October 23, 2020

Lisa Beames
Superintendent
West Burlington Community School District

Dear Superintendent Beames:

Thank you for your request for permission to provide primarily remote or continuous learning for the West Burlington Junior-Senior High School building, dated October 21, 2020.

Governor Reynolds’s proclamation of disaster emergency, most recently renewed on October 16, 2020, allows the Iowa Department of Education (“Department”) 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. As of October 22, 2020, the fourteen-day positivity rate in Des Moines County is 14.8 percent. You reported absenteeism rates of 15.25 percent for the Junior High School and 13.81 percent for the Senior High School. The Department is mindful of the fact that the Junior High School and the Senior High School share a building.

The positivity rate and the absenteeism rate are levels where it is reasonable to request primarily remote learning under the Department’s guidance. Additionally, neither the Department nor the Iowa Department of Public Health know of any facts that would suggest primarily remote learning is not reasonable. After consultation with the Iowa Department of Public Health and considering the facts as a whole, the Department GRANTS your request for Junior High School and the Senior High School for the period requested: October 26, 2020, to November 6, 2020.

In light of this determination, the Department expects that your district will temporarily cease in-person extracurricular activities for the Junior High School and the Senior High School, for the duration of the period requested, 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,
Dr. Ann Lebo
Director