

June 25, 2020

Good evening Region 15 families and staff,

I hope the first week of summer has been pleasant and that you and your loved ones are healthy and safe.

This afternoon the Governor released a summary of the guidelines that will inform our plans to reopen schools in the fall. I have included a link to his press conference below, the accompanying documents will be available on our website tomorrow afternoon. The basic concept is that, given the positive health data in the State, guidelines have been developed to facilitate all students returning to school in the fall.

Press Conference

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7h5PMkF8cj4&feature=youtu.be>

While today's announcement outlined the basic concepts for the upcoming school year, we expect a more detailed plan to be distributed on Monday. The State Department has asked us to develop a plan with three phases, with local health conditions dictating which phase we operate in.

Phase 1: All students coming back to school in the fall, implementing guidelines.

Phase 2: Creating a hybrid model (some in school time and some distance learning).

Phase 3: All students on distance learning.

In the preliminary guidance, it does look like there will be an option for families to stay on distance learning only, particularly for students who are immunocompromised.

Our district teams will be looking at those guidelines to discuss implications for operations both logistically and financially. We will need to submit a plan to the State by July 24th.

Currently there are still more questions than we have answers to, but we appreciate the clear direction today pointed us in. For an overview of the questions we are working to answer, please see the presentation from the June 22nd Board of Education

meeting: [http://www.region15.org/filestorage/158/2563/2266/2408/24941/Back to School_2020.pdf](http://www.region15.org/filestorage/158/2563/2266/2408/24941/Back_to_School_2020.pdf)



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Your input is important to our planning process. If you have not yet filled out our parent survey, please take a few minutes to share you thoughts and inform our thinking: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2020R15Parents>

We have experienced many changes over the past few months, and I think it is safe to say that the next few months will not be any different. We will do our best to keep you informed and make sure that information is available on our website and FaceBook page.

I thank you in advance for your flexibility, patience, and partnership as we work to find balance between safety, school, and practicality.

Thank you,

Joshua Smith
Superintendent
Region 15 Public Schools