

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS SCHOOL DISTRICT 25

1200 S. Dunton Ave.
Arlington Heights, Illinois 60005

School Board Meeting Minutes October 15, 2020

Brian Cerniglia, President of the Arlington Heights School District 25 Board of Education, called the meeting to order on October 15, 2020 to accept a motion to adjourn into closed session at 6:01 p.m. The meeting was held at the Dunton Administration Building, 1200 S. Dunton Avenue, Arlington Heights, Illinois.

The meeting was noticed for closed session to discuss: Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance or Dismissal of Specific Employees/Independent Contractors/Volunteers of the District, 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(1); Review closed session minutes, 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(21); Collective negotiating matters, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2); Litigation when an act is probable, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11); Selection of a person to fill a vacancy in a public office, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(3).



Regular Meeting

Brian Cerniglia, President of the Arlington Heights School District 25 Board of Education, called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. on October 15, 2020. The meeting was held at the Dunton Administration Building, 1200 S. Dunton Avenue, Arlington Heights, Illinois. Roll call was noted and the Pledge of Allegiance said.

Board members present: Brian Cerniglia, Chad Conley, Scott Filipek, Erin Johannesen, Rich Olejniczak, and Anisha Ismail Patel.

Board members excused: None

Others Present: Dr. Lori Bein, Superintendent; Stacey Mallek, Assistant Superintendent for Business/CSBO; Dr. Brian Kaye, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel and Planning; Dr. Becky FitzPatrick, Assistant Superintendent for the Department of Student Learning; Dr. Peg Lasiewicki, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services; Chris Fahnoe, Director of Technology and Assessment; Adam Harris, Head of Communications and Story Telling; Brad Katz, Information Technology Specialist; Lana O'Brien, Recording Secretary; staff; and community.

Recognitions and Presentations

Mr. Cerniglia, on behalf of the Board, and Dr. Bein extended congratulations to the winners of the Summer Typing Challenge at the elementary schools. Mr. Fahnoe, Director of Technology, thanked the Technology Facilitators, as they, as well as the students and families, were instrumental in making this program successful.

Aarav Arora was the top typer for the entire district. Greenbrier School had the highest number of summer typers and earned the Golden Keyboard.

Khalil Patel	Dryden	Alexander See	Patton
Tokunaga So	Greenbrier	Tyler Clark	Westgate
Aarav Arora	Ivy Hill	Henry Labeau	Windsor
Katarina Todorovic	Olive-Mary Stitt		

Community Input

- Renee Schlenhardt appreciates what the district has done so far, but wants five days in-person for students. She spoke on behalf of an anonymous parent with children at Westgate, whose husband applied to be a guest teacher in the district, but hasn't heard back. She feels that anyone in the community will help to volunteer, be a substitute, or anything else to help.
- Greg McGrath appreciates the work the district has done so far. He said that parents expect a high level of education, and feels that school should be in-person full time. He wants an itemized list of the constraints, and clarification on the six-foot distance.
- Melissa Cayer asked the difference between synchronous and asynchronous learning, where the terminology came from, and requested the options for schooling. She suggested that the district look at correspondence courses, and that the federal government broadcast basic education for each grade level, and the state and local governments enhance it.
- Marianne Corcoran stated that nothing has changed since the last Board meeting. She doesn't think the hybrid plan is good for children, and wants the schools open for full in-person learning.
- Brittney Polihronis stated that her children love being in school and want to play with their friends. She noted that what is being done in school is safe, and wants students in-person full time. She stated that children have an increase in anxiety, obesity and mental health issues while being at home. She asked questions regarding the metrics and six-foot distancing.
- Alina Laurie requested the district have paid riders for the bus, and stated that if they can't be separated by six feet on the bus, to have a waiver that parents can sign. She also talked about the idea of six feet distancing at schools and what can be done to mitigate those areas that can't be six feet. She wants to get all of children into schools for full in-person learning.
- Antonio Sasmitamanggala thanked his child's teacher from last year as well as his current teacher. He noted that he had COVID in July, so he understands the risks, but he also wants children to be in school full time. He wants transparency from the Board, and requested information on the members of the TAC. He would like creative thinking for moving past the obstacles.
- Stephanie Levinsky is concerned that the TAC members are determining the metrics, and feels there should be more medical people on the TAC.

Dr. Bein read four statements that were received via email.

- David Richards asked if the district will continue to move towards full in-person instruction as long as the metrics remain favorable, and feels that this is what children need.
- Carissa Lee Holmes is a pediatrician, and feels that students can safely be in school full time with precautions such as wearing masks, washing hands, and keeping a safe distance.
- Jen Huntzicker feels there is too much screen time with hybrid learning, and is now homeschooling her children because of it. She requested the TAC utilize metrics that get the children back to school to full in-person learning every day.
- Amy Streff would like more information as to why special education students are not included in the Step 3 transition back into school. She is requesting the district reconsiders this for the well-being of all children with IEPs.

Superintendent Report

Hybrid Learning 2020-2021 Update

Dr. Bein presented an update to the Board on the district's Hybrid learning plan. Adjustments were made on the elementary and middle school student progress reports. All standards are being addressed, but some will not be assessed until the third trimester.

The metrics that the Transition Advisory Committee (TAC) is using were reviewed, and it was noted that the metrics are available on the district website. The district received updated indicator information from the CDC, which include the number of new cases per 100,000 within the last 14 days; the percentage of tests that are positive during the last 14 days; and the ability of the school to implement five key mitigation strategies.

We expect to be in the Hybrid model through at least November 20, 2020 as we collect data on our metrics once students return. A dashboard with COVID-19 related data and all TAC information is posted on the district website. A sample of what the dashboard will look like was shown and Dr. Bein noted that it would be updated every Friday, with information for the week Friday – Thursday.

The district is interested in rapid results testing, and Dr. Bein stated that acquiring the ability to participate in rapid result testing could have a positive impact on our interest in transitioning to full in-person instruction. She described options that we are considering. The state of Illinois is expected to implement rapid testing through the counties.

October 8 and 9, 2020 were utilized as Remote Learning Planning days, which are now all used for the school year. The days involved individual and team collaboration. Various short videos on technology set up options, and using Zoom as an instructional platform to combine instruction for in-person and remote students were provided as well.

Fifty-two certified and thirteen classified staff members have accommodations through November 20, 2020. There are also twelve Partner Teacher arrangements, which

include five teachers in elementary and seven in middle school. The primary teacher is remote and there is a second teacher who is physical in the classroom. These agreements with teachers are also through Nov 20, 2020.

As of October 9, the district has 78% of students in Hybrid and 22% of students in Remote learning models. A breakdown by school was shown.

Several Board members requested clarification on the Partner Teacher arrangement. Dr. Bein stated that a staff member could have medical documents that would allow them to take a leave. If they take the leave, we would need to hire a new certified teacher. Instead of taking a leave, we asked if they could work remotely, Zoom into class, and there would be a certified teacher physically present in the classroom. The district feels that it is in the students' best interest to keep their teacher. If that teacher needs to take their leave after November 20, the goal is that the second partner teacher that was assigned, had established a rapport with the students, and could continue with them.

Board members commented and had detailed discussion about selecting a date that the district can target to move into full in-person learning; the need to make sure we provide the same level of education to children that are in remote and in-person learning; and giving the teachers an opportunity to teach in the hybrid model for at least two weeks. It was clarified that the TAC is not appointed by the Board so is not a part of the Open Meetings Act. Dr. Bein stated that the Superintendent and Board work together to make decisions about in-person learning. It was noted that everyone has the same goal of safely getting the students back in school, but are coming at it from different ways. The district will publish questions that have been answered, and they will be uploaded to BoardDocs in the public section.

2020 Illinois School Report Card

Dr. Bein updated the Board on the 2020 Illinois School Report Card. The summary report provides the highlights of all of the data that is in the comprehensive report, which will be made public at the end of October. Due to the pandemic this year some of the data will be missing or adjusted. New data qualifiers on the report cards will indicate one of three statuses for metrics affected by the suspension of in-person learning: data unavailable; possible data impact - calculated with concern; and caution statewide impact. Summative designations for each school will reflect the same designations earned in 2019.

Board members asked questions and there was discussion regarding how we compare our district to others. Dr. Bein noted that information on any school or district in Illinois is available on the Illinois School Report Card website. There will be no test scores on the Report Cards this year.

Second Reading of Policies – Press 104, Press 105, CBA

Dr. Bein stated that the following policies and exhibits are presented to the Board for a second reading. These policies and exhibits reflect modifications and additions as

recommended by the Illinois Association of School Boards. She highlighted the policies regarding Title IX. A couple of them were pulled off so they could be discussed individually at another time.

Press 104:

7:190 Student Behavior
7:340 Student Records
7:345 Use of Educational Technologies; Student Data Privacy and Security

Press 105:

2:260 Uniform Grievance Procedure
2:265 Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure
5:10 Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment
5:20 Workplace Harassment Prohibited
5:100 Staff Development Program
5:220 Substitute Teachers
5:330 Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves
7:10 Equal Educational Opportunities
7:20 Harassment of Students Prohibited
7:180 Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment
7:185 Teen Dating Violence Prohibited

CBA:

5:30 Hiring Process and Criteria
5:35 Compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act
5:60 Expenses
5:80 Court Duty
5:100 Staff Development Program
5:180 Temporary Illness or Temporary Incapacity
5:200 Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal
5:220 Substitute Teachers
5:230 Maintaining Student Discipline
5:25- Leaves of Absence

Misc.:

5:185 Family and Medical Leave

Motion: S. Filipek moved and R. Olejniczak seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the second reading of the policies and exhibits presented by the Illinois Association of School Boards.

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; C. Conley, yes; S. Filipek, yes; E. Johannesen, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; A. Patel, yes. Motion carried 6/0.

Second Reading of Policies – Five Year Review – Press 104

Dr. Bein stated that the following policy is presented by the Illinois Association of

School Boards for a second reading of a five-year review, keeping material aligned with good governance principles and keeping the legal references current.

Five-Year Review - Press 104:

7:40 Nonpublic School Students, Including Parochial and Home-Schooled Students

Motion: S. Filipek moved and R. Olejniczak seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the second reading of the policy presented by the Illinois Association of School Boards for a five-year review.

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; C. Conley, yes; S. Filipek, yes; E. Johannesen, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; A. Patel, yes. Motion carried 6/0.

Consent Agenda

Motion: A. Patel moved and E. Johannesen seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve those items on the Consent Agenda as follows: (A) Personnel Report and Addendum to Personnel Report; (B) Treasurer's Report (C) Invoices; (D) Public Hearing on the Budget minutes of September 17, 2020; (E) Regular and Closed Session Meeting minutes of September 17, 2020; (F) Special Meeting minutes of September 23, 2020; (G) Special Meeting minutes of September 24, 2020; (H) Intergovernmental Agreement with the Arlington Heights Memorial Library; and (I) Resignation Agreement.

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; C. Conley, yes; S. Filipek, yes; E. Johannesen, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; A. Patel, yes. Motion carried 6/0.

Communications:

The following reports were given:

- NSSEO – Ms. Johannesen reported that NSSEO is going back to school in a hybrid format shortly after District 25 begins.
- IASB – Mr. Cerniglia reported that the IASB convention was cancelled, but we still need to send a Board member to the delegate assembly. IASB will be holding online forums and Mr. Cerniglia will email the Board information. Dr. Bein noted that the North Cook Division meeting on October 28 will be held virtually. There is no cost for the meeting this year, and if you would like to be registered please email Ms. O'Brien.
- ED-RED – Ms. Patel noted that ED-RED held a virtual kick off meeting and Susan Mendoza was the speaker. She described two of the ad hoc committees.

The following reports were received:

- PTA – Liz Nierman reported that at the PTA regional awards all District 25 schools received awards and two schools received diamond awards. Earlier this week the PTA held a virtual event for families of students in remote learning with a therapist to help support the parents. She asked that the Board consider additional parent support. The PTA Council was thanked.

- ATA – Ms. Drevline showed a video of teachers and how they setup their teaching spaces both remotely and in-person. We have excellent teachers, and we have had to learn to teach in a different way. We are confident that the hybrid model is going to be successful, and that we all want a safe learning environment. She thanked Mr. Fahnoe and the Technology Department for all that they have done for the teachers.

There were no reports from the following.

- ABC25

Committee of the Whole Reports

Student Learning

SEL Facilitator Stipend

Dr. FitzPatrick explained that the Board previously approved the RULER program for social emotional learning. She stated that to assist with the implementation of the framework, the district is proposing to add SEL Facilitators in each building as a new teacher leadership stipend position. SEL Facilitators will collaborate with the district's SEL Coordinator and facilitate their building implementation team, who will support teachers as they bring *RULER* elements into the interdisciplinary curriculum throughout the day and plan family engagement. An SEL Facilitator will leverage the focus and energy needed to support *RULER* implementation over time.

Social and emotional support for our students, staff, and families is crucial, given our current circumstances. The stipend rate is based on other teacher leader positions within the district, and will be a three-year commitment. Board members asked questions and there was discussion on the pay rate, logistics of the role, and training of staff and students.

Motion: R. Olejniczak moved and E. Johannesen seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve a new stipend for SEL Facilitator and agree to the stipend amount prorated for the 2020-2021 school year.

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; C. Conley, yes; S. Filipek, yes; E. Johannesen, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; A. Patel, yes. Motion carried 6/0.

Student Services

Special Education Local Education Agency Determination

Dr. Lasiewicki stated that the Illinois State Board of Education provides an annual assessment of the District's implementation of the requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), which ensures that districts are performing with respect to the provision of special education and related services.

Based on data from fiscal year 2019, District 25 was assessed in the areas of the state's performance plan. The indicators and scores were reviewed, and the district meets requirements, with a total score of 24 out of 27, and an overall percentage of 88.89%

The district earned a Score of 0 in the area of Indicator 5a, Least Restrictive Environment, which specifically identifies the percent of students with IEPs educated inside the general education setting 80% or more of the school day. A Score of 0 is earned when a district is not meeting or exceeding the State Target for two consecutive years. This data is based on the December 1 child count. Moving forward to remedy Indicator 5a and to increase the earned Score of 0, the Department of Student Services will ensure accurate reporting of Educational Environment Codes in I-Star; check that all percent time inside general education classroom calculations are based on bell-to-bell minutes; and provide professional development around multi-tiered systems of support for students academically and social/emotionally.

Board members asked clarifying questions regarding the targeted measurements. It was noted there were no financial implications. Dr. Lasiewicki was thanked for the detailed information.

Business and Finance

Resolution Adopting the 403b Plan Document Amendment

Ms. Mallek noted that in an amendment to the 403b Plan dated December 14, 2017, a vendor was inadvertently moved from Appendix 1 to Appendix 3, but there was no intent by either the district or the vendor to suspend the ability of employees to continue with the vendor. The district's approved vendor list never reflected this inadvertent error. With the recent plan amendment in June of 2020, it came to our attention that there was a difference between the adoption agreement appendixes and the approved vendor list. Operationally, we have continued to allow participants to begin contributions to purchase new Contracts and/or Custodial Accounts with the vendor, however, due to the inadvertent error as of December 14, 2017, we are technically not in compliance with our plan document.

The 403B plan guidelines set forth by the IRS allow specific ways in which plan administrators can correct this type of operational error. Per District legal counsel advice, and to remain compliant with IRS requirements regarding 403B plans, we are recommending correction of this operational error. No employees were affected.

Motion: S. Filipek moved and E. Johannesen seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the "Resolution Adopting the 403B Plan Document Amendment" and the associated restated 403B Plan Document.

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; C. Conley, yes; S. Filipek, yes; E. Johannesen, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; A. Patel, yes. Motion carried 6/0.

Employee Benefits Renewal for 2021

Ms. Mallek reported that the insurance renewal information had been received from the broker and shared with the district insurance committee on October 1. She explained that the health insurance is the only benefit up for renewal, and that the other plans had rate guarantees so they were not up for renewal.

The proposed renewal increase was 5.5% on a blended average. Two factors impact the premiums: 1) The Board has a negotiated cap of 6% on the increase in premium they will pick up each year, and 2) the employees have to pay a minimum of 3% of premium for single insurance and 33% of premium for family insurance. Based on the renewal premiums and these factors, the employee cost for single insurance will increase slightly from \$24.58/month to \$25.93/month and for family insurance will increase from \$591.91/month to \$626.76/month. The employee will be paying 3% of the total single premium and 33% of the total family premium and the board's increase will be 5.9% for both single coverage and family coverage. The renewal increase is consistent with medical inflation/trend of 5.2% and pharmacy trend of 8.8%, even with a 1.25% adjustment for anticipated claim deferrals to 2021 as a result of COVID-19. We also have the two alternate health insurance plans with different benefits and lower premium costs. These two plans stand-alone plans will increase slightly.

The broker provided the district with new optional wellness programs, but the district feels that now is not the time to implement new programs and benefits as they take a lot of education. We can look at these in the future.

Motion: E. Johannesen moved and C. Conley seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the “Resolution for the Continuation of Various Insurance Coverages for the 2021 Calendar Year”

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; C. Conley, yes; S. Filipek, yes; E. Johannesen, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; A. Patel, yes. Motion carried 6/0.

Facilities Management - No Report

Personnel and Planning

Enrollment Report

Dr. Kaye reviewed enrollment data from September 9, 2020. The total enrollment from Early Childhood to 8th grade is 5,362, which is a decrease of 221 students from last year. Current enrollment is slightly above the projection. The district, with support from the Board, has a strong focus in keeping class size numbers as low as possible at the elementary level to provide a stronger learning environment and continue to differentiate instruction, while still being fiscally responsible.

This year there were an additional 40 first graders that did not attend Kindergarten in District 25. Dr. Kaye reviewed enrollment at each school and noted a large increase at Patton, and decreases at Ivy Hill, Olive-Mary Stitt, and Windsor. Early Childhood will increase steadily throughout the school year, as students age into the program.

We will continue to work with a Dr. Karsada, a demographer, to look at future projections. He suggested we wait until the pandemic runs its course before we work on another enrollment projection. The district will continue to watch the trends, and anticipate following the trends from previous years. We will work with Ryan Schulz, the Director of Facilities Management, on capacity at each school. Ms. Mallek was thanked for assisting with staffing costs.

Board members asked questions and there was discussion about the fluctuation of enrollment due to the pandemic. Dr. Bein noted that 224 students have been unenrolled since July, but 214 have enrolled since then, so we really only have ten less students. She also stated that Arlington Heights has a wide variety of choice in education. The Board thanked Dr. Kaye for the comprehensive information.

The regular meeting adjourned at 10:07 p.m.

S. Filipek moved and E. Johannesen seconded the motion that the Board of Education move back into closed session. The Board returned to the closed session.

The Board returned to open session at 11:03 p.m.

Motion: E. Johannesen moved and S. Filipek seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call: C. Conley, yes; S. Filipek, yes; E. Johannesen, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; D. Page, yes; A. Patel, yes. Motion carried 6/0.

The meeting adjourned at 11:03 p.m.

Submitted,

Lana M. O'Brien
Recording Secretary

Approved: November 12, 2020

President
Board of Education

Secretary
Board of Education

Date minutes available for public inspection: November 13, 2020

Date minutes posted on District website: November 16, 2020

Community Input Received via Email

Name	Question/Comment
David Richards	I just wanted to ask if district 25 will continue to move towards step 4 (5 days a week, fully in-person instruction) as long as the metrics remain favorable. This is what our children need.
Carissa Lee Holmes	<p>I am a local pediatrician and I have a sophomore at Buffalo Grove HS as well as a 5th grader at Greenbrier and a 7th grader at Thomas in District 25. Ever since this pandemic began, I have been reading and learning about this virus. Not only from the Today show and the Daily Herald but also from medical journals, medical experts and medical websites. I figured out how to operate our pediatric practice safely but also how my kids can go to school safely. We all know how important in person learning is as well as bringing some sense of normalcy to our kids to counteract the tremendous increase in anxiety that has surfaced. In person school will not be normal but it will be a step in the right direction. Can our students attend school safely? Yes. Students in other countries, other states and right here in Arlington Heights are attending class in person and there is not a huge increase in cases from these schools. The cases that are showing up in schools are by far not contracted in the school. There are no reports of a student transmitting the virus to a teacher or a teacher transmitting it to a student. A recent large study showed that 80% of cases without symptoms go on to develop symptoms. So the idea that there are thousands of people walking around feeling fine and yet spreading the virus is simply not true. Yes you can be contagious up to 2 days before you have symptoms but this is also true for the flu, stomach viruses, the common cold etc. this is not a new phenomenon. Someone who does test positive has not been sitting in the classroom for weeks spreading the virus.</p> <p>It is also very possible to be in the same room as someone with the virus, both of you wearing masks and staying 3-6 ft apart and NOT get the virus. I do it every day. I see covid patients in a small exam room. How do I not get sick? I wear my mask, wash my hands and do not get close enough to examine them until I absolutely have to. A study in Malaysia showed that healthcare workers could be in an exam room with an infected patient without protective gear (bc the masks, gloves and gowns were even more scarce then than they are now) for up to 15min before they risked contracting the virus themselves. That's where the 15 minutes comes from. Why 6ft? Because that's how far a covid particle can fly if you cough or sneeze it out <i>without</i> wearing a mask. If someone has a cough due to Covid, they ideally wont be at school. Even if they cough with a mask on, the virus particle will not travel that far. Yes some kids will somehow get into school with symptoms, presymptomatic kids will come, we cant prevent everything. Is there a protocol in place when a student or staff member tests positive for Covid? Yes. This helps control the spread for any infections that do come into our school buildings.</p> <p>In person school will not be 100% safe, it never will be and it never was. But it just may be one of the safest places we can send our children.</p>
Jen Huntzicker	<p>I wanted to note that when the district sent out the poll for who would be staying remote and who would be going hybrid, I selected neither. I did this because both choices are unsatisfactory for my family and I think for many others as well. When you look at the numbers of how many students are in person and how many students stayed remote, and you see that many chose remote, do not mistake this for mass fear of a virus that is now under control in our area. Many simply chose it for the toll that only 2 days a week would take on their children. They'd rather keep their kids at home than send them to a classroom where the teacher is trying to teach to half in person and half remote. I myself am now in a position I never thought I'd ever be in: I unenrolled my two 3rd graders from their beloved school and am now homeschooling them. Please understand that this has nothing to do with the school itself or with their outstanding teachers. This is a direct consequence of the overwhelming amount of screen time our children are being taught through. From the time of our first pediatricians appointment, doctors and other health professionals tell us time and time again the ill effects of screen time on children's developing brains. This move to a two day hybrid in which kids are still remote for three whole school days has done nothing to help this terrible scenario. I chose to pull my kids out instead so that I can teach the way kids learn best. From a face to face teacher, and with screen time only</p>

Name	Question/Comment
	<p>being utilized occasionally. This district's assurance that the screen time will go down now that they are back in school two days is impossible. You're asking your teachers to do the impossible. You're continuing to put our kids in a learning situation that is impossible. I urge the TAC to employ metrics that get our community back to in person learning, 5 days a week, soon. These kids need their teachers. They are essential. These kids need to physically be back in their school. Schools are essential.</p>
Amy Streff	<p>Can you please elaborate on your decision to not include special education students in the step 3 transition back into school? If you are refusing to integrate the integrated services program, it ceases to exist. The IEP states "To the maximum extent appropriate, all students shall be educated and participate with students who are non-disabled".</p> <p>The Department of Education requires that schools must provide each student with a disability the special education and related services identified in the student's IEP "to the greatest extent possible. If a school continues to provide educational opportunities to the general student population, they must ensure that students with disabilities have equal access to the <i>same</i> opportunities, including the provision of a free and appropriate public education (FAPE).</p> <p>Per ISBE, regarding provided services during the coronavirus outbreak; Districts and other serving entities should review class composition, including percentage of students with IEPs in the class, to ensure that each class has a proportionate percentage of general and special education students. By denying students with IEPs's the opportunity to attend class with their typical peers, you are allowing them to continue to regress and fall further behind then they already are. Social interaction is critical in developing the life skills that children with autism are severely lacking and is more crucial now than ever. I can't possibly understand how further segregating these children from their peers solely based on their disabilities will do anything but cause much more harm. I urge you to reconsider your decision not just for my son, but for the mental well being of all children in similar situations that need the opportunity in order to grow.</p>