

Governing Council - Quarter 3 of 2020-2021 Recommendations
Presented by Eric Crites, Head of School
December 16, 2020

CURRENT CONTEXT

1. NMPED is not allowing any high school to operate in hybrid mode at this time. NMPED will not state a timeline for when they anticipate allowing high schools to operate in hybrid at this time.
2. As of December 15, infection rates in Santa Fe County and statewide continue to far exceed the DoH criteria for a county to move from red to yellow to green (average daily infections must be 8 per 100,000).
 - a. Santa Fe County average daily infections over past 7 days: 56.3 per 100,000
 - b. New Mexico state average daily infections over past 7 days: 77.3 per 100,000
3. The impact of the upcoming holiday season on infection rates remains uncertain; an uptick in infections is possible due to travel and indoor gatherings.
4. NMDoH and NMPED have announced that **no** in-person learning may happen the weeks of January 4 and January 11, 2021 (including at elementaries that had previously been allowed to operate in hybrid and for students with disabilities who had been able to come into schools at a 5:1 student/teacher ratio).

RECOMMENDATION

Due to the current context, I recommend that the Governing Council approve the following plan for New Mexico School for the Arts:

1. Remain in fully remote mode as we enter quarter 3, which begins January 4, 2021, and remain in that mode *at least* until NMPED begins to allow high schools to enter hybrid mode.
2. As a community, be prepared for the possibility of needing to remain in fully remote mode for the duration of quarter 3; be prepared for the possibility of remaining in fully remote mode for the duration of quarter 4.
3. Consider shifting to hybrid mode *once that option is allowed by NMPED*, with consideration given to educational needs; logistical and health safety concerns; and input from students, staff, and family at that time.
4. Reinstigate the program of bringing in a small number of students with disabilities (IEPs) for small-group instruction (5:1 student/teacher ratio) on Wednesdays as soon as allowed by NMPED and NMDoH. If NMPED allows flexibility for additional student groups to be included in small-group 5:1 instruction on campus, NMSA would consider offering that opportunity.