



# Virtual Option Work Session

McFarland School Board  
May 17, 2021



# Current Enrollments



	CEPS	WIS	IMMS	MHS
Homeschool or below compulsory age of attendance	36			
Attending WIVA	40	20	17	20
In-house virtual option as of Feb 1		54	117	227
In-house virtual option as of Mar 1		49	113	242
In-house virtual option as of May 3 <input type="checkbox"/>		22	60	163

# Virtual Option



## Our starting considerations

- WIVA will continue to be a virtual option available K-12
- Offer an in-house virtual option available K-12
- We will not be offering a 4K virtual option
- In-house virtual option is guaranteed for full school year
- In-house virtual option may include both synchronous and asynchronous learning for virtual students
- There may be some courses not available in a virtual environment taught by McFarland teachers, but every effort will be made to provide alternative options in those cases
- Either within the virtual option or through another structure, there is an opportunity for students in quarantine to continue their learning
- Limited movement between in-person and virtual
- Possible additional compensation and technology support if teachers need to teach concurrently (both virtual and in-person students in the same class). This includes teachers who may be asked to create asynchronous lessons for students to access on their own time.

# Virtual Option Survey Data



	CEPS	WIS	IMMS	MHS
Homeschool or below compulsory age of attendance	36			
Attending WIVA	40	20	17	20
In-house virtual option as of Feb 1		54	117	227
In-house virtual option as of Mar 1		49	113	242
In-house virtual option as of May 3		22	60	163
Indicated a preference for in-house virtual or undecided on family survey	13	15	9	18

# Family Survey Responses



## What mitigation strategies will be in place next year?

- The district will continue to follow PHMDC requirements for schools through their Orders.
- The vaccine is currently available for individuals 12 years and older. There may be different requirements for individuals who are vaccinated than those who are not.

## What if there is a variant and health situation gets worse?

- The district will follow the reverse metrics the school board last approved in April 2021.
- Reverse metrics will be updated to include a reverse metric to include Step 5 (which includes 5 days a week with all students present).

## Quarantine Response?

- Trending toward shorter times
- Currently 7-day with test/  
10-day without are options.
- If vaccinated within the last 90 days, do not need to quarantine.

## Sick day Response?

- Our current in-house virtual options are not available to students who are home sick unrelated to a quarantine.

# Family Survey Responses



## What is the timeline for making a decision about virtual options?

- Families need to make plans and explore options. If they want to enroll in WIVA, the sooner they can enroll, the sooner materials and paperwork will be in place to start school on time in the fall.
- Schools need to create master schedules and complete student placement into classes
- If hiring will be needed, we would like to work on that sooner rather than later to attract qualified candidates.

The sooner the Board can make a decision about in-house virtual options and communicate that decision with the community, the easier planning for next year will be for schools and families.



# K-5 Virtual Option Considerations



- Based on the number of families K-5 interested in in-house virtual option (24 students), we have the number of students to support hiring 1 teacher, maybe 2 teachers if there are additional students/families who didn't respond to the survey.
- Families shared connection to McFarland curriculum and engagement with peers and teachers were priority. In order to meet those two requests, particularly the connection to McFarland curriculum, we would need 1 teacher per grade (6 teachers)
- Concurrent is challenging K-5 for students, family and staff. It will require a full day of zooming which is not developmentally appropriate. It will require an adult to support the learning at home, and the interaction and connections will not be as robust as a full virtual program.
- We can work in a targeted fashion with families for individual situations. Some options might be
  - Targeted solutions for Individuals with IEP needs
  - Connecting students with alternative online options
  - WIVA would remain an option for families



# 6-12 Virtual Option Considerations



- The number of in-house virtual students (6 at IMMS and 18 at MHS) do not support having sections dedicated to virtual only classes.
- Concurrent classes at 6-12 have been challenging for students, families and teachers.
  - On the survey families mentioned audio problems and students feeling singled out at times for being virtual.
  - Teachers report challenges in engages both groups and the ability to provide meaningful feedback to all students when attending to two groups at once.
- In our current model, teachers have Wednesdays to make additional connections with virtual families. Next year, teachers will not have this additional time for outreach and support for virtual students.
- The schedule would be all day - this may lead to zoom fatigue.
- With the number of in-house virtual students, they may be the only virtual student in the class, which would limit opportunities to connect in group discussions (there can't be a virtual breakout conversation with 1 student).
- We can work with families for targeted solutions in individual situations, similar to the options available to our K-5 families.



# Resource Considerations



## Staffing:

- Currently all staffing levels are needed to teach in-person students and would not be available to teach virtual students
- Limited pools of candidates for extra virtual options
  - Other Dane County Districts have similar information
- Limited opportunities for training of staff for virtual options

## Financing:

- Anticipating deficit spending in 21-22 regardless of additional programming options
- Would need to use fund balance
- ESSER funds only covered 15% of our \$1.5 million Covid-19 Expenses for 2020-2021
- K-12, minimum estimate would be \$1.1 million
- Future ESSER funds are minimal to unlikely for McFarland School District



# Next Steps



100% of the administrative team and an overwhelming consensus from teachers on building leadership teams recommend to the Board that we maintain our focus on preparing for in-person instruction and not offer a full in-house virtual alternative to WIVA for 2021-22.

Administration will do everything we can to help families find an appropriate placement for their child(ren) when neither in-person instruction nor WIVA is the best fit.

