



December 14, 2020

Dear East Aurora Families,

Thank you to parents of the approximately 7,200 students who responded to our survey telling us your preference for 3rd Quarter learning for your child. And to all other parents who indicated their wish to remain as-is in full remote with no response as we gave that option as well. All of your input is very valuable to me and our district leadership as we all continue to navigate the school year during this pandemic.

Of those who responded, 73% of you indicated that you want your child to continue with full remote learning. As indicated in the survey, those who did not respond were calculated in favor of continued remote learning. When we add in those, the percentage jumps to 86% in favor of continued remote learning.

Our survey also shared a draft weekly schedule that included three days of live instruction, and two days “asynchronous” or independent learning. This was because we do not have the number of teachers needed to cover those who want hybrid as well as remote, without cutting back on the synchronous or “live” instruction. Your feedback told us that you prefer as much live instruction with teachers, as possible. Therefore we will continue with the current schedule PreK through 8th grade and High School 9-12 will have a new and improved schedule with even more instructional time and student support time!

As you know the east side of Aurora has been greatly affected by COVID-19. Our zip code of 60505 has endured a 21% positivity rate this week, much higher than most areas in the state. Therefore **we will continue with remote learning through February 5, 2021**. In the meantime our district leadership will continue to monitor the COVID-19 positivity rate in our area, review 1st semester academic data, and continue our planning for a future hybrid learning experience--remaining hopeful that we can welcome students and teachers back in-person as soon as possible.

ACCESS testing

Each year the State of Illinois requires our district to offer a test to our English Language Learners. This test is called “ACCESS” and it measures a student’s reading, writing, and speaking proficiency in English.

While we had hoped a waiver for this testing might come due to the pandemic, no waiver will be granted. Schools are required to offer this in-person testing from January 11 through March 5, for 44% of our student population. If your student is in our English Learner program, you will receive information from your school on when testing is scheduled for your child.

Parents, you have been incredible partners with us throughout this unprecedented and challenging time in our lives. I realize the pandemic has been life-changing for us all, and for some, it has been tragic. Thank you for all you have done, above and beyond, to help your child succeed. You have made a difference.

May you, your family and loved ones enjoy a restful and healthy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jennifer Norrell
Superintendent of Schools