



Ames™

COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

July 23, 2020

Ames Community School District is located in the heart of a college town. We are the home of Iowa State University (ISU), which brings 35,000 students from all over the country and internationally to our town per year.

In ten days, our college students will begin moving back into our community, and we anticipate a spike in positive COVID cases causing additional community spread. As community leaders, we have been working with Story County Public Health, ISU President Wendy Winterstein, our Mayor, Ames Police Department, local physicians, and other community leaders to try and put mitigation steps in place for a safe return of our college students and return to on-site instruction for our 5,100 PK-12 students.

Again, with our number of positive cases already above the state average, there is great concern that our numbers will substantially increase the end of August through September. Therefore, in partnership with Story County Public Health, we are requesting the following permission:

1.	Hybrid 1 Model
	<p>Hybrid 1 Model (approved initially on June 30, 2020): 50% capacity of students in cohort groups on-site on an AA, BB, schedule with one day being dedicated students being online and the teacher participating in online learning lesson planning, grading of online learning, progress monitoring, student assessments, and virtual student check-ins.</p> <p>In this model, we would require 14 hours of face to face instruction each week to all students (7 hours a day, 2 times per week) and would require that students spend 16 hours 36 minutes per week (5 hours and 32 minutes each day, 3 times per week) in remote learning.</p>

2.	Remote Learning
	Beginning on August 24th, we will begin the year in remote learning with the exception of all Level III and some Level II special education, students at-risk, students who do not have adequate internet access, and EL students back to on-site learning. We will then monitor our numbers weekly, along with Mary Greeley Medical Center and Story Public Health. When our Story County Public Health numbers reach a reasonable number (5-10%), we will begin our Hybrid 1 Model as described above.

Again, the uncertainty of spread related to the return of our college students, higher than average confirmed COVID cases in Story County, and the planning and implementation of returning the district's 5,100 students; we are requesting permission to implement both models indicated above.

<i>Positive COVID Average</i>
State of Iowa - 9.0% Story County - 11.4% <i>*This week has also brought a new trend in positive cases among youth ages 2-14.</i>

Jenny Risner
Superintendent
Ames Community School District
jenny.risner@ames.k12.ia.us
360-957-7066