



# Millinocket School Department

*Dr. Joshua McNaughton, Superintendent of Schools & Director of Special Ed*  
199 State Street; P.O. Box 30; Millinocket, ME 04462  
Office (207) 723-6400; Fax (207) 447-6599  
jmcnaughton@millinocketschools.org  
www.millinocketschools.org

August 16, 2021

## **Safe Return To School Plan**

Dear Community Members,

This document will serve as the foundation for our Safe Return to School Plan. This plan addresses our ongoing efforts to mitigate the threat of COVID-19 for our students and staff.

**In-person/Remote Learning & Attendance:** Based on the expectations from Governor Mills and the Maine Department of Education, all students and staff are expected to attend school in person. Virtual learning will not be provided on a regular basis. Virtual learning will only be provided if it becomes unsafe to have students and staff at school, and/or the buildings require additional cleaning to mitigate the threat of COVID.

**School Day & Time:** Our school schedule will return to full school days.

School Time: Granite Street: 7:45 am until 2:15 pm  
Stearns Jr/Sr High School: 7:40 am until 2:00 pm

**Transportation:** Student transportation for grades Pre-K through 5 will be provided. Social distancing will not be required on buses, however, masks are mandatory (federal mandate).

**COVID-19 Prevention Practices:** The following safety practices are based on current CDC recommendations. *Please note that updates and changes will be made to these practices as the CDC updates its recommendations.*

**Masks:** All staff and students, in Pre-K through grade 12, are required to wear face coverings, regardless of vaccination status or community transmission level. All students accessing bus transportation are also required to wear masks during their time on the bus. Masks will be provided for anyone who needs one.

**Social distancing:** 3' social distancing will be maintained whenever compatible. Social distancing will not be required in outdoor settings or on school buses. Social distancing in the cafeterias will be implemented when possible.

**Sanitization/Handwashing:** Frequent hand washing/sanitizing will be encouraged. Hand sanitizer will be provided.

**Illness Procedure:** All persons associated with the school department should remain home if they exhibit signs of COVID-19, including fever/chills, cough, difficulty breathing/shortness of breath, fatigue muscle/body aches, headaches, loss of taste or smell, congestion/runny nose, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea or sore throat.

Individuals who arrive at school or develop symptoms during the day will be required to go home. Guidance will be provided on a case-by-case basis by our School Nurse, based on the latest CDC guidelines regarding COVID-19 testing, quarantining, and when the individual may return to school

**Parent Reporting of COVID-19:** Parents are encouraged to report any COVID-19 cases to the school. Preventing transmission of COVID-19 is a community effort.

**Vaccinations:** Millinocket School Department will host a COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic on September 3rd & 24th for eligible students and staff. Please visit our school Facebook Pages for details.

**Virtual Learning Platform:** Canvas will remain the virtual learning platform for 2021-2022 and will be utilized by students throughout the year as a precautionary measure to ensure seamless transitions to virtual learning, if the need arises.

**Snow/Closure Days:** The first 5 snow/closure days will not include virtual learning and will not count as a student day. Any additional snow/closure days over 5, if needed, will include virtual instruction and count as school days.

### **School Events/Athletics:**

**Sports/Extracurricular Activities:** Will occur per the direction of the governing organizations, i.e. MPA, etc. We plan to hold these events at this time.

**School Meetings:** Meetings, including IEPs, will continue to be held virtually until further notice.

**Parent Volunteers/visitors:** Volunteers and visitors will remain at the discretion of the administration. Decisions will be based on current CDC, MDOE guidelines, and local COVID-19 presence in the community.

**Special Events:** (open house, parent-teacher conferences, school/community meetings, etc) will remain at the discretion of the administration. Decisions will be based on current CDC, MDOE guidelines, and local COVID-19 presence in the community.

In closing, please watch our district website and our school Facebook pages for updates as the start of school approaches. We will continue to adjust our safety procedures as necessary.

Yours in Education,

Joshua McNaughton, Ed.D  
Superintendent of Schools