

Safe Learning Plan Comments

Please note these comments have been paraphrased to include comments only regarding the WM Safe Return to In-Person Learning Plan- Draft

- Thank you for supporting and planning for an in person learning model for our students for the upcoming 2021-22 school year. It will be a key factor in getting our kids caught up and excelling in their future education goals.

I would hope, however, that you would consider adjusting the quarantine period to a more reasonable time period. The CDC has created ways to shorten the quarantine safely to 7 and 10 days. This was amended from their original firm 14 days in response and recognition of the undue hardship of extended, and often repeated quarantines. It is important for the schools consider [sic] the hardships facing our kids and let them to come [sic] back safely under these reduced quarantines. The school did it for the high school population last Spring in an effort to spur compliance and for the students to meet end of year goals. This should be broadened to incorporate all K-12 students in the upcoming school year.

The repercussions of this pandemic will cripple our community, our state, our nation, and our world in ways big and small for years to come. And I believe, none more profoundly than by our children.

Hopefully, if numbers continue to trend the way they have been it will be a minimal issue. However, the potential is high for at least some of the students to become effected [sic] by quarantines. This, I hope you will consider the shorter quarantine in order to keep the students in the classroom for as many school days as possible.

- Hello! I'm just wondering if masks will be required next school year? I hope not.
- Thank you for the email. I have more questions than comments that hopefully could be addressed for the final draft of your plan.

If we choose to get our children vaccinated, do the 14 day quarantines/mask mandates still apply? If our children have a cold it is not applicable to have them stay home and have the parents take off work for 14 days of work. If we show proof of vaccination what will be the guidelines for those vaccinated vs. unvaccinated?

Can there be additional services/programs for children who have fallen behind? Such as more para's or class assistants to help kids with reading and math if they are below the levels they are supposed to be at? Possibly adding an after-school program for those kids.

- As a concerned parent of 2 Watertown/Mayer students, I have many concerns for the next school year. I am anxiously awaiting the announcement of said community engagement opportunities. I feel it is imperative that all parents have a voice and opportunity to share and discuss their feelings about the toll this past year has taken on their children. As we approach this next school year it is more than safe to assume that all teachers and staff who are "interested" in receiving the vaccine have received it. Leaving only the students as the great unknown. Per the draft for your

Safe return to school plan the students will be “encouraged to get tested and vaccinated “. Many parents I know would never allow this vaccine in their child or children. So if the school is pushing it and influencing it on their children it puts us all in a tough place. Not to mention it creates even more division which seems to be a common theme these days. I am asking all staff of the W/M district to think long and hard about this decision. I as well as many other parents are awaiting the opportunity to discuss this the with [sic] school board. Our children are our most precious gifts and not to be taken lightly!

- In reading the proposed learning plans, I feel you all have a great starting point, although as was pointed out, it's not yet set in stone and could change.

Good luck to us all next year, right?

- Thank you for including opinions and thoughts from the families in the Watertown School District. We know this has been a very difficult time the last year on school administration and staff.

That being said; last year our family chose to remove our kids completely from the school and opted to home school. We went this route for many reasons; mask requirements, social distancing, quarantining, as well the decisions made regarding the simplified and relaxed standards of education. An educator in the district who I won't say told us that if we are able we should homeschool as this would be a much better education for our kids. So, we did and that person was right I believe after hearing about the end of the year and experiences from the year.

We will ONLY return if NO masks, NO social distancing, NO quarantining guidelines and NO mandated or required vaccines are implemented. I have observed first hand of friends whose children have needed psychological observations and medical treatment due to this last year for mental and psychological care. Kids were not the ones filling the ERs, kids were not vectors of this pandemic either and we, as the adults in the room, are doing them a huge disservice by continuing to give into this charade.

Thank you for your time. I understand from a good friend who open enrolls [sic] from Watertown to Delano they are going back to school pretty much as normal can be next [sic] year? I'm praying that's the case here with a solid education.