



IOWA

Department of Education

Ann Lebo, Director

Kim Reynolds, Governor
Adam Gregg, Lt. Governor

Via Electronic Mail Only

August 26, 2020

Matt Degner
Interim Superintendent
Iowa City Community School District

Dear Superintendent Degner:

Thank you for your request for permission to provide primarily remote or continuous learning, dated August 26, 2020.

Governor Reynolds's proclamation of disaster emergency, most recently renewed on August 21, 2020, allows the Department of Education to approve instruction through primarily remote learning, "in consultation with the Iowa Department of Public Health," based on "public health conditions in the building or district." The guidance on selecting the appropriate Return-to-Learn model released July 30, 2020, was established in consultation with the Iowa Department of Public Health. Your request contains evidence that the Iowa City Community School District does not yet meet the criteria in that guidance for moving to primarily remote learning (e.g., fourteen-day average positivity rate of 13.9 percent for Johnson County). Your request, however, notes that Johnson County's positivity rate is climbing. Both your district and Johnson County Public Health recommend primarily remote learning as a preventative, proactive response. Further, our consultation with the Iowa Department of Public Health leads us to conclude that it is appropriate to start the school year with primarily remote learning. For these reasons, your request is GRANTED for a two week period beginning on your district's currently scheduled first day of school.

In light of this determination, the Department expects that your district will temporarily cease in-person extracurricular activities for the duration of the two-week period, and this approval is conditioned upon satisfying that expectation. Extracurricular activities may continue on an online or virtual basis.

Please let me know if I can answer any additional questions or if I can provide assistance as you proceed with your future plans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Lebo".

Dr. Ann Lebo
Director

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Grimes State Office Building | 400 E. 14th St. | Des Moines, IA 50319-0146
Phone (515) 281-5294 | www.educateiowa.gov