

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE MEMORANDUM
#49-2020

DATE: August 10, 2020
TO: Honorable Mayor Meredith Leighty and City Council Members
FROM: Heather Geyer, City Manager *hmg*
SUBJECT: Presentation by Adams 12 Five Star Schools

PURPOSE

To provide the City of Northglenn City Council and community with an update on the school district's COVID-19 response and plans for the upcoming school year.

BACKGROUND

The City Manager requested that representatives from Adams 12 Five Star Schools provide an update to the Northglenn community. The following representatives will present on August 10:

- Jamey Lockley, Board of Education Secretary, District 2
- Chris Gdowski, Superintendent of Adams 12 Five Star Schools

Adams 12 representatives will present the District's Onward Plan to City Council. This plan can be found in Attachment 1. Additionally, information plans for the upcoming school year can also be found on the district webpage at: <https://www.adams12.org/initiatives/2020-2021-school-year>.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

This item is being provided for informational purposes only.

BUDGET/TIME IMPLICATIONS

This item is being provided for informational purposes only.

STAFF REFERENCE

If Council members have any comments or questions, they may contact Heather Geyer, City Manager, at 303-450-8706 or hgeyer@northglenn.org.

ATTACHMENT

1. Adams 12 Five Star Schools Presentation

ONWARD

— *Navigating the 2020-2021 School Year Together* — 



Board of Education Meeting
July 29, 2020
LEARNING MODEL RECOMMENDATION

Factors Influencing the Recommendation

- Current and projected rates of COVID infection within our state and in the communities we serve.
- Our experience in providing summer services to small groups of students.
- Current guidelines for responding to/quarantining students and staff members following a positive COVID case.
- Review of the positive and negative implications of full in-person learning models, hybrid (in-person/remote learning) models, and fully remote learning models.
- Parameters for in-person instruction developed by the 16 subcommittees that convened this summer and that are reflected in our Onward In-Person Comprehensive Guide to Reopen Schools

Recommended Learning Model for 2020-2021

- Schools will begin with **remote learning for all students.**
*(*The learning plans for district charter schools may be different. Please check with your child's charter school for more information.)*
- **Staff will return on original date of August 12.**
- **The first day of school will move to Aug. 27** for all students. During this additional time:
 - **Educators** will participate in professional development in the district's new and enhanced remote learning curriculum.
 - **Preschool, elementary, 6th and 9th grade students** will have an opportunity to attend an in-person back to school orientation.
 - **Support staff** will participate in professional development for implementation of Learning Pods.

Recommended Learning Model for 2020-2021

- **Remote learning for all students from Thursday, Aug. 27 through at least Friday, Sept. 25.**
- Daily instruction during remote learning will be provided through the **district's learning platform (Schoology)** and will follow more synchronous scheduling utilizing **curriculum and content from Florida Virtual Schools and Adams 12 Units of Study.** All classes will be taught by Five Star Schools educators.

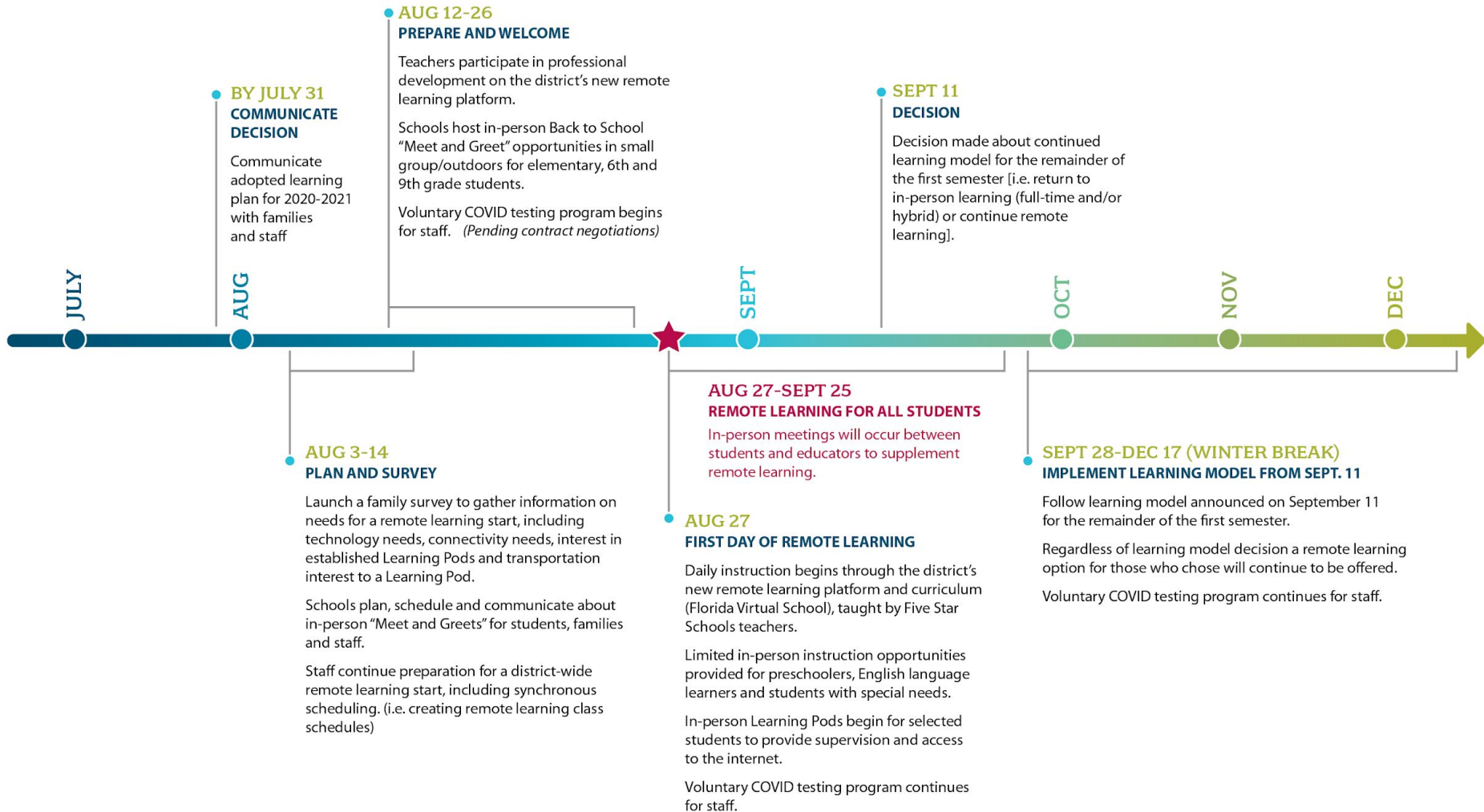
Recommended Learning Model for 2020-2021

- **In-person meetings** between students and educators **will supplement the remote learning experience** and help develop community and relationships between students. (The schedule for these in-person meetings is still under development and more information will be shared with staff, students and families in the coming weeks.)
- Delivery of **some in-person instruction** for **students with disabilities, students with an advanced learning plan, English language learners, preschoolers** and other specialized student populations will be provided as staffing is available to mitigate heightened needs and challenges for these students resulting from extended use of remote learning.

Recommended Learning Model for 2020-2021

- The district will implement **Learning Pods** in elementary, P/K-8 and middle schools - a **no-cost, in-person option** during the standard school day hours for students who need **access to internet connectivity** and/or students who need a **safe and productive place to engage in remote learning**.
- A **decision on the learning model for the remainder of the first semester** (starting Monday, Sept. 28) **will be announced in mid-September** based on current COVID-19 trends, and parent and staff interest for in-person learning given the current trends.

Timeline for Recommended Learning Model



Back to School and In-Person Meetings

- Preschool, elementary, 6th and 9th grade students and families will be invited to meet their teachers and classmates in evening, in-person meetings at their school between August 17 and August 24. Some classes may be split into two sections so that group size remains under 20 students. These gatherings will be similar to traditional Back to School night meetings but will occur outdoors, weather permitting.
- All secondary students will be assigned to an advisory group and will meet regularly with their advisor in a combination of virtual and in-person scheduled meetings during remote learning. More information on assignments and schedules will be forthcoming in the next few weeks.

Back to School and In-Person Meetings

- In-person meetings between students and educators will supplement the remote learning experience and help develop community and relationships with the purpose of:
 - Developing relationships between students in the advisory cohort
 - Discussing problem solving student challenges with technology, assignment completion, etc.
 - Identifying students who might need additional support to address social/emotional needs from a counselor or mental health professional on staff. These meetings will be held at the school of attendance and will be held outdoors, weather permitting. The schedule and more details for these in-person meetings is still under development and more information will be shared with staff, students and families in the coming weeks.

Back to School and In-Person Meetings

- English language learners, students with disabilities, and students with advanced learning plans will receive in-person instruction and related services during online/remote learning between one to three times per week when unable to receive educational benefit from online instruction which may be determined, in part, by the level of academic progress made by the student in the spring 2020 semester. Such services will also be dependent upon the availability of qualified staff.
- Preschool students will receive in-person instruction two times per week.

Staff Professional Development

The one week delay in returning students to school (August 27 rather than August 20) allows teachers/staff to participate in professional development and planning for the following purposes:

- Understanding and use of a districtwide learning management system (Schoology), the Florida Virtual Schools curriculum content and other digital learning tools (e.g. Seesaw, Pear Deck, etc.) that will allow for more robust and synchronous instruction and assessment
- Developing additional digital content and learning progressions for courses not included within the Florida Virtual Schools curriculum, e.g. electives, advanced placement/honors, etc.
- Understanding and preparing for possible commencement of full time in-person learning model, or use of a hybrid model, on September 28
- Support Staff training for Learning Pod implementation

Remote Learning

Across the district, the first weeks of remote learning will focus on three key elements:

1. Assessing students' readiness for the academic year
2. Shoring up any learning gaps resulting from last spring or jumpstarting students for the year ahead
3. Building meaningful relationships and establishing strong classroom communities

[Remote learning](#) to ensure all students have a solid foundation for continued learning:

- All students will follow a daily schedule in which they will engage directly with their teacher(s) using a common online learning management system (Schoology).
- Teachers will use Schoology, other digital learning tools (e.g. Seesaw, Pear Deck, etc.), content from Florida Virtual Schools and Adams 12 Units of Study to assess students' current knowledge/skills, provide instruction and assign learning activities designed to close learning gaps or propel students forward.
- Much time and care will also be put forth in these initial days to ensure students build relationships and rapport with their teacher(s) and classmates.

Learning Pods

- Learning Pods are an in-person option during standard school day hours at no-cost to families. At these pods, students will have access to internet connectivity and be provided with a safe and productive environment to engage in remote learning.
- Learning Pods will be available in elementary, K-8 and middle school buildings that have enrollment interest and as staffing allows.
- Learning Pods will consist of smaller cohorts, limited to 10-12 students.
- Students from multiple grade levels may be assigned to the same cohort as needed dependent upon interest, student needs and space/staff availability.
- Transportation to/from learning pods may be provided based on interest.

Learning Pods

- Staffing for Learning Pods will be provided by:
 - Staff in our before/after school programs (BASE)
 - Substitute/guest teachers
 - Paraprofessionals who work with students in classrooms and in specialized programs
 - Bus drivers and bus paraprofessionals
 - Student monitors/campus supervisors
 - PEAK staff
- Learning Pod staff members will not be responsible for direct instruction, but instead will keep students safe and engaged during remote learning. The primary teaching responsibility will remain with the student's assigned teacher or teachers.
- School-aged child care services for before and after normal school day hours may be provided at existing BASE program locations based on interest and as staffing allows.

Five Star Staff Voluntary COVID Testing

- The district is currently negotiating with Gary Community Investments to offer **voluntary** COVID testing for all regularly employed staff members (including substitute teachers, educators, classified staff and administrators) every two weeks for asymptomatic persons or whenever an employee is presenting with COVID-like symptoms.
- The testing will be paid for by the district provided the employee is tested by the contractor identified for this partnership.
- According to the contractor, test results should be available within 24-48 hours after the lab receives the sample, and will be shared with the district to assist with contact tracing and quarantine implementation, if needed.
- Data obtained from the staff voluntary COVID testing will be one of the factors when determining a learning plan for the remainder of the semester.

Return to In-Person Criteria

- The district will consider data from public health trends and feedback from multiple stakeholder groups - families, students, staff and community members - regarding a potential return to an in-person setting (traditional or hybrid).
- Public Health Data that will be considered:
 - The numbers and rates of COVID transmission within Colorado, Adams and Broomfield Counties, including trends in infection rates and projections.
 - The number of positive COVID results for staff members that are reported through the Five Star Staff Voluntary testing program*
 - Current provisions regarding quarantine scope and duration in a school setting in event of a positive COVID case. As of 7/29, contact tracing for exposure goes back 48 hours from when symptoms begin for an infected individual and quarantine requirements are 14 days.
- District leadership will work with public health officials over the next 30 days to determine how to consider this data regarding a [potential in-person return](#).

Return to In-Person Criteria (cont.)

- Feedback from multiple stakeholders that will be considered:
 - Preferences of students/parents regarding the desired instructional model through surveys that will be conducted in late August/early September;
 - Feedback from students, parents, and staff members regarding the effectiveness of the fall online delivery model (we will still be in the early days of school when this data would be collected);
 - Data regarding the number of staff members i) needing health-related accommodations that would exclude in-person schooling assignments and ii) the number of staff unwilling to provide in-person schooling services.
- A decision about in-person setting will be based on our ability to provide a consistent, productive and safe learning environment.
- A decision will be made and announced on/before September 11 regarding the continued learning model for remainder of the first semester (starting September 28).

ONWARD

— *Navigating the 2020-2021 School Year Together* —→



Board of Education Meeting
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LEARNING MODEL RECOMMENDATION