

07/10/2020

Dear Parents,

As you know, the *District Reopening Task Force* has been hard at work planning for a variety of reopening scenarios. This afternoon the *District Reopening Task Force* convened to review its recommendations and next steps in District planning for the safe reopening of schools. Some highlights of the report include:

1. Recommendations focusing on the social and emotional learning needs of students with additional resources for families.
2. Maintaining at least three feet between student desks in accordance with the American Academy of Pediatrics guidance.
3. Assigning dedicated spaces for the delivery of special services with adherence to social distancing guidelines.
4. Creating instructional plans that are adaptable to support in-person or remote learning.
5. Establishing clear protocols for communication with important information easily accessible on the district website.

The *Summary & Recommendations* from the *Task Force* will be published on the DPS website by the close of the day on Monday, July 13. Recommendations from the *District Reopening Task Force*; the requirements outlined in Connecticut's State Reopening Plan; results from parent and staff surveys; and feedback from parent focus groups and the Board of Education will be used to finalize the *District Reopening Schools Plan* for submission to the Connecticut State Department of Education on July 24.

On Monday, July 13 you will receive a short survey asking whether or you plan on utilizing bus transportation (if applicable) and if you are planning on sending your child(ren) to school at the start of the school year. As you may know, the District plan must include a provision to provide remote learning experiences should families decide their child(ren) will not return to school in the fall. Your participation in Monday's survey will help the District in its final plans to provide remote learning and maximize social distancing.

Thank you for your participation in this important process as we prepare for the safe return to school for our students and staff.

Sincerely,

Alan Addley, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools