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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Colorado Springs School District 11 To Start the School Year with Mostly Remote Learning and Some Hybrid Scheduling**

After an in-depth discussion with the Board of Education this afternoon, it has been determined that D11 will be starting the school year on Aug. 24 with a hybrid model, targeting students with the greatest academic need for levels of in-school support. The remainder of our students will be engaged in our remote learning platform, Inspire Online. We will continue this schedule through the first quarter of the academic school year, ending October 15 for students, at which time we will review current health data and district readiness to invite all of our students back in person for the second quarter.

This decision was very challenging to make. We are fully aware that making the decision to open in a more remote fashion and/or returning at full capacity impacts our community either way, but in an effort to ensure the greatest safety for our students and staff, we felt the targeted hybrid approach was most appropriate.

Understandably, we have student populations who will still need in-person services and supports that are not feasible to accomplish in an all remote learning environment, specifically students receiving special education support, English Language Learners, TITLE/Read Act supported students, and preschool students (who, under current guidance, are classified as essential childcare). Additionally, there may be other programmatic needs requiring school access, such as AP, IB, and CTE courses that will require laboratory time as part of programmatic requirements. These areas are where some hybrid options will be built into schedules at the individual school level.

We will share more details with our community soon about how our hybrid/remote learning model will work. We strongly believe in-person learning has significant benefits for students, not only academically, but also for social-emotional development and overall health and well-being. The desire of the District's Board of Education and leadership teams is to return to in-person learning as much as is safely possible and as soon as possible.

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