

Moving All Student Back to Full-Time

Governor Polis recently announced that he feels we are moving to a stage where in person learning is becoming safer. That, along with announcements by larger districts (such as Jefferson County), saying they are exploring full in person learning, has raised the question about what 100% in person learning will look like for Strasburg School District.

Governor Polis has been specifically speaking to districts that have been in complete remote learning for some or all of their students. He is advocating that those districts that are continuing to work in a remote model consider a hybrid model which, in his opinion, is in person learning.

Rural Districts like Strasburg have been providing in person learning all year. Although middle and high school students have been on a hybrid model, they are still receiving in-person instruction. We recently moved the 6th grade back to 100% in person. Before we moved the 6th graders back to full-time in person, we took into consideration our ability to transport them, provide lunch in a safe environment, and our ability to ensure consistent cohorts. Our 6th grade students stay within the same class cohort all day as opposed to 7-12th grade students who change class groupings every hour.

The District leadership has consistently maintained a laser focus on providing our students with a safe learning environment that is committed to maximizing quality instruction. We know that students need to be back to school in the most “normal” way possible. The vaccine had been a ray of light to help us move in that direction.

The vaccine has not, however, changed the regulations requiring social distancing, quarantine requirements, or mask wearing. Students ages 18 and under currently aren't allowed to receive the vaccine, yet high school aged students transmit the virus at the same level as adults.

District leadership is committed to exploring every avenue to provide a normal experience for our students. We will continue to review our facility capacity along with changes in the state regulations. We look forward to the day when we can safely bring all of our students back in a full-time model. We will do that as soon as it is safe to do so.

The hybrid model has been extremely difficult for all of us. All of our staff also would prefer a return to normal times; however, the situation at this time prevents that from happening. We will continue to work tirelessly to provide our students with activities, clubs, and experiences that make school a fun and fulfilling experience.

Thank you for the support you've given our students and staff.