



IOWA

Department of Education

Ann Lebo, Director

Kim Reynolds, Governor
Adam Gregg, Lt. Governor

Via Electronic Mail Only

August 25, 2020

Brian VanderSluis
Superintendent
Twin Cedars Community School District

Dear Superintendent VanderSluis:

Your application to provide primarily remote learning for the Twin Cedars Community School District, submitted on August 24, 2020, has been considered by the Iowa Department of Education (“Department”).

Pursuant to 2020 Iowa Acts Chapter 1107 (Senate File 2310), section 15, subsection 1, a 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 has issued a proclamation 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. And the Department issued guidance on selecting the appropriate Return-to-Learn model on July 30, 2020, in consultation with the Iowa Department of Public Health.

The Department has reviewed your application, considered our guidance, and consulted with the Iowa Department of Public Health. The application and supporting documents, as well as the information available to the Department and the Iowa Department of Public Health, show that Marion County’s fourteen-day positivity rate was, at the time of your letter, 14.9 percent. As of this date, the positivity rate is 15.2 percent. The information also shows a large number of Twin Cedars employees have tested positive for COVID-19 or are in quarantine. While the school year has just started and your district does not have absenteeism data, we do not consider that to be a barrier to granting your request. The Department concludes local public health conditions make it appropriate for the Twin Cedars Community School District to temporarily move to primarily remote learning for a two-week period beginning on August 26, 2020.

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

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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". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A" and a long, sweeping underline.

Dr. Ann Lebo
Director