

September Board Meeting Highlights

The Board of Education met Monday, September 14. We would like to lift up all of the efforts of parents, students, and staff in getting the year off to a very good start. Of course things are different and there are challenging issues to work through this year due to Covid. In spite of the circumstances, everyone is making a sincere effort to make things work and it is appreciated.

Instructional Delivery Matrix

The Board approved an Instructional Delivery Matrix which will inform the Board, parents, students and staff when a change in the mode of delivery may be warranted. Some important points about the matrix are:

- A change will not be made automatically. The point at which the data suggests a change should be considered, an emergency Board meeting will be scheduled and, along with the administration, the Board will consider the circumstances and make a decision.
- The urgency of the decision will drive the timing of the change. Since data will be monitored daily, we anticipate that a reasonable amount of time will be provided to allow families to prepare for the change. We know that is relative to the situation of the family so we ask you to have plans in place to make changes on short notice.
- Due to the disruption of a change in the mode of instructional delivery, a change will typically be made for a two-week period. Ideally, we will signal a transition with a one-week notice. Again, depending on the situation, it may occur on shorter notice.
- The matrix will be used to guide decision-making on a building level rather than a district level. This is simply because the data may be different between buildings.

The matrix is included at the end of the update and will also be posted in the Return to Learn page of the [Ballard website](#). The Story County 14-day Positivity Rate is on the vertical axis. The 5-Day Illness Absenteeism Rate is on the horizontal axis. The absentee rate only includes absences due to illness. However, it is not limited to positive Covid cases. This is the same rate we report to Story County Public Health.

In addition to the matrix, the building status will be updated weekly for parents and students to monitor. An example of this is on the link following the matrix and reflects the status of buildings as of Monday, September 14.

New Mandatory Face Covering Requirements at Events

The Board unanimously approved a motion requiring face coverings for all attendees of events at Ballard. Our primary goal is to provide an exceptional education to our students. Activities are a valuable extension to academics. To that end, we believe the overwhelming majority of our students are best served through in-person learning. Given that, a decision to require face-coverings at events is a commitment to our goal of mitigation and ultimately keeping students in school.

This requirement applies to all Ballard events, including those that take place outdoors. When Ballard fans are attending other venues as the visiting team, the Board asks that fans wear face-coverings because the risk of community spread does not change significantly at other locations. We are asking fans to wear a face-covering whenever they attend an event to support our students, home or away, to give our students the best chance of staying on-site for learning and maintaining our ability to participate in activities.

We appreciate your support of our students and taking steps to increase the likelihood of their continued participation. Parent and community support has been a mainstay at Ballard and our students appreciate it tremendously. We look forward to seeing you soon and thanks for all you do! GO BOMBERS!

Ballard Board of Education



| Ballard Instructional Delivery Matrix | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|--|--|--|
| Ballard 5-Day Illness Absenteeism Rate | | | | |
| | | Low <5% | Moderate ~5-9% | High >10% |
| Story County 14-day Positivity Rate | Low 0-5% | Onsite | Onsite | Onsite or Hybrid (pending Covid-related absences) |
| | Moderate ~6-14% | Onsite | Onsite or Hybrid (pending Covid-related absences) | Hybrid |
| | High >15% | Onsite or Hybrid (pending Covid-related absences) | Hybrid | Remote Online Learning Waiver Requested from the DE |

| Ballard Instructional Delivery Model by Building | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| Building | 14-day Positivity Rate | 5-day Illness Absenteeism Rate | Instructional Delivery Model |
| West | 12.8% | 2.04% | Onsite |
| East | 12.8% | 1.32% | Onsite |
| Middle School | 12.8% | 1.7% | Onsite |
| High School | 12.8% | 0 | Onsite |

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