



REGION 15 SCHOOLS 2020-21 REOPENING INFORMATION

WWW.REGION15.ORG/SCHOOLREOPENING
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August 22, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Our Return to School Countdown is underway! Our buildings have been too quiet and too empty the past 24 weeks. We missed our students and eagerly await their return.

Our first day of school is Tuesday, September 1st (Pre-K and grades 1-12) and Wednesday, September 2nd (Kindergarten). Reminder that the first week of school is all scheduled early dismissals.

It is important that all families have updated contact information on record at the school. You may login to [SchoolMessenger](#), our automated notification system, to confirm the accuracy of the phone numbers and emails we have on record. Please contact your child's school to update contact information.

To prepare to reopen our schools we are continuing to have weekly meetings with the Department of Public Health. Connecticut continues to be low risk and the Department of Public Health continues to advise for in-person learning.

I cannot emphasize enough that we are in a very fluid environment. It is important that all families have contingency plans should conditions change. We are witnessing districts around us being forced to make last minute changes and while Region 15 does not currently need to do so, the possibility of a short term closing, individual quarantines, schedule changes or other changes are ever present.

Added to the website this week:

- A link that provides access to data on the key metrics developed by the Connecticut Department of Health (DPH) and the Department of Education (CSDE) to support local district decision-making on the level of in-person, hybrid (blended), and remote learning model for Pre K-12 education.

[CT School Learning Model Indicators](#)

Moving Forward:

- Mask guidance: A new item to our back to school shopping lists includes masks.

Region 15 will have masks for students that need them, however we encourage families to find their own that students can practice with prior to coming to school.

In guiding the proper way to wear a face mask or "cloth face covering," the [CDC outlined five criteria](#):

- They must **fit snugly** (but comfortably) against your face
- They must be **secured with ties or ear loops**
- They must include **multiple layers of fabric**
- They must allow for **breathing without restriction**
- They must be **washable** without damage or shape change

- Teacher assignments at the elementary and middle schools were mailed home Friday afternoon. High school students may login to PowerSchool to view their schedules. If you use the PowerSchool app on your phone, you may need to make updates.
 - For students who have selected the voluntary remote option, you have been assigned to a classroom that will have both in-person and remote learners. This allows for students to move between settings without a disproportionate impact to class sizes and maintains a consistent relationship with the class and the teacher.
- Bus routes and cohort groups have been shared with high school families via email, elementary and middle schools will receive theirs in the next day or two from their schools. At this time, only the high school students will function under the cohort designation. All other students will only need them if the district needs to operate in a phase 2, hybrid model. That is not the case at this time.
- Principals will be sharing additional information about their individual building opening plans and pre-school plans with families in the coming week. Including what the first day will look like for families who have opted for Remote Distance learning.
- Daily Health Checks: The district is finalizing a contract for a daily health check tool. Parents will be asked to reply to a text message or email each morning with a student health check in.
- Technology: The chromebooks ordered for students continue to be delayed. It is now likely that all of them will not be in for the start of the school year. As we have each day, Region 15 will adjust. Our team is meeting tomorrow to revise our plan and will communicate it out for families.

Promoting public health is a shared responsibility.

We ask that every member of the Region 15 community do their part to minimize the risks. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Wearing masks in school buildings, unless you are in a large physical space that allows for physical distancing. We ask families to practice and reinforce this.
- Responsibly monitoring your own child's health and keeping your child home if they exhibit symptoms or if you have been in close contact with a COVID-19 positive case.
- Following the State of CT quarantine protocols if you have traveled to an area deemed a hot spot.

Keeping our students and staff safe while maintaining the high standards of educational excellence for which Region 15 is known is our goal.

Our Region 15 community is prepared to begin the 2020-21 school year and we are looking forward to welcoming our students!

Reopening our Schools 2020: We are Connected. We are Prepared. We are Region 15!

Joshua Smith
 Superintendent
 Region 15 Public Schools