



July 10, 2020

Dear LRSD Community,

This is a short letter to follow up on the video that was released yesterday ([video link](#)). I felt it was important to put into writing a formal apology on the recently released FAQ that was designed to inform LRSD staff on how we would approach COVID-19 issues. The overall content of this document is very good but we made some key errors in this release.

I want everyone to know that our position regarding the use of masks is strong and our wording has not changed. We expect all students and staff to wear masks. We will provide masks for students and staff and we will have a supply of masks at schools and worksites for anyone who forgets their masks. I am providing additional language that I hope will relay our commitment to students and staff and reinforce messaging that masks “will be required in areas where social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.” As we plan for the school year we know we will have settings where social distancing will be a challenge—buses, hallways, lunch rooms, and most classrooms. We can assure you that the safety and wellbeing of our students and staff remain our priority.

I also understand that our language regarding the confidentiality of sharing information when someone tests positive for COVID-19 was not well written. The intent was not to limit an individual from sharing his/her personal circumstances, but rather to protect the HIPPA rights of others, meaning no one has the right to share details about someone else’s health status. LRSD has handled the confidentiality surrounding this virus with support from the Arkansas Department of Health. We will be appropriate in how we inform our community when we are made aware of positive test results, but we must always maintain the dignity and privacy rights of individuals whose health is impacted by a positive result.

Today we will release a revised [FAQ](#) that will address these concerns. Additional information will be provided to our community next week on LRSD’s **Ready for Learning** plan. The plan will be a working document and allow us to receive feedback from you, as well as allow us to work with students, staff, and parents in focus groups to help us prepare for the start of the 2020-21 school year. As mentioned in our message yesterday, we will have new proposed calendars for our students and employees. The adjusted calendars are necessary to align with Governor Asa Hutchinson’s decision to delay the start of the school year until the week of August 24th.

I hope this letter provides clarity and comfort. I wish you and your families a great weekend!

Sincerely,

Mike Poore
Superintendent of Schools