

Winfried Feneberg, CAGS
Superintendent of Schools



Lawrence LeBoeuf, BS
Business Administrator

Michael Bessette, CAGS
Assistant Superintendent

Lawrence Elliott, MEd
Director of Student Support Services

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Dear Kearsarge Community,

Thank you for your support, patience, and dedication to planning as our district continues to develop and refine plans for the reopening of our schools.

This communication is to help offer families some guidance on potential instructional options the district is considering. These options are not firm yet, and still require more consideration and planning before potential adoption. There are some core features presented in this correspondence that may help families with their own planning needs, especially those who are struggling to wait until August 6th for the plan's official presentation to the Board.

Three core principles impacted the instructional opportunities in the draft plan. These core principles are Safety, Equity, and Quality. A fourth principle was also highly considered – Flexibility. Together, these principles aided task force members in providing feedback, serving as a “lens” through which critical decisions might be made.

Currently, the draft district plan offers three instructional opportunities for parents to select from. Specifically, parents will likely have the opportunity to select from the options identified and described below:

- ***In-School: Remote Learning***
- ***At Home: Remote Learning***
- ***Home Schooling***

Focusing on the two remote learning opportunities, the district plan recognized that, for some families, providing support to their child(ren) learning at home was challenging and that a return to in-person instruction was critically important. Feedback from our community clearly informed the district that not all families have equitable resources to provide support to their children during the day.

Accordingly, the ***In-School: Remote Learning*** option gives students direct daily access to a teacher and support staff to help instruct and supervise students within the school setting, during times when safety permits. The draft plan contains guidelines for creating and maintaining safe learning spaces, and fully describes expectations and requirements for staff and student participation (e.g. mask wearing, hand sanitization, and enhanced cleaning requirements). The plan also defines the practices health professionals in our schools will utilize to enhance student and staff safety surrounding any potential or confirmed exposure to COVID-19.

The ***In-School: Remote Learning*** opportunity presents parents with some challenges however. Those seeking to have their child(ren) partake in this opportunity will need to recognize that this model may have to shift to an ***At Home: Remote Learning*** environment quickly in response to health and safety needs of the class or school. As such, this option best serves those families who have the flexibility in their schedule to adjust rapidly, should a class have to shift to a fully remote environment for extended periods of up to fourteen days.

The ***At Home: Remote Learning*** option provides students with a parallel synchronized schedule of instruction with the ***In-School: Remote Learning*** classroom. This plan offers defined synchronous instructional times for “live feed” participation of students. As such, those families committing to this option will be required to have children supported at home by caregivers or be able to have students work independently in structured and predictable learning times. Students engaged in this model would have the same core learning experience and schedule as the students receiving in-person supports. The ***At Home: Remote Learning*** option is best suited for those families who have the resources to support their child’s learning experience from home.

The third option presented in the draft is ***Home Schooling***. Similar in some ways to ***At Home: Remote Learning***, families selecting this option would have the ability to create an asynchronous learning experience for their child based upon their own needs and available resources. Parents would take on the responsibility for instruction, assessment of learning, and the learning schedule independent of the schools. However, parents would have some options to utilize some school classes to supplement their homeschool plan – not to exceed 49% of the school’s academic offerings, as exceeding this percentage would shift the student from ***Home Schooling*** to enrolled status.

Home Schooling may be best for families who need the flexibility to provide and support their child’s instruction outside of the structured timeframes establish by the school’s schedule. ***Home Schooling*** has implications regarding eligibility of students who may require specialized instruction. Any family of a student with special needs considering this option is strongly encouraged to meet with a member of their school’s Special Education department and the school principal to learn more about how this decision may impact their child’s learning needs.

More information regarding the district’s plan will be presented July 30th at a meeting of the KRSD School Board. This meeting will be open to the public and accessible via Zoom videoconferencing. The address for the meeting will be posted on the District’s website, should you wish to attend. Within that presentation, more information pertaining to the draft plan and the three models described in this email will be discussed. However, we also know many are very concerned and need as much information as possible, as quickly as possible, to help make decisions. Please know we are still developing the plan and its contents remain fluid.

Respectfully,



Winfried Feneberg
Superintendent of Schools



Michael Bessette
Assistant Superintendent