

Message to RPS Families

July 23, 2020

Parents and Guardians,

Since the day we closed our buildings on Friday, March 13th, I have said the health and safety of our students and staff is the District's top priority. My team has been working hard behind the scenes for months to develop our Return to Learn Protocol, a plan I believe will keep our students and staff safe while still providing a quality education for all. I have heard and listened to feedback from you on our plan. I thank you for it.




As a District, I want us to do everything we can to keep everyone safe and healthy to the best of our ability. After further review of our plan, and continued discussions with local health experts, District Administration, Building Principals, and our Board of Education, **I have decided to transition to the Yellow Instructional Level (A/B Day schedule, 50% population) to start the 2020-2021 school year.**

I have outlined my reasoning below.

- Numerous health experts have said the three most important ways to prevent the spread of COVID-19 are wearing a mask, proper hand-washing, and social distancing. After further review and discussions with each of our buildings, I feel we can cover all three areas better by moving to the Yellow Instructional Level.
- The Yellow Instructional Level allows for increased social distancing to take place in every part of our school buildings. Educators can provide you student(s) more one-on-one attention while at school.
- The Yellow Instructional Level includes staggered arrival and dismissal times, and an a daily early student dismissal time of 2:00 pm for elementary students, 2:04 pm for middle school and 2:30 pm for high school students. This change will provide our educators with additional planning time for in-person and at-home learning. It also provides our entire staff and custodians more time to disinfect and clean each night.

- By transitioning to the Yellow Instructional Level, your student(s) will potentially receive in-person instruction for a longer time period during the school year.

GREEN LEVEL	YELLOW LEVEL	RED LEVEL
Enhanced Traditional Plan <i>In-person school Full population</i>	De-Densify Population Plan <i>Mix of in-person school and independent learning from home</i>	Remote Learning from Home <i>Students K-12 issued technology device</i>
Enhanced Health-Safety Precautions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation with added safety measures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased use of hand sanitizer, handwashing, and cleaning high touch areas • Lunch with additional safety guidelines <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited visitors to school buildings • Social distancing in classrooms, hallways, and other areas when possible • Masks required (students and staff will be provided with 2, but can use their own) • Parents doing daily symptom checks with their student(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff doing symptom checks daily • Limiting large group gatherings • After-school Programming with added safety measures 	<p><i>Students would be divided into 2 groups (A & B) and would alternate days attending school. The days they are not in school, they would do independent learning from home.</i></p> Enhanced Health-Safety Precautions <i>In addition to green level measures:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Random temperature checks • No visitors in school buildings • Lunch/breakfast in classrooms or limited group size in cafeterias • Staggered arrival and dismissal • Staggered hallway movement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No out of state travel • Limited in-state travel & field trips • Limited assemblies/pep rallies 	<p><i>Students will engage with their teacher daily online. All instruction will be delivered virtually through Zoom or Google Classroom, both through real-time instruction and independent learning.</i></p> <p><i>The District will establish a modified schedule for the school day.</i></p> Enhanced Health-Safety Precautions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will not be allowed on campus. 

I believe this move will benefit our students and staff as we move towards the start of the school year. It's important to have your student(s) back in our buildings for any amount of time to help with their social-emotional health. By moving to the Yellow Instructional Level, I feel we can execute the extra safety and health precautions needed to help keep everyone as safe as possible.

I know this decision will be inconvenient for some families in our school community. There has never been an easy decision throughout this entire pandemic. As a Ram Family, we will continue to respond with flexibility, patience, partnership, care, compassion, grit, and gratitude.

I ask you to please remain as flexible as possible to deal with the unpredictability of this virus. We all need to be prepared for movements between instructional levels throughout the school year. The District will continue our weekly meetings with local health officials and other public school leaders. These meetings will provide us updates on the health status of our community. If we need to change to a different Instructional Level, staff and families will be notified and provided enough time to prepare for the transition.

For additional information, please click on the following links:

- [Need to Know - Yellow Instructional Level](#)
- [RPS Family Role & Responsibilities for the 2020-2021 Learning Plans](#)
- [RPS Yellow Instructional Level A/B Day Learning Plan for Families](#)
- [RPS Red Instructional Level Remote Learning Plan for Parents](#)

Extended Campus Learning Program - Intent Form

The Extended Campus Learning option is available for families with students who have a documented medical reason or are not comfortable being at school because of COVID-19. Extended Campus Learning will provide students with access to grade level learning opportunities from the home. Please know we will do our very best to work with each family.

[Click this LINK for the Extended Campus Learning Intent Form and for more information about the program.](#)

In Conclusion...

Ram Family, this will be a year like no other. I believe by transitioning to the Yellow Instructional Level we can provide your student(s) the safest environment possible to be able to host in-person instruction in our buildings.

Thank you for your patience, on-going support, trust, and engagement.

Dr. Mark Adler
Superintendent
Ralston Public Schools

