Priorities:
Staff members will be provided with appropriate tools and support to be resilient for the year ahead. Parents will be provided adequate information to determine the safest learning environment for their child. Students will be taken care of emotionally, physically, and academically regardless of their learning plan.

Guiding Principles:

- We are working diligently to create an on-site learning environment that supports academic and emotional growth while being realistic to the fact that we cannot always promise social distancing.

- No one control strategy alone can limit the transmission of disease. We will implement a variety of mitigation strategies and continue to research best-practice protocols.

- We believe curricular, extracurricular, and co-curricular experiences are vitally important to the wellbeing of our kids.

- We believe that face-to-face interactions are imperative to the learning process.

- All families, students, and staff must understand and follow the protocols and expectations outlined in this document.

DRPS has developed three instructional models (on-site, hybrid, virtual). The Return to Learn (RTL) plan outlines protocols within each focus component as initiated by the instructional model being implemented. When appropriate, a tiered explanation is included. Each school campus can move independently between tiers, and protocols may change based on the most up-to-date information being provided by health partners.

Disclaimer: The Return to Learn (RTL) plan is a fluid document and will change as we acquire additional information and community health data. A date will be included on the top of the document, and significant changes will be paired with notification to parents.

DRSD must provide a standard level of care, and we are committed to doing so. Accordingly, the district will implement strategies to mitigate risk, but we are unable to eliminate all health risks.
Instruction

LEVEL 1 – Traditional Classroom Learning
100% of students are taught on-site at their respective campuses.

Although we hope to return to our “Old Normal,” we anticipate School Year 20-21 will be spent in Levels II, III, and IV. For this reason, Level I is not described, although we remain optimistic that we will return at some point.

LEVEL 2 – Traditional Learning Paired with Parallel Instruction

On-site learning is offered to 100% of K-12 students. Parents/families who do not feel comfortable sending their students to school for on-site learning may have a virtual option provided to them. In choosing off-site parallel learning, parents/guardians are committing to support their student’s education at home with virtual instruction provided by the school and are expected to abide by established school guidelines. If a parent/guardian opts for virtual learning, they must communicate their intention to the building principal by August 10. Any family choosing virtual learning must adhere to attendance policy and guidelines, grading systems, and academic integrity.

School Issued Devices
DRPS will provide devices for students in Grades 3-12 to use at home. Options for devices in Grades KP-2, may also be available.

Attendance
Attendance for all students will be consistent with district policy. Students in MS/HS that choose to participate in offsite parallel learning will be required to sign-on to live classroom instruction throughout the school day as if they were attending school in person. This practice will serve as their attendance. Students in ES will be offered both prerecorded or live instruction. Attendance for ES will be taken and will be based upon viewing/joining instructional videos, work completion, and check-in with school staff. K-12 off-site students will be required to check in with teachers on a predetermined scheduled basis. Off-site students may be asked to come into the school in a 1:1 or small group for routine curriculum assessments.

Grading/Due Dates/Timelines
All grades for students in grades K-12 will be consistent with grading scales and policies outlined through building and district policy/practices. Assignment due dates and timelines will remain consistent as to those that are attending onsite learning unless otherwise determined by an individualized learning plan or IEP.

Curriculum Content
All students participating in off-site parallel learning will be expected to complete all content that on-site learners are completing unless otherwise determined by an individualized learning plan or IEP.

Special Education
Special education students will follow the above protocols. Students whose IEP requires additional support will be provided additional online support with either a certified teacher or educational associate at pre-scheduled times via a web conferencing platform. Students who are receiving individualized instruction per his or her IEP will be offered the opportunity to attend on-site with specific protocols for disinfection, social distancing, and other appropriate guidelines as identified by public health officials. Related services will be delivered via teletherapy. Activities

Students choosing Parallel Instruction will not be able to participate in extracurricular activities.
LEVEL 3 – Hybrid Instruction

Hybrid Learning will go into effect when the DRSD is advised by local, state, or medical agencies to decrease capacity. During Hybrid Instruction, school buildings could be at 50% capacity (50% of students on-site and 50% remote learners), or individual schools will redistribute students into alternative learning environments to reduce capacity in specific locations. A hybrid schedule such as A/B schedule, am/pm, etc. will be determined. This schedule may designate the rotation of on-site and remote learning. During this time, students that are not on-site will participate in Remote Learning.

Unless directed otherwise, elementary and middle school students will stay on campus. Capacity expectations can be met by exploring options of spreading students into new learning environments or keeping students in static rooms.

School Issued Devices
DRPS will provide devices for students in Grades 3-12 to use at home. Options for devices in KP-2 may also be available.

Attendance
Attendance for all students will be consistent with district policy. On off-site scheduled days, students in MS/HS will be required to sign-in to live classroom instruction throughout the school day as if they were attending in person. This practice will serve as their attendance. Students in ES will be required to complete virtual or paper packet assignments during off-site days.

Grading/Due Dates/Timelines
Grades for all students will be consistent with grading policies outlined through building and district policy/practices. Assignment due dates and timelines will mirror those attending On-Site Learning, unless otherwise determined by an individualized learning plan or IEP.

Curriculum Content
Students participating in hybrid learning will be expected to complete all content unless otherwise determined by an individualized learning plan or IEP.

Special Education
Special education students will follow the above protocols. Students whose IEP requires additional support will be provided additional online support with either a certified teacher or educational associate at pre-scheduled times via a web conferencing platform. Students who are receiving individualized instruction per his or her IEP will be offered the opportunity to attend on-site with specific protocols for disinfection, social distancing and other appropriate guidelines as identified by public health officials. Related services will be delivered via teletherapy.
LEVEL 4- Remote Learning for All Students

Remote learning will go into effect when the Dell Rapids School district is advised by local, state, or medical agencies to cease on-site instruction. In this situation, all K-12 students will be instructed remotely.

School Issued Devices
DRPS will provide devices for students in Grades 3-12 to use at home. Options for devices in KP-2 may also be available.

Attendance
Each building will develop criteria for daily attendance. This criterion may include, but is not limited to daily checkins, work completion, viewing recorded instruction, and participation in real-time virtual instruction.

Grading/Due Dates/Timelines
Grades for all students will be consistent with grading policies outlined through building and district policy/practices. Assignment due dates and timelines may be altered given the situation that placed the school into Remote Learning. All work completion will be required and graded according to the class grading scale.

Curriculum/Content
Every effort will be made to continue to teach all content standards to students K-12.

Special Education
Special education students will follow the above protocols. Students whose IEP requires additional support will be provided additional online support with either a certified teacher or educational associate at pre-scheduled times via a web conferencing platform. Students who are receiving individualized instruction per his or her IEP will be offered the opportunity to attend on-site with specific protocols for disinfection, social distancing, and other appropriate guidelines as identified by public health officials. Related services will be delivered via teletherapy.
# Health Protocols

## LEVEL 1

No excessive or additional health protocols necessary.

## LEVEL 2

Staff and parents self-screen at home (passive screening). A checklist of COVID-19 symptoms will be mailed home and given to staff.

Signage will be at school entrances, which consists of the common symptoms of COVID-19 and appropriate steps to take when these symptoms are present.

Hand sanitizing stations will be installed throughout the buildings and entrances. Students will be expected to sanitize.

Students who report to staff any of the following symptoms will be referred to the designated isolation room, and they will have their temperature taken and be further assessed as deemed appropriate by the school nurse and/or health aide.

Professional development will be provided to all staff regarding the recognition of COVID-19 symptoms. Staff will be provided signage and symptom checklists to have in each of their classrooms as well as other signage to promote the prevention of COVID-19 spread. Students exhibiting these symptoms will discretely be referred to the isolation room; their temperature will be taken and will be further assessed as deemed appropriate by the school nurse and/or health aide.

## LEVEL 3

Active screening on-site will take place for all students and staff. All Level 2 protocols continue.

## LEVEL 4

Active screening on-site will take place for all students and staff. All Level 2 protocols continue.
# Testing and Exposure Guidelines

## Students and Staff Daily Self-Screening

**Appendix B** “Staff & Student Screening Checklist”

- Students and staff must complete a self-assessment and temperature check each morning before coming to school. *(see appendix B – “Staff & Student Screening Checklist”).*
- Students and staff should stay home if sick with any illness and/or demonstrate symptoms of COVID-19.
- If a student or staff stays home or demonstrates symptoms of COVID-19 they will follow the return to school criteria listed below.
- Appendix A will also be emailed to families.

## Students or staff becoming ill or showing symptoms of COVID-19 during the school day

- Isolate the student or staff.
- Offer a cloth face covering if student/staff is not already wearing one.
- Screen student/staff – temperature check, etc.
- Contact parent/guardian and send student home.
- Parents of students will need to promptly respond.
- Send staff home.
- If a student or staff stays home or demonstrates symptoms of COVID-19 they will follow the return to school criteria listed below.
- Sanitize student/staff desk, chair, locker, or used spaces.
- Following usage, sanitize the isolation area.
- Maintain confidentiality of all student/staff health information.

## Students or staff return to school criteria

- 14-days and symptom free or
- A negative COVID-19 test or
- Documentation allowing return from a healthcare provider.
- Positive COVID-19 test or identified as a close contact).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IF AN INDIVIDUAL TESTED POSITIVE IN A DIAGNOSTIC COVID-19 TEST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>POSITIVE COVID 19 case</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ISOLATION</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>See Appendix C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Isolation or Quarantine”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Positive COVID-19 cases may discontinue isolation under the following conditions:</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• At least 10 days have passed since symptom onset and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• At least 24-hours have passed since the resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medication and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Other symptoms have improved.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The individual with a positive case will need a letter from SDDOH or their healthcare provider stating that the individual has been cleared from isolation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Families will need to initiate this process.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **CLOSE CONTACT to a Positive COVID-19 case**                |
| **QUARANTINE**                                               |
| See Appendix C                                               |
| “Isolation or Quarantine”                                    |
| • Close contact will be determined by the SDDOH in consultation with school officials and the student’s family or the staff member. |
| • If identified as a close contact, quarantine of 14 days starts from date of last exposure; if student or staff was last exposed on Friday to a positive case, 14-day period starts from that Friday. |
| • A student or staff cannot test out of being a close contact who is quarantined. Symptoms can appear within a 2 to 14 day window. |
| • SDDOH will set up a process for symptom monitoring-via phone or text messaging. |
# Food Service

## LEVEL 1

No additional or excessive food service protocols necessary.

## LEVEL 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elementary School</th>
<th>Middle School</th>
<th>High School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single grab and go breakfast option.</td>
<td>Single grab and go breakfast option.</td>
<td>Breakfast will be available at the Quarrier Station as grab-and-go and eaten in 1st block classroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Handwashing prior to lunch.</td>
<td>Handwashing prior to lunch</td>
<td>The lunch release schedule is staggered to limit student occupancy in the commons area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunchroom operates at limited capacity.</td>
<td>Lunchroom operates at limited capacity.</td>
<td>Three entree options for high school - no pizza station or salad bar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single cold OR hot meal option for all students on a prepared lunch tray.</td>
<td>Lunch release is staggered to limit student occupancy</td>
<td>High school gym is used for entrance and exit from the commons. Hallways through the middle school will not be utilized.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seating charts.</td>
<td>Single cold OR hot meal option for all students on a prepared lunch tray.</td>
<td>No returning to the servery for extras - must be picked up the first time through.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combination of lunchroom and classroom space for lunch time.</td>
<td>Combination of lunchroom and classroom space for lunch time.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No returning to the servery for extras - must be picked up the first time through.</td>
<td>No returning to the servery for extras - must be picked up the first time through.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ALL BUILDINGS

- Kitchen and lunch supervising staff wear masks
- Tables and chairs cleaned between use
- No self-serve beside pre-packaged (MS/HS); Everything will be behind the counter, including milk, utensils, and condiments.
- Physical distancing efforts for all students during breakfast/lunch.
- Lunch tables will have plexiglass dividers.
- Trays will be returned to tables located around the cafeteria and hallways.
### LEVEL 3

All Level 2 protocols continue unless building or room capacity restrictions interfere. Capacity limitations will be strictly enforced, forcing more students to eat in the classroom setting or alternative dining areas.

### LEVEL 4

Remote learning enacted – Meal distribution will be offered under CANS (Child and Adult Nutrition Services) requirements.
## School Operation

### LEVEL 1

No excessive or additional school operation protocols necessary.

### LEVEL 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Elementary School</strong></th>
<th><strong>Middle School</strong></th>
<th><strong>High School</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Entrances</strong></td>
<td><strong>Entrances</strong></td>
<td><strong>Entrances</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students enter at assigned entrances each day. (TBD)</td>
<td>Students enter in assigned entrances Grade 5-South entrance Grade 6-Southeast entrance Grade 7: Northeast entrance Grade 8-North entrance</td>
<td>Students enter and exit through main north and south entrances</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Student Cohorts</strong></td>
<td><strong>Student Cohorts</strong></td>
<td><strong>Classrooms</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRES will make every effort to cohort groups of students. Cohort levels: grade level cohort, classroom cohort, and within classroom cohorts. Different grade levels will not assemble. Whole grade levels (Example: 3rd graders) will be assembled during portions of the day such as recess or physically distanced lunch.</td>
<td>DRMS will make every effort to cohort groups of students. Grade levels will be kept together, Classroom Cohorts will be kept together, Smaller cohorts within each class when possible. Cohorts will remain together during lunch. Grade levels will not mix during recess.</td>
<td>All classroom desks are arranged to face the same direction and to contain the most feasible distance between at all times.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Classroom Seating</strong></td>
<td><strong>Classroom Seating</strong></td>
<td><strong>Media Center</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desks to be distanced as close to six feet apart as possible for the space and all facing the same direction. Any student carpet/rug seating should be 4-6 feet apart in assigned seating and will be limited to small groups.</td>
<td>Desks to be distanced as close to six feet apart as possible within each space. Students will face the same direction.</td>
<td>Library/media center is available if proper social distancing can be maintained.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lockers</strong></td>
<td><strong>Lockers</strong></td>
<td><strong>Hallways/Passing Time</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group use of lockers will be restricted to half of a classroom at a time at the beginning and end of day/recess.</td>
<td>Students will only use it upon entering school (coats, phones, etc.) Backpacks may be utilized throughout the day. Locker assignments spread as widely as possible.</td>
<td>Passing time will have restrictions on restrooms and locker usage to avoid crowds. Hallways will have designated two-way traffic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Recess</strong></td>
<td><strong>Recess</strong></td>
<td><strong>Lockers</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor recess will be restricted to grade-level cohorts. Inside recess will be in classrooms.</td>
<td>Outdoor recess will be restricted to grade-level cohorts. If recess is held inside, students will remain in classrooms.</td>
<td>Locker access is restricted to before or after school and after lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Student Drop-Off/ Pick-Up During School</strong></td>
<td><strong>Student Pick-up during school</strong></td>
<td><strong>Office Occupancy</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any student needing to be picked up or dropped off during the school, the parent/guardian must call the school office. School personnel will meet parent/guardian(s) at the front door.</td>
<td>Any student needing to be picked up during the school day will have the parent/guardian call the school office upon arrival. Student will then be dismissed from the office.</td>
<td>To maintain the health and safety of our office staff, we ask that outside visits be limited unless necessary or is a pre-scheduled meeting with school personnel. Office occupancy is limited to four people (which does not include secretary and principal.) Social distancing must be practiced.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Office Access

To maintain the health and safety of our office staff, we ask that outside visits be limited unless necessary or is a pre-scheduled meeting with school personnel. Office occupancy is limited to five people (which does not include secretary, principal, and school nurse). Physical distancing must be practiced.

Library

Library will occur in the classroom. Book options will be available on a library cart brought to students by the librarian. Students may request books to be checked out which will be delivered to their teacher.

Hallways

Staggered schedules will allow for decreased two-way student traffic in hallways. Students traveling in the hall will remain on the right side, to allow distanced two-way hallway traffic.

Office Access

To maintain the health and safety of our office staff, we ask that outside visits be limited unless necessary or is a pre-scheduled meeting with school personnel. Office occupancy is limited to four people (which does not include secretary, principal, and school nurse). Social distancing must be practiced.

Media Center

Access and use of the media center will be by appointment and only to a predetermined capacity. One grade per day will be scheduled into the space. Students will be encouraged to utilize classroom/grade level libraries. Books from the media center can be checked out through a request to deliver from the library staff.

Hallways

Staggered schedules will allow for decreased two-way student traffic in hallways. Hallways will be marked with lines at six-foot intervals to encourage proper distancing.

Field Trips - Field trips will be restricted.

Visitors/Building Access - Building access allowed only to approved school personnel and critical healthcare contracted personnel. Parents, families, volunteers, and any other visitors are restricted from visiting the school. **This excludes scenarios such as discipline related occurrences, pre-scheduled student meetings or conferences, IEPs, MDTs, and any other meeting mandated by law. Facility use requests will not be approved.

The district will not accept facility use requests.

Water Fountains - Drinking fountains will not be available for use. Water bottle filling stations will be available throughout the building for use. Students are asked to bring water bottles that are labeled with their first and last names.

ALL BUILDINGS
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>LEVEL 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Elementary School</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Entrances</strong></td>
<td>Students enter at assigned entrances each day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Student Cohorts</strong></td>
<td>DRES will make every effort to cohort groups of students. Cohort levels: classroom cohort, and within classroom cohorts. Different grade levels and classrooms will not assemble.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Classroom Seating</strong></td>
<td>Desks to be distanced as close to six feet apart as possible for the space and all facing the same direction. Any student carpet/rug seating should be 4-6 feet apart in assigned seating and will be limited to small groups.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lockers</strong></td>
<td>Group use of lockers will be restricted to half of a classroom at a time at the beginning and end of day/recess.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Recess</strong></td>
<td>Outdoor recess will be restricted to class level cohorts. Inside recess will be in classrooms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Student Drop-Off/ Pick-Up During School</strong></td>
<td>Any student needing to be picked up or dropped off during the school, the parent/guardian must call the school office. School personnel will meet parent/guardian(s) at the front door.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Office Access</strong></td>
<td>In order to maintain the health and safety of our office staff, we ask that outside visits be limited unless absolutely necessary or is a prescheduled meeting with school personnel. Office occupancy is limited to five people (which does not include secretary and principal). Social distancing must be practiced.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Middle School</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Entrances</strong></td>
<td>Students enter in assigned entrances 5-South entrance; 6-Southeast entrance; 7-Northeast entrance; 8North entrance; Individual students assigned entrance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Student Cohorts</strong></td>
<td>DRMS will make every effort to cohort groups of students. Grade levels will be kept together, Classroom Cohorts will be kept together. Smaller cohorts within each class when possible. Cohorts will remain together during lunch. Grade levels will not mix during recess.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Classroom Seating</strong></td>
<td>Desks to be distanced as close to six feet apart as possible within each space. Students will face the same direction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lockers</strong></td>
<td>Students will only use it upon entering school (coats, phones, etc.) Backpacks will be utilized throughout the day. Locker assignments spread as widely as possible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Recess</strong></td>
<td>Outdoor recess will be restricted to grade level cohorts. If recess is held inside, students will remain classroom.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Student Drop-Off/ Pick-Up During School</strong></td>
<td>Any student needing to be picked up or dropped off during the school, the parent/guardian must call the school office. School personnel will meet parent/guardian(s) at the front door.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Office Access</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>High School</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Entrances</strong></td>
<td>Students enter through main north and south doors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Schedule</strong></td>
<td>A/B schedule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Classroom</strong></td>
<td>All classroom desks are arranged to face the same direction and to contain the most feasible distance between</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Media Center</strong></td>
<td>Library/media center is available if proper social distancing can be adequately maintained</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
not include secretary, principal, and school nurse). Physical distancing must be practiced.

**Library**
Library will occur in the classroom. Book options will be available on a library cart brought to students. Students may request books to be checked out which will be delivered to their teacher.

**Hallways**
Staggered schedules will allow for decreased two-way student traffic in hallways. Students traveling in the hall will remain on the right side, to allow distanced two-way hallway traffic.

In order to maintain the health and safety of our office staff, we ask that outside visits be limited unless absolutely necessary or is a prescheduled meeting with school personnel. **Office occupancy is limited to four people (which does not include secretary, principal, and school nurse).** Social distancing must be practiced.

**Media Center**
Access and use of the media center will be by appointment and only to the capacity to allow students to social distance. Students will be encouraged to utilize classroom/grade level libraries. Books from the media center can be checked out through a request to deliver from the library staff.

**Hallways**
Staggered schedules will allow for decreased two-way student traffic in hallways.

---

**ALL BUILDINGS**

**Field Trips** - Field trips will be restricted.

**Visitors/Building Access** - Building access allowed only to approved school personnel and critical healthcare contracted personnel. Parents, families, volunteers, and any other visitors are restricted from visiting the school. **This excludes scenarios such as discipline related occurrences, pre-scheduled student meetings or conferences, IEPs, MDTs, and any other meeting mandated by law.** Facility use requests will not be approved.

The district will not accept facility use requests.

**Water Fountains** - Drinking fountains will not be available for use. Water bottle filling stations will be available throughout the building for use. Students are asked to bring water bottles that are labeled with their first and last names.

---

**LEVEL 4**
Remote learning at home.

Exposure-based scenarios are included in Appendix D.
Activities

LEVEL 1

No excessive or additional activities protocols necessary.

LEVEL 2

All MS and HS activities will follow guidelines established by the SDHSAA.

Practice:
- Coaches/directors will maintain six feet spacing from all students whenever possible. Masks will be worn when appropriate spacing can’t be met.
- Balls and equipment will be sanitized after every session.
- Six feet distance will be maintained between all students during practice whenever possible. (more space may be required for band and chorus activities).
- Students will be staggered entering and leaving locker rooms.
- Cloth face coverings will be worn when entering locker rooms.
- Football equipment and shoes to be put on outside of the locker room.
- Limit time in the locker room to ten minutes or less while maintaining six-foot spacing.

Transportation:
- Student-athletes will be required to wear masks in school vehicles.
- Limit travel to only those who will play, particularly on long trips.
- If requested in advance, a student may travel with family.

Spectators/Concessions
- Spectators at games will be allowed following the tiered system recommended by the SDHSAA. Conference protocols will be developed to obtain consistency between schools.
- Face coverings will be strongly encouraged for all spectators.
- Information regarding social distancing will be posted at entrances for ticketing and concessions.
- Concessions will follow the guidance provided by the SDDOH.
- The concession stand will have additional plexiglass windows.

DRPS is planning to have all activities. We are awaiting additional guidance on vocal and instrumental music protocols and once those are established, they will be added to the plan.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEVEL 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Level 2 protocols will be enacted. Travel and Spectators will be limited based on the Tier system developed by the SDHSAA.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEVEL 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student activities will be suspended.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## LEVEL 1

Face coverings and PPE use at the discretion of the individual.

## LEVEL 2

### Face Coverings

- Face coverings are required of all students grades 1-12 students in classrooms, and during passing periods except when eating lunch, or when social distancing of consistently 6+ feet is achievable in the space or setting.
  - Students are encouraged to purchase their own face coverings, as long as they meet CDC standards and do not cause a disruption to the learning environment (*administration may reference student attire expectations from the handbook*). The district will provide face coverings for students who are not able to provide their own.

- Face coverings are required for all DRPS staff when on duty except during times they are working privately in their own classroom/office or at a social distance of greater than 6+ feet. Face coverings will be provided to staff, but they will also be allowed to furnish their multilayered face covering.

- **Note:** Face shields (or clear face coverings) will be provided as appropriate for students and staff being served in specialized programs or with documented health needs and/or settings (e.g., SpeechLanguage).

- Face coverings will be required for drivers and all students on a school bus or utilizing any district transportation services.

- Exceptions shall be made for students and staff with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that makes it unreasonable for them to wear a face covering. Medical documentation will be needed for exemption to be considered.

### Shields

- Every student in Grades KP-8 will have their own desk shield. Shields will be mobile and utilized in all classroom settings.
- Lunch tables, front office desk, and classroom areas by request will also have plexiglass shields installed.
Face Coverings

- Face coverings are required of all K-12 students in classrooms, and during passing periods except when eating lunch, or when social distancing of consistently 6+ feet is achievable in the space or setting.
  - Students are encouraged to purchase their face coverings, as long as they meet CDC standards and do not cause a disruption to the learning environment (administration may reference student attire expectations from the handbook). The district will provide face coverings for students who are not able to provide their own.

- Face coverings are required for all DRPS staff when on duty except during times they are working privately in their own classroom/office or at a social distance of greater than 6+ feet. Face coverings will be provided to staff, but they will also be allowed to furnish their own multilayered face covering.

- Note: Face shields (or clear face coverings) will be provided as appropriate for students and staff being served in specialized programs or with documented health needs and/or settings (e.g., Speech Language).

- Face coverings will be required for drivers and all students on a school bus or utilizing any district transportation services.

- Exceptions shall be made for students and staff with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that makes it unreasonable for them to wear a face covering. Medical documentation will be needed for an exemption to be considered.

Shields

- Every student in Grades KP-8 will have their own desk shield. Shields will be mobile and utilized in all classroom settings.

- Lunch tables, front office desk, and classroom areas by request will also have plexiglass shields installed.

Remote learning at home, anyone entering school building will need to wear a face covering.
Transportation

Student transportation is subject to change based upon the district’s ability to transport students safely. Bus designs make social distancing difficult and further present several ventilation and air quality issues. We strongly encourage parents to transport their students; however, we plan to provide rural and minimal in-town bussing. The district has only developed one level for transportation, although changes can, and likely will change based on the overall health condition of the school community.

Student Transportation Operations

- Students and drivers are required to wear face coverings/masks while on the bus.
- Students will utilize hand sanitizer upon loading the bus.
- Students will have assigned seats and be cohorted with other family members
- In-town bussing will only take place for students living outside of a 1-mile perimeter from the elementary school (Appendix F). Haven students will be transported after school.
- Plexiglass shields will be installed behind the driver’s seat. No student will sit in the first seat behind the driver.
- Loading and unloading will be strategic to minimize student contact.

Disinfecting and Ventilation

- Cleaning and disinfecting will take place following each route.
- AtmosAir Rainier Summit systems will be installed on each bus. The systems work to increase ionization levels to restore air to its natural state where no pollution or contaminants exist. (Not approved, still being decided)
<table>
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<th><strong>Staff Wellness Supports</strong></th>
<th><strong>Student/Family Wellness Supports</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Elem</strong></td>
<td><strong>Physical Wellness</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Screening and school exclusion protocols to support decreased spread of any confirmed cases.</td>
<td><strong>Physical Wellness</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Passive and active screening and school exclusion protocols to support decreased spread of any confirmed cases.&lt;br&gt;• Cohorting of students to decrease exposure to other students in the building.&lt;br&gt;• Physical distancing, PPE, and safety precautions put into place within classrooms and the building.</td>
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<td><strong>Mental Wellness</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Communication with staff prior to the return to school to inform them of Return to Learn plan and building-level practices for the upcoming year&lt;br&gt;• Surveying staff to gauge professional development needs, classroom needs, technology needs, and mental wellness.&lt;br&gt;• 1:1 and/or grade level staff meetings before school to discuss teacher needs and mental wellness.&lt;br&gt;• Promote mindfulness techniques and staff supports.</td>
<td><strong>Mental Wellness</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Communication with families before and after the start of school with the Return to Learn plan and how students are acclimating to changes.&lt;br&gt;• Revised open house schedule to allow students and families an additional 1:1 time with DRES teachers to answer questions, receive information on the upcoming 2020-2021 school year and hopefully lessen anxiety with changes to the upcoming school year.&lt;br&gt;• Elementary counselor support for students (classrooms, small groups, and 1:1).&lt;br&gt;• Schoolwide system of identifying students who are struggling emotionally or have anxiety, and then working together with families to support student’s needs.</td>
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<td><strong>MS</strong></td>
<td><strong>Physical Wellness</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Screening and school exclusion protocols to support decreased spread of any confirmed cases.</td>
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<td><strong>Mental Wellness</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Communication with staff prior to the return to school to inform them of Return to Learn plan and building-level practices for the upcoming year&lt;br&gt;• 1:1 and/or grade level staff meetings prior to school to discuss uncertainty and anxiety about the upcoming school year.&lt;br&gt;• Survey staff to identify needs for professional development and support.</td>
<td><strong>Mental Wellness</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Communication with families prior to and after the start of school with the Return to Learn plan and how students are acclimating to changes.&lt;br&gt;• Revised open house schedule to allow students and families an additional 1:1 time with DRES teachers to answer questions, receive information on the upcoming 2020-2021 school year, and hopefully lessen anxiety with changes to the upcoming school year.&lt;br&gt;• Middle School counselor support for students (classrooms, small groups, and 1:1).</td>
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### Staff Wellness Supports

- Direct weekly communication with the building administrator
- Provide routine communication to staff members to encourage self-care, including examples, and examples of wellness (e.g., saying no, accepting oneself and others, and not being at 100% all the time).
- Promote the use of staff support groups to enhance staff cohesion and coping.
- Professional development for staff (trauma-responsive classrooms)
- Promote mindfulness techniques and staff social supports

### Student/Parent Wellness Supports

- School Counselor and Path Counseling available
- Implementation of a Google Doc that allows staff to add a student that he/she feels may be struggling. This list is viewed each day by counselor/administrator
- Implementation of a virtual calming room
- Include stress management or mindfulness practices in daily classroom routine
- Revised open house schedule to allow students and families an additional 1:1 time with DRES teachers to answer questions, receive information on the upcoming 2020-2021 school year, and hopefully lessen anxiety with changes to the upcoming school year.

### References

- CDC’s Considerations for Schools
- CDC’s Considerations for Schools: Readiness and Planning Tool
- CDC’s Cleaning & Disinfecting Your Facility
- South Dakota Department of Education (Starting Well 2020)
- Frequently Asked Questions (SDDOH/SDDOE) – Appendix E
Appendix A:

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

CLOSE CONTACT MEANS:
For COVID-19, a close contact is defined as anyone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 48 hours before the person began feeling sick until the time the patient was isolated.

What should I do if I’ve been in close contact with someone...

...who has tested positive for COVID-19

...who is being tested?

...who might have been exposed...

...who has been in close contact with someone ELSE who might have been exposed?

...and IS experiencing symptoms?

...but is NOT experiencing any symptoms (yet)?

Self-quarantine AND self-monitor

Self-monitor AND practice social distancing

Practice social distancing

HOW DO I...

Self-Quarantine
- Stay home for 14 days.
- Avoid contact with other people.
- Don’t share household items.

Self-Monitor
- Be alert for symptoms of COVID-19, including a fever/chills, cough, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea.
- Take your temperature every morning and night and write it down.
- Call your doctor if you have trouble breathing or a fever (100.4°F/38°C).
- Don’t seek medical treatment without calling first!

Practice Social Distancing
- Stay home as much as possible.
- Don’t physically get close to people. Try to stay 6 feet away.
- Don’t hug or shake hands.
- Avoid groups of people.
- Be aware of frequently touched surfaces, including door knobs, elevator buttons, service counters, shared pens, touch screens, steering wheels, and cell phones.

WHAT IF I HAVE SYMPTOMS? Call your healthcare provider.

Developed from an infographic by the City of Sioux Falls.

June 18, 2020
Parents must complete a daily health check by answering these questions before sending their child to school.

(Parent do not need to send the questionnaire to school)

**COVID-19 SCREENING QUESTIONS**

Has your child had close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days?
______ YES_______NO

Does your child have new or worsening shortness of breath?
______ YES_______NO

Does your child have new or worsening cough?
______ YES_______NO

Does your child have a fever of 100.4 or greater?
______ YES_______NO

Does your child have chills?
______ YES_______NO

Does your child have diarrhea?
______ YES_______NO

Does your child have unexplained muscle pain?
______ YES_______NO

Does your child have a headache (unrelated to a known health condition i.e. migraines)?
______ YES_______NO

Does your child have a sore throat?
______ YES_______NO

Does your child have a new loss of taste or smell?
______ YES_______NO

If YES to ANY of these questions, STOP!

Do not send your child to school. Contact your healthcare provider. Contact your school to inform them of your child’s symptoms. You may also contact the SD Department of Health with any COVID-19 questions 1-800-592-186.

If you are able to answer NO to ALL questions, go to school.

* Temperature screening must take place before fever-reducing medicine is administered.
Isolation and quarantine help protect the public by preventing exposure to people who have or may have a **CONTAGIOUS DISEASE**.

**ISOLATION** separates sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick.

**QUARANTINE** separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick.

---

**ISOLATION**

Isolation is for people who are **ALREADY SICK**.

- Isolation separates and restricts the movement of sick people so they can’t spread disease.
- Isolation in a home means separating yourself from others in the household.
- A sick person isolating at home should seek medical treatment if unable to manage symptoms.
- Isolation is usually voluntary, but in a public health emergency, officials have the authority to isolate people who are sick.
- Stop isolation only if you’ve had no fever for at least 72 hours; AND have improved symptoms; AND at least 10 days have passed since your symptoms first appeared.

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**QUARANTINE**

Quarantine is for people who are **NOT SICK**, but may have been exposed.

- Quarantined people may or may not become sick.
- Quarantined people must stay at home or another location so they don’t unknowingly spread the disease.
- If you are quarantined and you become ill, you can seek medical evaluation from a healthcare provider.
- Quarantine can be voluntary, but in a public health emergency, officials have the authority to quarantine people who have been exposed to an infectious disease.

*NOTE: Critical infrastructure employees with no symptoms may be required to report to work.*

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[SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH](https://covid.sd.gov)

July 10, 2020
Appendix D

School Scenarios Based on Exposure:

Scenario One: No active cases in our community, and no cases in school building. The South Dakota Departments of Health and Education recommend that school takes place with appropriate preparedness measures (e.g., requiring students/staff who are sick to stay home; teaching and reinforcing healthy hygiene practices; cleaning and disinfection efforts).

Scenario Two: Active cases in the school community, but no cases in your school building
The South Dakota Departments of Health and Education recommend that school takes place with appropriate preparedness measures (e.g., requiring students/staff who are sick to stay home; teaching and reinforcing healthy hygiene practices; cleaning and disinfection efforts).

Scenario Three: DRPS student or staff member identified by Department of Health as close contact of a positive COVID-19 case outside of the school community
The South Dakota Departments of Health and Education recommend that school should continue with appropriate preparedness measures in place.

Scenario Four: Active case is identified in one of your school buildings
The South Dakota Departments of Health and Education recommend that school officials reassess processes - looking for gaps in prevention strategies. In the short-term, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends closing off areas used by the sick person and waiting 24 hours (depending on the level of exposure) before cleaning and disinfecting. Once an area is appropriately disinfected, it can be opened for use.

Scenario Five: Multiple active cases identified in your buildings at the same time
The South Dakota Departments of Health and Education recommend that school officials review relevant data to understand the level of virus spread within the school building and conduct a risk/benefit analysis of factors such as degree of potential exposure within building; case trends in the surrounding community; grade levels impacted; remote learning options; scheduling options; ability to staff buildings, etc. in determining the next steps. School leaders can request technical assistance from the DOH/DOE School Response Team if desired.
Please see Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s *Preparing for a Safe Return to School, Operating Schools During COVID-19* and other resources available at:


The COVID-19 situation is a rapidly changing one. Information in this document is current as of July 24, 2020, and is subject to change.

### Identifying Cases in Schools

**Q-1:** If a parent, spouse or other household member that lives with a student or staff member tests positive, is this considered a confirmed case in the school?

**A-1:** Assuming the infected individual did not enter the school, this would not be considered a confirmed case in the school. The student or staff member who lives with the infected individual would be considered a close contact and would be asked to self-quarantine for 14 days. Note: If the student or staff member develops symptoms and/or tests positive while in quarantine, a new case investigation and 10-day isolation period would begin.

**Q-2:** If one student in a classroom tests positive for COVID-19, is everyone in that same classroom considered a close contact?

**A-2:** Each positive case within a classroom will be investigated to determine if other students/staff are close contacts (The CDC defines a close contact as any individual who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 2 days before illness onset or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to positive specimen collection until the time the patient is isolated.) Close contacts will be notified and will need to complete a 14-day quarantine period to monitor for symptoms.
Q-3: Will schools be notified if one of their staff or students is identified as a close contact of someone testing positive for COVID-19?

A-3: No. DOH will alert a school any time one of their students becomes a positive case. Through conversation with an infected individual (or a student’s parent/guardian), DOH will work to identify close contacts, including school close contacts. DOH will notify close contacts of potential exposure and direct the individual to self-quarantine for 14 days from the last exposure. Close contacts will receive a written notification at the beginning of their quarantine period specifying their completion date for quarantine. If an individual becomes symptomatic and tests positive during their quarantine, they will begin a 10-day isolation period from the date of their symptom onset.

Q-4: If one of our students lives and is tested in a different state but goes to school in a South Dakota school, will that student’s positive test result still be reported to school officials?

A-4: Investigation of a person positive for COVID-19 is completed by the public health agency in the state where the person resides. Schools can expect that public health agencies in surrounding states will follow protocol similar to that being used in South Dakota, meaning that a school should be notified of a positive case, even if the student lives in and is tested in another state.

Q-5: If a school is notified mid-day of a positive case within our building(s), is the recommendation to immediately close the building in order to prepare for cleaning or close at the end of the school day?

A-5: DOH would not recommend school closure mid-day. Dismissal at the end-of-day is appropriate. Currently, CDC recommends waiting 24 hours, if feasible, before cleaning and disinfecting an affected area. Reinforce the importance of mitigation strategies such as social distancing, hand washing, symptom screening, cloth face coverings, etc.

Q-6: If a student who is identified as a close contact by the DOH tests negative for COVID-19 during the 14-day quarantine period, can they return to school?

A-6: No. If a student tests negative during their quarantine period, the individual still needs to remain in quarantine until 14 days have passed since their last exposure.
Q-7: When a student has been identified as a close contact or has tested positive for COVID-19, do we need to receive confirmation from the DOH before excusing them from school, or will a parent’s word suffice?

A-7: For a close contact, DOH alerts individuals directly. It is up to the individual identified as the close contact to let the school know of this status. For a positive case, DOH will contact the school. An individual may receive notification of a positive case from their healthcare provider sooner than the DOH receives notification of the case. It would be advisable for the school to excuse based on the report from the parent, as DOH notification may be delayed.

Q-8: What do we do if a student has tested positive for COVID-19, but their parent refuses to obey isolation orders (i.e. continues to send the child to school despite being told not to)?

A-8: The school should work through the DOH person working the case to obtain a public health order. If the child continues to come to school, in violation of the public health order, the school may notify their local law enforcement.

Q-9: Will the DOH or DOE let school officials know when a student can return to school, whether they’re a close contact or a confirmed case?

A-9: The Department of Health will alert a school of any student in the school who has tested positive, but the department will not alert the school when an individual (positive case or close contact) is released from isolation or quarantine. DOH will provide a letter to positive cases who complete their isolation period indicating they can return to school. The DOH will also provide a letter to the close contacts at the beginning of their quarantine period which will identify the completion date for quarantine. Parents will be responsible to provide these letters to the school.

Q-10: Are school employees considered critical infrastructure workers? And does a declaration of such affect the 14-day quarantine period?

A-10: Please refer to the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency guidance on issues related to critical infrastructure. As a state, South Dakota has not identified specific critical infrastructure fields.
Schools may want to consider following the [CDC's return to work practices](https://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhdsp/manual/retonw_practices.htm) for healthcare providers if they are struggling to staff a building. Example: If a school considers a particular staff member a critical infrastructure worker and that staff member is a close contact of a positive case but has no symptoms, the staff member could ensure they have no symptoms each day (including through a temperature check) and wear a face covering appropriately for 14 days following the exposure. If at any time during the 14 days the individual develops symptoms, they should not be at work.

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**Infection Control**

**Q-1:** Many people with COVID-19 are asymptomatic. Should we still screen students for temperature and symptoms?

**A-1:** DOH and DOE are encouraging schools to use a variety of mitigation strategies in their planning for SY 2020-21. On July 23, CDC released [new guidance specific to screening](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-child-care/school-guidance.html). This guidance does not recommend universal screening of students be conducted by schools. The guidance does say that parents/caregivers should conduct daily monitoring of their children for signs of infectious illness, and students who are sick should not attend school in-person.

**Q-2:** Are the DOH and DOE requiring students to wear masks?

**A-2:** The DOH and DOE encourage school leaders to use a variety of mitigation strategies in their planning for SY 2020-21. In selecting which to use, school leaders need to balance public health considerations and current conditions of the virus in their communities with the overall health of students and staff.

On July 23, the CDC released [Guidance for K-12 School Administrators on the Use of Face Coverings in School](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-child-care/face-masks.html). It offers general guidelines and recommendations on this topic. In addition, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that school leaders and health advisors “consider whether the use of cloth face coverings is developmentally appropriate and feasible and whether the policy can be instituted safely.”

**Q-3:** Are the DOH and DOE requiring staff to wear masks?
A-3: See the answer above. Additionally, current science suggests that adults are more susceptible to complications from COVID-19 than students. School leaders will need to balance public health considerations and current conditions of the virus in their communities with the overall health of students and staff. A staff members’ duties would influence the type of infection control equipment that is appropriate for that situation.

Q-4: Can schools require students and staff to wear masks if they wish?
A-4: Yes. This would be a local policy decision. See questions above and CDC guidance regarding face coverings in school.

Q-5: Should teachers use clear face shields in place of cloth masks, so students can pick up on facial cues and mouth formations?
A-5: From a public health perspective, clear face shields are a tool for protection against COVID-19, specifically around the eyes, but they do not replace face coverings due to large gaps on the side and bottom. From an educational perspective, clear face shields may be appropriate when it is important that students can see a teacher’s facial expressions and mouth movements; for example, in the case of teaching English language learners and students who are deaf or hearing impaired.

Q-6: How do we handle students who are wearing the same masks over and over without washing? Do the masks become less effective in that case?
A-6: Cloth masks should be washed regularly. The CDC offers information on How to Wash Cloth Face Coverings.

Q-7: Will the DOH and DOE help schools in supplying infection control materials, or should we seek out other supply chains on our own?
A-7: Schools will need to purchase their own infection control supplies. Schools can purchase certain supplies off of the State’s contracts. To learn more, visit the Bureau of Administration’s website at boa.sd.gov.
Communication with Parents and Students

**Q-1: Will the state help school leaders communicate with their school community if there is a confirmed case of COVID-19?**

**A-1:** The Department of Health communicates directly with individuals who test positive for COVID-19, as well as their close contacts. The Departments of Health and Education will also assist a school in determining best methods for communicating with the larger school community about a positive case(s). Communication should be designed to address the school community’s desire for information, while also protecting student/staff privacy.

**Q-2: How do we communicate with our school community while still following HIPAA and FERPA?**

**A-2:** Communication to the broader school community will need to be general and protect student/staff privacy. DOH will handle communication with any individuals who test positive, as well as their close contacts, directly. DOH may enlist the help of school leaders in identifying close contacts. When DOH shares this type of information, school personnel would be bound by FERPA requirements to keep this information confidential.

**Q-3: How do we best calm anxiety about returning to school?**

**A-3:** Communication is critical. Be transparent in your communications at the local level with your school board, families, and the larger community. This is crucial to managing expectations. Let parents, staff, and students know that guidance, practices, and policy will change as our understanding of the virus improves. Remember that this is a stressful time for everyone. Encourage kindness and empathy.

Attendance, Assessment and Accountability

**Q-1: Will DOE be revisiting attendance standards due to the possibility of students needing to stay home for extended periods of time (because of being identified as a close contact or testing positive for COVID-19)?**

**A-1:** Attendance policy is a local decision. This applies whether a student is involved in face-to-face learning, remote learning, or some combination thereof. DOE recommends
that schools communicate with parents – clearly and early on – about how attendance will be determined in the case of remote learning. Schools should continue to record daily attendance, with the expectation that instruction is occurring, and students are engaged (no matter their physical location). If a student is unable to continue learning due to illness, schools would treat the situation as they would any other illness and in accordance with local attendance policy. Concerning the 94% target attendance rate used for school accountability purposes (ARSD 24:55), that rule remains in place.

**Q-2: Will the state assessment be administered in SY 2020-21?**

**A-2:** At this time, South Dakota plans to administer required state assessments in the normal timeframe.

### Instructional Hours

**Q-1: Will schools need to meet statutory requirements related to instructional hours for SY 2020-21?**

**A-1:** The expectation is that schools will be able to meet the minimum hour requirements of SDCL 13-26-1, whether through face-to-face learning, remote learning, or some combination thereof. When calculating instructional hours, these remote learning days count the same as a day of instruction and should be recorded as such in the student information system. DOE also understands that conditions surrounding the virus and its spread may change. SB 188 passed during the 2020 legislative session provides some flexibility for the Secretary of Education to waive this requirement, as long as the Governor’s declared state of emergency is in place.

### Activities

**Q-1: Can schools hold sports, music, drama and other activities? If so, how?**

**A-2:** The South Dakota High School Activities Association is working on a plan for holding school activities this upcoming school year. Both DOH and DOE have representatives on the planning group.