



REGIONAL 15 SCHOOLS 2020-21 REOPENING INFORMATION

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

JULY 11, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Staff:

I hope this letter finds you healthy and safe. As we plan to meet the state's guidelines for the possibility of reopening our schools, Region 15 will provide you with weekly updates, regarding our plans and other information for the 2020-21 school year.

COMMUNICATION:

All information, including guiding documents and recommendations from the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE), in addition to weekly updates and other district communications will be posted to our website: <http://region15.org/SchoolReopening>

This dedicated webpage currently contains the following documents. I encourage you to review them.

FROM REGION 15:

- [Recent Survey Results from both parents and students](#)
- [Superintendent Letter to Staff and Families \(6/25/20\)](#)
- [Back to School 2020 \(Presentation at 6/22/20 BOE Meeting\)](#)

FROM THE STATE OF CT:

- [Question and Answer Session with the Commissioner of Education](#)
- [CT State Dept of Ed Executive Summary](#)
- [CT State Dept of Ed Reopening Information for Schools \(Overview\)](#)
- [State Dept of Ed Reopening Guide](#)
- [Link to CT State Dept of Ed COVID-19 Resources](#)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATIONAL LINKS:

- [American Association of Pediatrics](#)

SCHOOL REOPENING:

The Governor has announced Connecticut's plan for the reopening of our schools. This plan identifies all students returning to school every day. The Reopening Model, "ADAPT, ADVANCE, ACHIEVE: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together" outlines six guiding principles:

1. Safeguarding the health & safety of students and staff;
2. Allowing all students the opportunity to return into the classrooms full time starting in the fall;
3. Monitoring the school populations and, when necessary, potentially cancelling classes in the future to appropriately contain COVID-19 spread;
4. Emphasizing equity, access, and support to the students and communities who are emerging from this historic disruption;
5. Fostering strong two-way communication with partners such as families, educators and staff; and

6. Factoring into decisions about reopening the challenges to the physical safety and social-emotional well-being of our students when they are not in school.

REGION 15 DISTRICT REOPENING COMMITTEE:

In Region 15, we are developing plans to ensure a safe, equitable and healthy environment for all students and staff that meets the Governor's guiding principles and also provides the level of safety and security desired by our community.

This week, administrators and teachers representing all schools, grade levels and subjects, met multiple times to begin this work and will continue to do so during the next two weeks. Our District Reopening Committee represents Region 15 staff members, many of our staff members are also parents, as well as community residents. Together they bring varied perspectives and combined exceed 1000 years of educational experience.

This committee is reviewing the guidance from the CSDE, parents and student feedback from our surveys, local, state and national medical advice as well as reopening examples from other districts internationally, collectively reviewing impacts and safety protocols that will contribute to the development of a plan specific to Region 15.

MOVING FORWARD:

Collaboratively, with input from all our stakeholders, we will develop an overarching back-to-school plan. There is a significant amount of detail, considerations and scenario planning that will happen at the local level.

We will remain flexible, open-minded, and responsive to the inevitable adjustments required to respond to emerging health data. We will submit our district plan to the CSDE, as required, by July 24th. It is our intention to share our plan with the community at a Board meeting July 20th that will be streamed through the district's YouTube channel as well as recorded.

Parents, students, and community members who are interested in providing additional information to the Region 15 Reopening Committee, may do so using this email address: SchoolReopening@Region15.org.

Thank you for your partnership, flexibility, and support as we work through this process together.

Joshua Smith
Superintendent
Region 15 Public Schools