



# Uinta County School District No. Four

PO Box 130, Mountain View, Wyoming 82939  
Phone (307) 782-3377 ext. 4201  
Fax (307) 782-6879

Jeffrey M. Newton, Superintendent of Schools  
Kimberly D. Dolezal, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent

[www.uinta4.com](http://www.uinta4.com)

June 30, 2020

Hello,

I hope you have been able to spend time this summer doing the things you enjoy with your loved ones. This letter is to provide an update on the reopening of schools in Uinta 4. First, I would like to make it clear that the greatest desire of the Uinta 4 Board of Trustees and the administrative staff is for schools to open on August 26<sup>th</sup> in a fashion that most closely resembles “business as usual” while prioritizing the safety and well-being of students, staff members and community members. We believe that the best place for our students to receive their education is within our buildings working in-person with the amazing teachers and staff members that we have in Uinta 4. We know that we will be limited by the health orders that will be in place both from Governor Gordon and our local health officials, but our desire is to have students back in the buildings receiving a great education beginning on August 26<sup>th</sup>.

Many things have already transpired this summer in preparation for a successful reopening of our schools. Uinta 4’s COVID-19 Transition and Reopening Committee has met on six different occasions since May 7<sup>th</sup> to lay the foundation for a successful reopening. The committee has made decisions on requests that have been submitted for approval to our county health officials to allow for limited student participation in activities and sports throughout this summer. The committee has also worked to develop our summer school program that will be offered in the elementary, middle and high school buildings beginning on August 10<sup>th</sup>. The building principals will be sending more detailed information regarding summer school in July. The committee has also provided input on a facilities project that will install classroom cameras and upgrade the sound systems in every classroom in the entire school district to improve the quality of the delivery of remote learning in case we are forced to implement a temporary closure at any point next school year. I am excited to say that this project will be completed this summer. The committee has also developed a reopening survey that will be sent out the week of July 6<sup>th</sup> via email that will provide stakeholders the opportunity to share valuable input for our reopening plan. The committee has also held many discussions focused on three possible scenarios for reopening:

1. School begins on August 26<sup>th</sup> and remains open subject to state and local health orders.
2. School begins on August 26<sup>th</sup> and then at some point closes temporarily due to a positive test or a second wave/surge. This scenario would require a transition back

---

Board of Trustees: Mark D. Walker Kelly Q. Carpenter Aaron T. Rudy Dale Madsen Laura Jorgensen

**Excellence in Teaching... Opportunity Through Learning**

The State of Wyoming provides Hathaway merit and need scholarships to Wyoming students attending the University of Wyoming and Wyoming community colleges

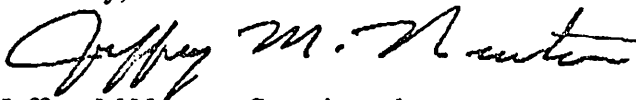
into a remote learning environment on a temporary basis. We are hopeful that our classroom camera and sound system project will improve the delivery of remote learning for this situation.

3. School opening is delayed in August.

The committee has been unable to finalize Uinta 4's reopening plan, however, until we receive the reopening template and guidelines that will be provided by the Wyoming Department of Education's Smart Start committee. Thankfully, this template and these guidelines will be released tomorrow and the Smart Start committee's work will be shared publicly via a news conference tomorrow co-hosted by Governor Gordon and Wyoming Department of Education. We are excited to see the guidelines set forth by the Smart Start committee that will provide direction as we finalize Uinta 4's reopening plan. You can expect weekly updates from me for the remainder of the summer in regards to Uinta 4's reopening plan now that we are finally going to see the guidelines set forth by the state. These updates will be shared through Swift Alert, the district Facebook page and the district website.

As always, thank you for your partnership, patience and support as we work to finalize Uinta 4's reopening plan for what we hope will be an excellent learning experience for all of our students beginning on August 26<sup>th</sup>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey M. Newton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeffrey M Newton, Superintendent

Uinta County School District 4