

# WIN-E-MAC SCHOOL DISTRICT

RANDY BRUER, SUPERINTENDENT

www.wemschools.org

Phone: (218)563-2900

23130 345<sup>th</sup> Street SE  
Erskine, MN 56535  
Kevin McKeever, Principal

DISTRICT FAX: (218)563-2107  
H.S./ELEM. FAX: (218)563-2902

---

**11/13/2020**

**To: Parents and Students of Win-E-Mac School**

**Re: Win-E-Mac School Model Update**

School districts around the state are faced with difficult decisions right now on dialing back in-person learning as COVID-19 cases are exploding especially in our region. While the state continues to break daily records on new cases or hospitalizations, schools are feeling the impact in a different way compared to bars and restaurants, according to County officials and top officials at the Minnesota Department of Education.

Deputy Commissioner Heather Mueller told KSTP that the spread in schools is not like the spread seen in social settings. “We are not seeing that (spread) in the same way,” she said. “We are seeing that our schools and our students and staff are faring better than what may be happening in communities at large who are not following those mitigation factors. And so, the ability to be able to do that is incredibly important.”

In fact, in its latest update, the Minnesota Department of Health reported only 11 elementary schools in the state have five or more cases of COVID-19 — that amounts to just one percent of all the elementary schools in the state. The numbers go up for the older kids — it’s about four times as much for middle and high schools reporting cases.

“In a lot of instances, we are seeing that the spread is actually happening within our communities Mueller said. We know that our schools have really thought about making sure that all of the mitigating practices are continuing to be in place.”

The bigger issue for schools stretches beyond just positive cases. Superintendents have reported major challenges with staffing shortages as more and more teachers are forced to go into quarantine. Many districts may be forced to shift into distance learning quickly because maintaining the in-person or hybrid models are no longer sustainable.

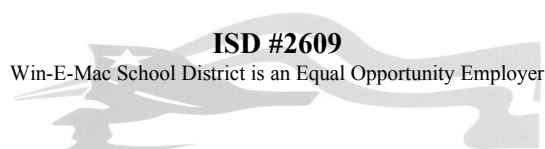
Mueller insisted, the plan remains to let districts have control over when to move to a new model. She said there’s no truth to the rumors of a statewide shutdown of schools.

## **Win-E-Mac School**

Our work together to slow the spread of COVID-19 by wearing face coverings, maintaining 6-8 ft. social distance, avoiding large gatherings, practicing good hand hygiene, holding virtual meetings and staying home when feeling ill has helped keep our early learning through high school students in school for 11 good weeks. It is a major goal to keep our youngest learners in school full time for as long as possible and we feel we are successful in doing that.

**ISD #2609**

Win-E-Mac School District is an Equal Opportunity Employer



# WIN-E-MAC SCHOOL DISTRICT

RANDY BRUER, SUPERINTENDENT

www.wemschools.org

Phone: (218)563-2900

23130 345<sup>th</sup> Street SE  
Erskine, MN 56535  
Kevin McKeever, Principal

DISTRICT FAX: (218)563-2107  
H.S./ELEM. FAX: (218)563-2902

I would like parents to make plans now as the Win-E-Mac School will move to a different model of learning. Our County numbers together with Community spread is alarming. It is difficult for parents and our school if we cannot hold school the next day due to lack of staff available to do their job. The model will include moving grades 5-12 to Distance Learning and keep the Pre-K elementary grades in school every day. We will also include students who need services, students at risk and teacher recommendations of students who need to be in school every day. We are working to complete plans to begin right after the Thanksgiving Holiday. This model will remain in effect until January 15<sup>th</sup>, to be reexamined at that time. We are entering the holiday breaks and with the growing county numbers and our staff going home due to exposure we need to make a change. See the school data below as the numbers expand daily.

\*\*\* “The Behavior of the Community will determine the Model of Instruction used in our School”

## Tentative Plan

### New Schedule.

Pre-K – 4 All students in-person every day. Preparations and instruction made to classrooms similar to the Hybrid model.

5 – 12 Distance Learning  
Teacher recommendations for selected students, special service students, and at-risk students to be in school. Sports will remain as is for now.

Monday – Friday and Monday, November 16 – 23 — Normal School Days

Tuesday, November 24 – Staff Planning Day

Wednesday, November 25 – No Students and No Staff

Monday, November 30 – New schedule with normal bus routes

**ISD #2609**

Win-E-Mac School District is an Equal Opportunity Employer