

# Cheektowaga-Sloan Union Free School District

Mrs. Andrea L. Galenski  
Superintendent of Schools  
(716) 891-6402



**Board of Education**  
Denise McCowan - President  
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November 18, 2020

Dear Cheektowaga-Sloan Families,

I am writing to inform you that Governor Cuomo announced today that Cheektowaga is now located within an orange zone. This new designation forces all Cheektowaga-Sloan Schools to close for in-person instruction.

It is possible, but highly improbable, for the district to test back into opening schools for in-person instruction when designated in an orange zone. In order to do so, the district must ensure that no staff, faculty, or student attends in-person instruction on campus without first receiving a negative COVID-19 test result taken after the closure of school. To reopen for in-person instruction, schools in red and orange zones must also complete an attestation that the in-person school population has been tested for COVID-19 and only individuals with a negative result are being permitted to return to campus.

We do not believe we can secure consent for testing 100% of in-person staff, faculty, and students. Therefore, we will need to pivot to fully remote instruction effective Monday, November 23, 2020. If the rules for testing back to in-person learning change, we will provide an update on our plans.

Once the orange zone designation is lifted, or if the Governor designates the district is in a yellow zone, we will work hard to resume in-person instruction. We are awaiting approval as a COVID-19 testing center and we are in the process of partnering with an outside agency, *Supplemental Health*. We have made both of these important decisions in order to prepare for possible movement back into the yellow zone where we could resume in-person instruction if we test 20% of our in-person students and staff.

School will be in session tomorrow and Friday of this week which will allow our students in Group B an opportunity to gather the materials they need for fully remote instruction. Our students in Group A prepared earlier in the week so that we were best prepared for this move to remote learning. Our teachers especially at the elementary level have been working with our students to show them exactly what they will need to do for remote learning. We are so proud of how well our students have been doing with their chromebooks and navigating this new type of remote learning experience.

We will communicate with all families by the end of this week regarding our expectations for students during this temporary pivot to 100% remote learning. Our Principals will send letters to

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*Our mission is to provide a positive academic and social learning environment that fosters independence, responsibility, life-long learning and student success.*

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all families outlining our exact plans for our elementary, middle and high school students so that we can continue to work as strong partners. Please note that nothing significant will change as we have been prepared for this possibility since September. It will be most important that all students follow these schedules so that all students can continue to make progress and be engaged in learning each day. Student engagement and completion of work is very important and we greatly appreciate your help with this at home.

To review, students in Group B are able to report to school tomorrow and Friday to complete this week in-person. We will pivot to 100% remote learning on Monday, November 23, 2020. I will continue to provide information to all families as the situation evolves.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincerest gratitude to all families for their partnership, patience and understanding during this challenging and everchanging time. We are here for all students and families and we ask that you please reach out to any of us should you need help or support with anything. We look forward to returning to in-person instruction as soon as possible so that we can continue teaching and learning in the safe environment that we have maintained since September.

Sincerely,

Andrea L. Galenski  
Superintendent of Schools