



IOWA

Department of Education

Ann Lebo, Director

Kim Reynolds, Governor
Adam Gregg, Lt. Governor

Via E-Mail Only

July 21, 2020

Steve L. Bass
Superintendent of Schools
Urbandale Community School District

Dear Superintendent Bass:

You have requested the Department's approval for the Urbandale Community School District to provide instruction primarily through remote learning to students enrolled at Rolling Green Elementary beginning on July 23, 2020. For the reasons discussed below, the Department approves of a temporary move to primarily remote learning for Rolling Green Elementary for a two-week period from July 23, 2020 to August 6, 2020.

Pursuant to 2020 Iowa Acts Chapter 1107 (Senate File 2310), section 15, subsection 1, a brick-and-mortar school district "shall not take action to provide instruction primarily through remote-learning opportunities" unless explicitly authorized by a public health disaster emergency proclamation. Governor Reynolds issued a proclamation on July 17, 2020, authorizing such remote learning for an entire school building if approved by the Iowa Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Public Health, because of public health conditions in the building or district.

Because of its extended calendar under Iowa Code section 279.10, subsection 2, Rolling Green Elementary is the first public school scheduled to commence instruction since the enactment of 2020 Iowa Acts Chapter 1107 and the issuance of the Governor's Proclamation. The school district has already announced plans to begin instruction entirely through remote learning in less than two days. And the Iowa Department of Public Health is still in the process of finalizing its guidance that will govern the evaluation of public health conditions in a school building or district that would counsel towards a temporary move to primarily remote learning.

In light of these unique circumstances, a temporary move to primarily remote learning is appropriate. The school district should continue to prepare for Rolling Green Elementary to move to in-person or hybrid instruction that is not primarily remote learning at or before the end of this two-week period, consistent with the requirements of 2020 Iowa Acts Chapter 1107 and Department guidance.

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Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or wish to discuss your plans for safely welcoming back your students.

Sincerely,

Ann Lebo, Director
Iowa Department of Education

CC: Amy Williamson
Thomas A. Mayes
Danielle Haindfield