



Dear NKC Schools families,

I hope you all are finding ways to enjoy the summer months with family while continuing to navigate an ongoing global pandemic. Concerns about COVID-19 and how to safely reopen schools have certainly been top of mind for me since this spring. While I wish I could tell you our school district has all the answers, I can absolutely assure you that we are constantly working to stay on top of the ever-changing reality of COVID-19.

Today, NKC Schools is publishing our [Return to School Plan](#) which was created in collaboration with other local school districts incorporating input from medical professionals, public health agencies, parents, teachers, support staff and other stakeholder groups. As new information continues to present itself, expect this plan to be updated and made current with the latest guidance. I know it's not possible to please everyone with a single plan. Rest assured, however, that it was created with a focus on doing what is best for the entire school community, making every effort to keep students and staff as safe as possible.

As I've visited July summer school sites, I have been truly inspired. Initially, I wasn't sure what to expect as I have spent nearly all of my time since March 13 at Central Office working with district leadership to keep kids fed, provide online learning and ensure staff were safe, employed and paid. On my visits, I wore my mask and saw kids and staff doing the very same! I was greeted by administrators who had well-organized plans to ensure all safety measures were being followed. Our buildings were as clean as any hospital I've ever visited. Our teachers were excited and brought great energy to the classrooms. Most importantly, our kids were having fun! They didn't seem too worried about their masks, which was a relief to me. I remain confident in our ability to offer a high-quality education to those we serve.

Flexibility, grace and patience will be key elements to the reopening of schools on August 24. While we are prepared for all students to return at that time, parents who are not comfortable sending their child/children to the school site should contact their principal to discuss possible options by July 31. I've described our approach more like a dimmer switch as opposed to a light switch. Rather than turning school on or off, learning in NKC Schools will flow flexibly based on the situation COVID-19 presents and in best service to families and the community. I take the responsibility seriously of keeping everyone safe while educating over 21,000 students.

Should you have general questions, feel free to click the [Questions-Comments-Kudos](#) button on our district website. You can either select your school or the coronavirus button to begin communicating.

Thank you for your commitment to supporting our schools and the students, teachers and staff that bring them to life. We will stay on top of current events regarding COVID-19 throughout the next month and a half, keeping you informed of important changes along the way. Working together in partnership with our families and community, NKC Schools will successfully navigate this new way of being together!

Your partner in education,