

August 6, 2021

Dear DPS Family and Friends,

We look forward to welcoming back your students in a few short weeks. As summer comes to a close, I want to share some updates regarding the upcoming school year.

- [Continuity Plan](#) - If you have not already, please review the DPS Continuity Plan. This plan was developed to meet the requirements established by the North Dakota Department of Instruction following the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act. The document is also posted on our website.
- [ESSER Plan](#) - In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress approved several emergency support measures, including the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund. The Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) is allocated to each state and distributed to each school district based on the district's Title 1 allocation. Dickinson Public Schools will receive approximately \$10 million in ESSER II and III disbursements to aid in preventing, preparing for, and responding to COVID-19. This one-time funding will expire in three years.
- **Face Coverings** - Dickinson Public Schools will not be requiring masks at this point in time. However, we want to reiterate that current conditions will dictate this decision. I understand that this is a sensitive topic for many of you, and we ask that you give us grace as we navigate the next year. If this decision changes, we will notify all stakeholders immediately.
- **Registration** - Registration is upon us. Please make sure to log in to PowerSchool to complete the required forms for this upcoming school year. Schools will be providing more information about open houses and other items in the weeks to come. If you do not have this information, please contact your child's school or the Central Administration Office at 701-456-0002.
 - If your student is at an increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19, please contact your building principal ASAP.
- [Roughrider K-8 Online Academy/Roughrider 9-12 Online Academy](#) - Dickinson Public Schools is excited to offer two permanent virtual schools to provide our families with a full-time online option. If you are interested in registering your child for the online academy, please contact the Central Administration Office.

Thank you for sharing your children with us. Our district is doing amazing things, and we are pushing every day to be better at what we do. We are excited for the halls to fill again, but enjoy the rest of your summer until then. It is going to be a great year!

Sincerely,

Marcus Lewton
Interim Superintendent