



Dr. Adele V. Pecora • Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Parents/Guardians:

I hope that you and your families are well and enjoying the spring weather. This week, the school district received a few inquiries regarding the continued use of desk barriers. Recently, schools have been provided the option to stay with the current plan or modify procedures. At this point, our plan has worked well for the school district. Over the course of the year, we have had to close only one of our elementary schools for two days. Moreover, we have been able to largely contain the spread of COVID in the classrooms. That being said, we are still experiencing a steady reporting of positive COVID cases; within the last week alone, there have been nine new cases. With the end of the school year approaching, we are not in a rush to change a plan that prioritizes the health and safety of our students and staff.

In reality, the new NYS option to remove barriers and modify our plan makes it much more difficult to operate in a manner that allows all children to attend school. For example, the new option calls for six-feet of distance for all meals, including elementary snacks. Without the desk barriers, our students in many classrooms would be unable to eat classroom snacks. There is not enough distance. Further, to meet the six-foot mealtime requirement, all our schools would need to take additional space for our student lunch periods, since we would be mandated to space students six feet apart (without barriers). Currently, we are already using our cafeterias and all-purpose rooms for instructional purposes. Any change would require our schools to take over space that has already been allocated for other purposes for this school year. There is simply just not enough building space available. With only six weeks left of the school year, it is not organizationally or instructionally prudent to make a change to solve one issue only to create many new ones.

We realize that this year has been challenging. Currently, school administrators are planning end of the year events that will be inclusive and festive. Over the next few weeks, the Reopening of Schools Task Force will begin to plan for next year. We anticipate that significant changes will be made over the summer once we have more time to prepare the students, staff, and school environment appropriately.

Yours in Seaford Pride,
Adele V. Pecora
Adele V. Pecora, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

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