

Dear WCSD Family—

First, I want to thank you all for your dedication, hard work, and flexibility during these unprecedented and unpredictable times. As educators and professionals, no matter what position you hold in our district, you are the keystone to our schools; we could not do the work of providing quality education, as well as social and emotional support to our 64,000 students without you. You are valued by our Board, our Leadership Team and me.

With this gratitude, I want to share with you that at its public meeting last night, the WCSD Board of Trustees made important decisions about the upcoming school year.

After deep consideration of data presented and provided by county and state health officials, as well as results from family and certified staff surveys regarding returning to school, the Board has voted to reaffirm its previously announced plans for onsite classes for elementary students and a hybrid plan for middle- and high school students. Distance Learning will remain an option for all students.

I understand that these are difficult and challenging times for all of us. We will continue to work to provide our employees with guidance and direction in order to open our schools and support functions safely. As I stated at the meeting last night, we must work together as an entire community to help mitigate the spread of the virus; that includes the wearing of face coverings, social distancing, and hygiene practices.

Also yesterday, Governor Sisolak released Emergency Directive 028, which provides important details on the opening of schools across our state. You can see the directive [here](#).

In listening to our staff and the request to have virtual forums for employees, we have scheduled a forum for August 7 and then another one on August 10. We will send out more information on these forums in the coming days so you can participate.

WCSD is posting information about COVID-19 and the return to teaching and learning at www.washoeschools.net/reopening and will continue to update information as details become available. This information includes recent and important updates about how potential COVID-19 exposures, positive cases, and exclusions will be handled in our schools.

We know the 2020-2021 school year is going to look and feel different. That is a fact. Together, we will take on these challenges – and opportunities –to solve concerns and issues through collaboration and understanding. I want to thank each of you for all you do to support our educational mission and the needs of our families and students. They are depending on us, and I know as a long-term WCSD employee myself, we can do this together.

With kindness, respect, and gratitude,

Kristen