

Date:

7/20/20

Subject:

Rolling Green Update

(Note: Sent with auto-translation via School Messenger)

Email:

Rolling Green Families,

This past Friday, July 17, Governor Reynolds [issued a new proclamation](#) which requires (among other things) the Iowa Department of Education (DE), in consultation with the Iowa Department of Public Health, to approve the temporary move to primarily remote learning for an entire building or district because of public health conditions. This means that in order to start our Rolling Green school year in the Required Continuous Learning (all online) instructional model, we need permission from the DE. Upon receiving that new guidance on Friday, we urgently reached out to the DE seeking permission to begin the Rolling Green school year this Thursday, July 23, in the Required Continuous Learning (all online) instructional model as recommended by the Polk County Health Department and approved by our School Board.

We learned this afternoon that we can anticipate receiving a temporary approval from the DE to begin our Rolling Green school year online. The expectation is that we will receive this temporary approval by end of day tomorrow, Tuesday, July 21. Once received, we will share another update with you. (Note: "Temporary approval" refers to the length of time that the approval will be in place. For example, we could receive approval for two weeks and then need to transition to our Hybrid model once that two-week period expires. The DE is still working on the standards or metrics for determining when schools/districts need to transition to a different model of instruction; those metrics are expected to be defined by early August.)

In addition, the new proclamation that was shared by Governor Reynolds this past Friday also changed the requirements for school districts' Hybrid instructional models. The new requirement is that a Hybrid model now requires at least 50% of in-person instruction to occur over a two-week period. Per the DE, "this means that a school cannot provide more than half of its instruction through remote learning opportunities over any two-week period without explicit authorization by a governor's proclamation." Our previously approved Hybrid model included less than 50% of in-person instruction, therefore, we will be revising our Hybrid to meet the new requirement. Once revised and approved by our School Board, we will share the new Hybrid model with you.

We will continue providing updates as we receive confirmation. Thank you for your patience throughout this process.

Thank you,

Dania Wilson
Interim Principal

Steve Bass
Superintendent