



ANKENY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Return to Learn Plan Update

Dear Ankeny Community School District Families,

I know that the past 18 months have been difficult in many different ways. The ever-changing landscape of COVID-19 has challenged us in ways that we would have never expected.

The updated Return to Learn plan that was approved last evening was neither an endorsement nor an admonishment of masks. The approved plan enables the district to follow the federal order and to avoid violating federal civil rights and disability laws.

I realize that not everyone is in agreement with the requirements outlined in the Return to Learn plan. My hope is that we will continue to support our teachers, principals, and staff who have been and continue to diligently work to support all the students in our district.

Changes in the approved [Return to Learn Plan](#) are highlighted below:

- The approved changes will take effect September 23, 2021, and will remain in effect through December 21, 2021, unless there are changes to the current law or further action by the board.
- A new plan will be presented for the beginning of the 2022 calendar year.
- Masks will be required for individuals age 2 and older, indoors on ACSD property during the compulsory school day. This includes students, teachers, staff, visitors, and volunteers.
- Masks will not be required when outdoors on ACSD property.
- Exemptions from last year will carry forward, and new exemption requests can be made by filling out the [form](#) located on the district website. Please note: The statement on the form, "A person granted a medical or religious exemption may be excluded from in-person school and school activities during a COVID-19 infection outbreak" means that having a mask exemption does not prevent a student from being told to stay home from school if they test positive for COVID. More information can be found on [Iowa Department of Public Health's website](#).
- We will work collaboratively with families to make sure we are balancing the health, safety, and educational needs of all students in a classroom.
- Our tracking and notification of potential COVID-19 exposure will be updated to meet the new plan.
- Communication about what to expect will be sent in the next couple of days from your student's home school building.
- By Wednesday, September 29, lunch seating for grades 6-12, will implement a process so communication related to potential exposure can be more precise.

Find the full plan with more detailed information on the district website.

Thank you for your patience and support as we continue to prioritize student learning.

Sincerely,

Dr. Erick Pruitt

emailed 9.22.21