

August 28, 2020

Dear NSSED Families and Staff,

Phase Change Announcement

Per our Reopening Plan, we will communicate our decision on whether to remain in Remote Learning (Phase 1) or move to Blended Remote Learning (Phase 2) no later than Tuesday, September 1, 2020.

Reopening Plan

We have revised and added new guidance into the Reopening Plan. Please see the following items:

- [Metrics for Changing Phases](#)
- [Quarantine and Isolation Guidelines](#)

Stay Safe and Healthy In and Out of School

At school, we need to be 6 feet socially distanced at ALL times and ready to learn our new processes, including face coverings, to enter our schools safely.

We continue to ask all parents and staff to partner with us to ensure everyone's health and safety. Infection rates continue to be fluid, and it is important for adults, as well as students, to strictly adhere to safety protocols both during the school day and outside of school hours. What may seem to be a harmless "quick" break in practice can cause unintended quarantines, impacting many. Thank you for understanding our collective responsibility. Wear a mask, wash your hands, and stay socially distant!

Adapting to Changing Conditions: Caseload Assignments & Substitute Coverage

NSSED serves all member districts and students enrolled in our programs to the best of our ability. Given many variables such as member district and program needs, the status of our workforce, and student and family needs, this may result in reassignments of students on staff caseloads. Please know administrative staff have the authority to make assignments, and do their best to do so carefully. There are many competing interests, and we appreciate flexibility from all involved as we work to best serve students.

School districts across the region are experiencing reductions in available substitutes for all staffing positions as a result of the pandemic. NSSED is monitoring the availability of our substitute pools, but please be prepared, should there be a shortage of coverage this may impact the availability of your child's staff. If such a situation presents itself, and substitute staff are not available for coverage, services may be delivered remotely or rescheduled.

Illness at School

As a reminder, in the event a child arrives at school ill, or becomes symptomatic during the school day, parents/guardians **must** be prepared to immediately pick up their child from school to ensure the health and safety of everyone. Please make sure all contact

information is updated. Children will be asked to wait in isolation spaces until parents/guardians arrive.

Staff Training Opportunities

Want to learn more about Zoom and Google Meet? We are offering staff training sessions next week. Learn more [here!](#)

Equity

In early June, we sent a message to all of you about NSSED's commitment to end racism and hatred of all forms, and reminded everyone of our strategic plan goal. The recent events in nearby Kenosha, Wisconsin have local connections and demand we must continue to take action on this commitment. Since our writing, all NSSED administrators alongside other key leaders have now completed foundational training on the development of Integrated Comprehensive Systems for Equity, which focuses on eliminating inequities for all learners. Please know we will continue actively working alongside our member districts, local law enforcement, communities, staff, and students as agents of change in order to realize our mission of creating equitable learning systems for every learner, every day!

Kurt A. Schneider, Ph.D.
NSSED Superintendent