

July 20, 2020

Dear Students, Families, and Staff Members of the Rochester City School District,

Last week, the New York State Education Department and New York State Department of Health released guidelines to help school districts as they plan to reopen, whether that occurs in person, remotely, or a combination of the two. These guidance documents outline strict parameters that districts must follow in order to reopen schools safely.

Also last week, the District concluded surveys to students, parents, and staff related to the reopening of schools. The [summary of those results](#) show that 34% of families believe school should resume in September with a modified schedule that includes both in-person and remote learning while 36% of families are not confident sending their children back to school. Thank you for your participation in our survey, as your feedback is a vital component throughout this process.

Prior to the release of the NYS guidelines, the District had already begun the work to prepare for a safe return to school, with the health and safety of all students, staff, and school communities as our top priority. We continue to follow guidelines set forth by the Centers for Disease Control, NYSED, New York State, and Monroe County. That work is captured in the document [School Year 2020-2021: RCSD Together](#), which details all of the safety precautions the District is undergoing to ensure a safe and healthy return to school.

Below are some dates when you can expect to learn more about our reopening plans.

- **July 31** – District submits reopening plan to New York State and shares with parents and staff.
- **On or before August 7** – Governor Cuomo announces his decision regarding school reopening. Please understand that no district will be able to say with 100% certainty which school reopening model they will be implementing before this announcement.

As we anticipate these dates, we also know that the decision on how we reopen schools is complicated and will likely not be entirely ours to make. Our Reopening Task Force and subcommittees have been working tirelessly, carefully reviewing all of the guidelines set forth by the State with the intent to safely bring back as many students as we can in a healthy learning environment.

Sincerely,



Lesli Myers-Small, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools