

May 21, 2021

USD 345 Staff and Families:

This has been a year of many challenges, changes, pivots, and adjustments; yet, our students, staff, board members, and parents have consistently done everything possible to make this another successful year of learning with incredible student achievements. I truly feel we have only grown closer as we've worked through obstacles and overcome the difficulties this year has brought forth.

As I mentioned at the last board meeting, it is my hope to return to normalcy as soon as possible. With new and positive updates from the CDC and our local health department, I'm confident that dream will become a reality and next year will look more like a normal school year for our kids, families, and staff.

Our Ready 2 Reopen (R2R) plan has helped guide our district of 4,000 kids, nine school buildings, and 800 staff in a consistent manner with the health and safety of our school community as our number one priority. The R2R plan was never intended to go beyond the 2020-21 school year and will therefore be set to expire on the last day of school, which is May 26, after kids are dismissed and teachers are off duty.

Of course, COVID-19 will still affect our decision making and planning; however, factual data in our county and schools have remained low for the last semester and seems to be trending in a manageable path. We will continue monitoring and working closely with our health professionals while maintaining our efforts in handwashing and disinfecting regularly. Other COVID mitigation strategies such as masking, cohorting, and social distancing will become optional this summer and next school year. The science and evidence is continually changing and we will stay informed and keep our school community updated with information as it relates to our learning environments and the health and safety of our community.

Our district has worked through differences, made sacrifices, and focused on what's best for our kids. I am grateful for the support and flexibility shown by our students, staff, and families. Your willingness to work together through good and hard times make this district a truly special place to live, work, and grow.

Sincerely,

Dr. Steve Noble
Superintendent