

DEA's Statement for Safely and Equitably Reopening of Schools in August 2020

The Davenport Education Association (DEA), along with its state and national affiliates (ISEA and NEA), are exploring all avenues to address Governor Kim Reynolds's July 17 proclamation regarding reopening of the Davenport Community School District's (DCSD) schools for students and staff on Monday, August 24, 2020. Those avenues include:

- 1) Asking the DCSD to abide by the following three (3) key requirements for the Safe Return to In-Person Learning:
 - a. The COVID-19 pandemic is under control in Scott County, Iowa as determined by the Scott County Health Department using guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), where COVID-19 transmission cases are both low and declining over at least a consecutive two-week period.
 - b. Specific protections have been put in place to keep the virus under control and to protect students and staff including but not limited to:
 - Accommodations appropriate for high-risk students, staff and families;
 - Appropriate social distancing protocols;
 - Deterrence measures including mandatory employer-provided face coverings for all staff, students and school visitors;
 - Daily deep cleaning and disinfecting of schools, buildings and buses
 - Appropriate COVID-19 detection procedures;
 - Appropriate quarantine, isolation and notification procedures;
 - Educator and family involvement in developing those procedures;
 - Monitoring of health and safety protections by the Scott County Health Department;
 - and
 - Consistent and clear enforcement of all protocols and protections as they relate to COVID-19 by the DCSD Administration.
 - c. Plans are in place to ensure continuous learning for all students including but not limited to:
 - Racial and social equity in the provision of instruction and support services;
 - Training on virtual instruction for educators, families and students;
 - Educator input and voice in the planning process of virtual teaching and learning;
 - Device and high-speed internet access for every student and educator.
- 2) Political pressure and action and possible litigation to overturn the Governor's July 17 proclamation and instead allow local school districts as a matter of local control to decide how best to reopen schools on their own, including 100 percent continuous remote learning or reduced in-person attendance for as long as needed, while under a global COVID-19 pandemic.