



# IOWA

## Department of Education

Ann Lebo, Director

Kim Reynolds, Governor  
Adam Gregg, Lt. Governor

*Via Electronic Mail Only*

August 5, 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 3, 2020, and received at 4:12 p.m. on that date.

Governor Reynolds's proclamation of disaster emergency, dated July 24, 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 meet the criteria in that guidance for moving to primarily remote learning (e.g., fourteen-day average positivity rate of 6.26 percent for Johnson County). And your request, including the letter of support provided by Dave Koch, director of Johnson County Public Health) and our consultation with the Iowa Department of Public Health have not identified any other basis for concluding that it is appropriate to start the school year with primarily remote learning. For these reasons, your request is denied.

This denial does not affect the Iowa City Community School District's ability to continue providing primarily remote learning for those students whose parent or guardian voluntarily selects the remote learning opportunity from among multiple options provided by the district in accordance with your Return-to-Learn plan. Nor does it affect the district's ability to provide hybrid learning that offers at least half of its instruction in person.

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 blue ink that reads "A. Lebo".

Dr. Ann Lebo  
Director

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