

February 26, 2021

Dear Richland One Colleagues/Parents:

As February comes to a close, we continue to move forward in our Restart Strong Reopening of Schools Plan. As you are aware, we are in Phase 2 (Hybrid), with our elementary students now attending school in person four days a week and our middle and high school students attending in person two days a week. In addition, a virtual option continues to be available at all levels.

In noting the decline in COVID-19 incidence rates and positivity rates in Richland County, we will be making the following changes effective Monday, March 8, 2021 and in subsequent weeks, as noted:

DATE	ACTIVITY
March 8, 2021	Elementary school students transition to 5 days a week of in-person instruction. Middle school students and 9 th -grade students transition to 4 days a week of in-person instruction.
March 15, 2021	High school students in grades 10-12 transition to 4 days a week of in-person instruction.
March 22, 2021	Middle school students transition to 5 days a week of in-person instruction.
March 29, 2021	High school students in grades 9-12 transition to 5 days a week of in-person instruction.

In addition to the information above, please note the following:

- All transitions noted above are contingent upon continued improvements in community spread of COVID-19 and the availability of staff to support the successful and safe operation of schools. Individual school/classroom concerns will be addressed, as needed.
- Students will be required to remain in the mode selected by their parents/guardians for the remainder of the school year (in-person instruction or virtual).
- Students in the virtual option can remain in the virtual option.
- Wednesday will remain the flex day during the 4-day (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday) in-person instruction period. There will be no flex day the week of March 22. Friday, March 26 is a professional development day for staff/early release day for students.
- The district's COVID-19 tracking dashboard will continue to be operational and updated regularly. A link to the dashboard is posted at www.richlandone.org/restartstrong.

On a related note, Richland One is working closely with Prisma Health on the vaccination process with a goal of supporting district staff vaccinations as quickly as possible when the state moves to Phase 1B. We look forward to collaborating with Prisma Health to provide this opportunity for all educators and staff. Additional and specific information will be forthcoming from the district regarding the vaccination process and from respective schools regarding the in-person instruction transitions.

As we continue to work through impact of COVID-19 on this district and our community, we appreciate your patience, understanding and support.

Sincerely,

Craig Witherspoon, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Richland County School District One