

WELLINGTON School District

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Leaders of Innovative Future-Focused Real World Learning



Dear USD 353 and Wellington Community,

During the Monday, July 27 USD 353 BOE special meeting, members approved a delayed start to the 2020-21 school year. The first day of school will now be on Sept. 8. Guidance from our local health officials stated that the delayed start would allow enough time for some of the current local virus incubation periods to pass. This means that starting after Labor Day provides less of a chance that the start of school would be directly connected to a trend upwards in Wellington cases. We have been closely following recommendations and guidelines from the Sumner County Health Department and will continue to do so. We appreciate their guidance and professionalism.

Here are the next steps for USD 353:

- **Calendar:** The calendar committee will meet to develop a new 2020-21 calendar. They will put together different options for the BOE to review at the August 10th meeting.
- **Online Enrollment:** Please go to the USD 353 website to enroll your student. This is the same as in previous years. There will be more information released soon regarding casino card pick up and Kindergarten students ASQ assessments.
- **Reopening Plan:** A summary of the district's reopening plan was presented to the BOE at last night's meeting for discussion and feedback. The BOE approved our summary of the plan. District task force teams will now begin meeting to work on filling in the details. We understand that everybody is at a different comfort level regarding the reopening of schools. **There will be an in-person option for students and a 100% remote option.** Local health guidelines and restrictions will continue to be monitored until school starts. This will dictate the type of in-person learning that will occur when school starts. Depending on where health guidelines are during the school year, the plan allows the district to use a hybrid schedule for in-person learning when needed. See the draft of the reopening plan for more details [here](#). The BOE will meet on August 6th for a planning session regarding the plan. After that, a more detailed draft will be presented for approval at the August 10th BOE meeting.

- **Health Guidelines:** At this time, we will continue to follow health guidelines from local and state health officials. The guidelines at this time require masks for staff and students (with noted exceptions), hand sanitizing/washing hourly, and temperature checks before entering the school. You can see the full executive order [here](#). We will continue to meet with local health officials to monitor and adjust this as needed as the school year draws closer.

As we plan, our mission has been to do what is best for students while remaining flexible and promoting health guidelines. I want to thank our amazing teachers and staff for their hard work and the community for their flexibility and support. Please check the USD 353 website often for more information and updates.

Sincerely,
Adam Hatfield
Superintendent, USD 353