

Update – September 19, 2020

RE: Input to our COVID-19 Response Plan

Blackfoot School District Parents,

The most recent response made by our school district to the risk level designation in Bingham County has significantly increased awareness of our response plan. I have received a number of phone calls and emails frustrated that parents did not have an opportunity to give input to the plan. I assure you we did our very best to gather input regarding this plan before it has formally adopted by the school board. We posted the plan on our website and alerted parents via the means we had available. We were even criticized on social media for holding a public meeting to gather input from our parents. We publicized an email account where parents and patrons could send their thoughts regarding our response plan. Every bit of the information we received was shared with our school board prior to formally adopting our response plan.

I must admit, at that time the response plan may not have been on most people's "radar". There is no doubt in my mind, that it is on almost everyone's "radar" now. I have no problem making adjustments to our plan with input from our students, parents and staff. I have created a Google survey to help gather input. We will also be sending a copy of the survey home with students next week. PLEASE DO US THE FAVOR OF ONLY COMPLETING ONE SURVEY PER PARENT. In the past, I have noticed individuals who have submitted multiple response to our surveys. Please help us obtain the most accurate input possible by supporting that request.

It is my hope this will give our school board a better indication on how our response plan might be adjusted to better meet the needs of our students and their families. Please keep in mind this has been the most divisive situation in which I have been involved. For example, I have received a phone call stating students are being disenrolled from our district because we are doing too much, and this is truly only a bit worse than the common cold. Then, quite literally a few minutes later, I received a phone call that students are being disenrolled from our district because we are not doing enough, and they don't want their students to die. Now, those two examples are the two extremes, but I assure you, we have those extremes and every single thing in between.

Please know we are doing our very best to keep our students and staff safe and keep our schools open. We gladly welcome any input our parents might have regarding this situation. I know full well we will not make everyone happy, however, we want to take this opportunity to get your input.

The input survey can be found at the following link:

<https://forms.gle/37BYeAvstuCS3ZFMA>

Sincerely,

Brian Kress