



REGIONAL 15 SCHOOLS 2020-21 REOPENING INFORMATION

WWW.REGION15.ORG/SCHOOLREOPENING
SCHOOLREOPENING@REGION15.ORG

August 1, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Staff,

While we understand that this continues to be a challenging time, Region 15 Schools are here to support our educational community and share the latest guidance, information, and resources regarding COVID-19 and its impact on schools.

This past week, Governor Lamont, the Department of Public Health, and the State Department of Education have shared additional information with school districts across the state regarding Reopening Schools for the 2020-21 school year. Our district met continuously over the past week to review the information being released and the impact to Region 15. Next Thursday, evening August 6th, at 6:00 we will stream a public meeting to update the community on our reopening plans.

As a school community, I ask that you keep informed of the district's plans and as well as updated on information shared at local and state levels. We are working diligently to ensure the safety and health of all students and the entire school community. Your support and collaboration is vital to a safe and positive reopening.

While we have been dealing in many unknowns over the past few months, our one known is that there is a new school year about to begin and are we excited to see our students!

Communication:

Our dedicated district webpage continues to be updated with the documents that are guiding our plans:
www.Region15.org/SchoolReopening

Added to the webpage this week:

- [**CT Distance Learning Planning Guide**](#) - Actualizing Connecticut Classrooms for Continuous Learning: Guidance and Tools for High-Quality, Equitable Distance Learning
 - Four Addendums to Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together. These Addendums were done with input from the Department of Public Health.
1. [Addendum 1: Temporarily Opting into Voluntary Remote Learning Due to COVID-19](#)
 2. [Addendum 2: COVID Guidance and Considerations for Preschool Located in Public Schools](#)
 3. [Addendum 3: Fall Reopening Resource Document for Students with High Needs](#)
 4. [Addendum 4: Internal Guidance for Decision Making Regarding the use of In Person Hybrid Blended or Remote](#)

School Reopening:

A document with questions and answers regarding our School Reopening plans is available on our website. This document will continue to be updated as we receive questions and as additional guidance is available. Please submit questions to: SchoolReopening@Region15.org

Moving Forward:

- Given the updated guidance from the Department of Education, Department of Public Health and the Governor of CT, we expect to provide the public with clearer directions of our plans next week.
- How school opens at this time will be driven by state trends in health data and are subject to change based on community infection rates. We encourage everyone to plan for all potential phases.
- The proposed revised calendar for the 2020-21 school year includes the first four days as early release days (September 1-4, Kindergarten will begin on September 2). We encourage parents to continue to make plans for childcare options for the early release days during this first week of school and for all three phases of instruction. We do understand the challenges the hybrid and full remote model creates for families and we hope that by providing families with this information they will have time to develop contingency plans.
- A survey will be distributed to all Region 15 families on Friday, August 7th asking your intent to send your child(ren) to school for in-person instruction per the district's outlined plans and your intent to have your child(ren) ride the school bus to and from school each day.
 - As of today, Region 15 is planning for every child to attend in-person school in the fall and recognize that some families may have concerns about sending their children. To properly respond to the survey, we ask you to review the current plans and phases on our website. The [Reopening Our Schools Presentation to the Board of Education on 7/20/20](#) provides an overview of the phases. Your response will be needed by Friday, August 15th.

We thank you for showing patience during these unprecedented times in education as we work toward developing a plan to safely return to school. We know how valued education is to the staff and families of Region 15. I am grateful for your partnership.

Thank you,

Joshua Smith
Superintendent
Region 15 Public Schools