



KIM REYNOLDS
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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April 23, 2021

To the members of the Iowa Schools Building & Grounds Association:

As you gather today for your Spring Conference, I want to thank each of you, along with all of the Educational School Facility and Operations staff members at districts across the state, who have worked diligently over the last year to ensure a safe environment in Iowa's schools.

When students returned to the classroom last August, it provided a much-needed sense of normalcy during a very uncertain time for the nearly half million K-12 students in our state. But, as you well know, reopening our school buildings was anything but normal during a pandemic.

School facility and operations staff were faced with the daunting task of rethinking every aspect of the typical back-to-school plan. From reorganizing classrooms to allow for more distance between students, to modifying traffic patterns within buildings to reduce exposure, and implementing stringent disinfection protocols throughout every facility, your work was critical to keeping teachers, students and guests safe and healthy.

As we approach the end of the school year, I am incredibly proud to be one of the few states in the nation that made returning to school for in-person learning a priority. It was the right thing to do for the overall health and wellness of Iowa's students, and we've proven that it can be done safely and responsibly. But it would not have been possible without the dedication and commitment of your teams.

I recognize that the pandemic presented many challenges in your work this year, and I want you know just how grateful I am for all you have done.

Thank you for being creative and innovative in developing solutions that allowed Iowa's schools to remain open this year, and that helped advance our state's recovery from the impact of COVID-19.

You and your teams are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim Reynolds".

Kim Reynolds

Governor of Iowa