learn new expectations and adapt to the new normal at school.

**Special Populations**

**Question:** What about students who receive special education supports or accommodations through an IEP or a 504 plan. How will those services look in a remote or blended learning environment?

**Answer:** Students with individual learning needs (such as those served on an IEP, 504, or EL plan) are entitled to plans that are individually developed based on evaluation data and considered by teams who know the student. Therefore, individual needs and possible plan revisions will happen mostly at the building level with parent involvement.

District-level supports, and options are being gathered and refined in order to support building teams with as many options as possible for safe provision of specialized services to students.

**At-Risk Populations**

**Question:** If I enroll my student with health concerns in the online learning option to start the school year will I be able to transfer them back into traditional school when a vaccine is developed?

**Answer:** Yes! Students would be able to transfer back at Semester and/or the Fall of the next school year.

**Question:** My student struggled in the remote learning environment, what are our options if we have to move into the yellow or red categories?

**Answer:** Parents should contact the school administrator or school counselor to discuss options for students who struggled during the remote learning time.

**Question:** If we put signs for "at risk employees" is this going against medical privacy protection laws? I would think this special "signage" for a specific employee's work area would first need to be part of the employee's 504 or accommodation plan??

**Answer:** Employees who need work considerations for health needs or other “at risk” reasons should work with HR to identify and discuss their needs and possible accommodations through the interactive process.

**Food Service**

**Question:** Will my student be able to get school meals when enrolled in the Virtual School House?

**Answer:** TBD. We are waiting for further guidance from USDA.

**Question:** Will my student be able to get school meals when not in the building if we go to A/B schedule days?

**Answer:** Yes. Students will go to the school that is nearest to their home. Preorder of the meal will be required, and a designated time will be communicated out for times available for pick up. The USDA has issued a waiver to allow Parents/Guardians to pick up meals for students.
Question: Will my student be able to bring their breakfast meal to the classroom?

Answer: School Nutrition will work with building administration regarding breakfast in the classroom.

Question: Will my student be able to take their school meals off campus to consume?

Answer: Yes, the USDA has issued a non-congregate waiver that will allow students to consume meals off campus.

Question: Will my student be able to be a student server this school year?

Answer: We will have student servers if the kitchen is able to accommodate additional people in the work areas and maintain physical distancing.

Transportation

Question: How will student transportation look different this fall?

Answer: West Ada follows the State Department of Education Transportation Back to School Guidance as well as direction from the CDC and Central District Health. This guidance calls for a greater emphasis on cleaning and sanitation as well as the use of PPE like masks or face shields. Additionally, students will follow new loading/unloading procedures to reduce the contact between students.