



July 23, 2020

Prairie Families:

To indicate your preference for the Temporary Virtual Learning Option model for your child(ren) for first semester please [CLICK HERE](#). We are pleased to be able to offer this model as a choice for parents and have been working hard to onboard this model for parents who may need it, especially for our most medically fragile students. As a new model for our district, this type of learning requires a great deal of time to onboard. Deadlines are set to ensure effective student experiences in this model through adequate staffing and virtual support strategies.

Included in this letter are the most frequently asked questions that have come in through the parent survey sent when we released our plan. I would encourage families to use the family [Return to Learn Follow Up Survey](#) to register your questions as we cannot track all social media comments. If you would like your voice heard, please use the survey and we can continue to add to this list of Frequently Asked Questions and considerations.

As we work through these challenges, we are aware that every model poses differing challenges to our families and staff. There is a high level of complexity to this work with all the moving parts of a large district, the work continues past the release of any plan or announced model. We are putting forth our very best effort and time to balance the variety of reported needs of our families with the priority of keeping students and staff safe. At this time, we are working on specific building-level processes to support the various models.

We would like to again stress that it is very likely that all of the models (Onsite, Hybrid, and Online) presented in the [Return to Learn Plan](#) will be necessary at some point during the first semester to respond to local conditions. For example, the model used during the first weeks of school may not be the model being used in October. We will work to maximize the notification times to the greatest extent possible to allow families to respond. Ordered closures and closures due to outbreaks cannot be predicted in advance, which impacts communication timelines.

The preferred model, if feasible and safe due to local conditions, remains the Onsite Model. The majority of our families have reported their support of a safe return to onsite learning during the fall and we are working to develop scenarios that make this feasible. Therefore, if you are uncomfortable with having your child onsite in the presented Onsite Model at any point during the first semester, you may want to consider the Temporary Virtual Learning Option.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How will the district handle COVID cases or quarantine requirements?

The Department of Education will be releasing guidance specific to COVID related illnesses. That guidance is expected to be released the first week of August. We will design our protocols for COVID related illness based on this guidance and collaboration with Linn County Health.

At the moment we know: Due to privacy, we will not be able to release the names of individuals, but will inform those in contact of exposure. Current guidelines for contact tracing suggest that anyone in a classroom with an infected individual will be asked to quarantine for 14 days.

During quarantine, students will either receive work from their teacher and be supported by another district staff member in the completion of that work OR receive instruction from the teacher using the Online Learning Model and schedule if the teacher and majority of the class are in quarantine. Students will not be reassigned to the Temporary Virtual Learning Option if placed in standard 14-day quarantine.

2. Will all children from the same household be assigned to the same cohort for Hybrid Learning?

We will work to assign families to the same Cohort. We will try to prioritize alignment between elementary (K-6) and secondary (7-12) to the greatest extent possible, however, differences in attendance days between secondary and elementary may be unavoidable.

3. Why is the deadline to enroll in Temporary Virtual Learning before the date that the district will announce the selected model for the first day of school?

The Temporary Virtual Learning Option is new to College Community and it is in response to the need to provide parents a choice. If we were to onboard this program during a “regular” school year, we would require one to two years to work out details; however, we do not have that available time and need to adhere to internal deadlines to ensure we can fully deploy this program effectively. As a new model, there are many logistical and operational details we are working to address. We recognize the timing of the sign-up is tight for families; however, we need to establish enrollment and staffing to ensure we can onboard this new program for families that need it by the start of school.

4. Can the deadline to enroll in Temporary Virtual Learning be pushed back until we know whether the hybrid model or full onsite model will be used?

We are working to be ahead of the deadlines in the plan, but listed those as final deadlines because we are committed to releasing plans that are actionable for our situation. Situations and directives from the state continue to change, impacting the planning process for us and many other districts.

5. What will the Temporary Virtual Learning Option look like?

Edgenuity - K-6

- Students will complete age-appropriate, engaging lessons with access to tools that support learning, including text to speech, audio and translation, text and picture dictionaries, and more. This [Edgenuity Video](#) provides more information about Edgenuity.
- A College Community teacher will monitor student progress and performance and provide feedback, support, course management and check ins. This CCSD staff member may not be staffed in your child(ren)s regularly attended school site and will be providing support virtually.

Apex (7-12)

- Apex courses are built to standards to meet strict high school graduation requirements with a rigorous curriculum. Engaging content keeps students interested and motivated to succeed. Courses are designed to help students learn independently. This [Apex Courses Video](#) provides more information about Apex.
- A College Community teacher will monitor student progress and performance and provide feedback, support, course management and check ins. This CCSD staff member may not be staffed at your child(ren)s regularly attended school site and will be providing support virtually.

6. What is the difference between the Temporary Virtual Learning Option and Homeschool?

If a family chooses the Temporary Virtual Learning Option, the student is enrolled in the College Community School District. The district will provide:

- Access to online courses that are aligned to the Common Core State Standards and Iowa Core Standards through a robust instructional platform (Edgenuity K-6 or Apex 7-12).
- A College Community School District teacher to oversee, support, and monitor student progress in the online courses.

If a family chooses to Homeschool, the student is not enrolled in the College Community School District. The district will provide upon request:

- Curricular resources that are provided to students at College Community Schools

Instructional resources are not provided for homeschool students.

Please contact Kathy Waychoff kwaychoff@crprairie.org with questions regarding Homeschool.

7. Why can't teachers livecast lessons to those not in school and distribute/collect/grade work as the temporary virtual option?

For the safety of children onsite during this health crisis, teachers must have the ability to fully attend to both the educational needs of children on site and to their health and safety. This is especially important as teachers at all grade levels work to include new precautions related to distancing and sanitization and adjust to new routines and strategies related to these conditions. Additionally, since teachers will be teaching onsite students full time, it is not feasible for that teacher to also provide adequate online support to students in the virtual setting that would match the ongoing experience that can be achieved in the Temporary Virtual Model.

8. What will Temporary Virtual Learning Option look like if my child receives special education services?

If a family chooses the Temporary Virtual Learning Option for their student with special education services, the district will meet with the child's IEP team to determine how the child will access, participate and progress as it relates to the district's Return to Learn Plan.

In addition to the online learning provided for the child's grade level (Edgenuity or APEX), specially designed instruction will be provided utilizing both synchronous and/or asynchronous platforms while utilizing our primary curricular resource of IXL or Unique Learning.

9. What will specially designed instruction look like in the Temporary Virtual Learning Option?

There are two online curricular options for IEP teams to consider.

- For the majority of students who receive instruction in reading, writing, or math, IXL will be the primary resources teachers will utilize to provide specially designed instruction. This is an online platform that can be accessed by students in a synchronous and asynchronous setting. This [IXL link](#) will provide you with additional information about IXL.
- The IEP team may determine the child's needs may best be met using Unique Learning. The Unique Learning System is an interactive, online program designed specifically to give students with complex learning needs meaningful access to the general education curriculum. Lessons are differentiated and aligned with the Iowa Core Standards. This [Unique Learning System link](#) will provide you with additional information about Unique Learning System.