

## Update Regarding the Reopening of Schools:

Governor Cuomo has announced that schools can reopen in September if our region is in Phase IV of reopening and if our daily infection rate remains below five percent, using a 14-day average. The Governor will make the final decision about when schools can reopen and has stated that additional information will be available during the first week of August. Specifics of the Governor's directive can be found at <https://on.ny.gov/3j99eIf>.

In an effort to ensure the safe reopening of schools, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) and New York State Department of Health have issued guidance on the opening of schools. The Board of Regents has also issued a report for schools to utilize in creating their plans for the coming school year.

The NYSED framework, which can be viewed at <https://bit.ly/2DDzY33>, includes guidance in the areas of Health and Safety, Nutrition, Social and Emotional Well-Being, Facilities, Transportation, Budget/Finances, Attendance, School Schedules, Teaching and Learning, Technology/Connectivity, Special Education, Bilingual Education and World Languages, and Staffing and Human Resources.

The guidelines provide direction that the District will utilize in conjunction with the input from staff and families. Our family survey closes on Friday, July 17 and results will be analyzed and used in our planning process. We will also work with our building-level and district-level Shared Decision Making Teams as part of the process.

District plans must be submitted to the Governor by July 31, but we anticipate modifications will be needed as we move through the second half of the summer and receive further guidance and determinations from the Governor.

Our goal will be to provide the best possible educational environment for our students and staff. We will plan for each of the potential scenarios; in-person, hybrid, and remote learning. Safety will be at the forefront of all decisions.

We understand families are eager to receive information about these reopening plans. We will continue to share information as it is available.