

October 29, 2020

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

As we near the end of the first marking period, I want to provide an update on the District's reopening plan moving forward.

Since the start of the school year, we have been deliberating about the best way to ensure that all our students receive access to high-quality grade-level instruction in the safest way possible. We have been listening to your feedback and concerns over the continued spread of COVID-19. We conducted surveys and held nine focus groups with students, families, and staff, where the District discussed the reopening of school buildings.

At this time, the District will offer a **hybrid model with four days of in-person learning for Students with Disabilities in Specialized Programs in grades K – 12, beginning January 4, 2021. All other students will continue with remote learning at this time.**

This decision was made in collaboration with input from all of you, our school leaders, the support of Monroe County health officials, and the experiences of other districts in New York and across the country. We also have been monitoring the number of COVID-19 cases, testing capacity, and indication of community spread in our area.

Throughout our reevaluation and planning, two core principles continue to guide our work – the health and safety of our students and staff and the goal of providing a high-quality learning experience to our students. This has been our promise to you all along, and it remains at the forefront of our decision-making. We understand that some of you may have concerns about returning to school.

Families of Students with Disabilities in Specialized Programs will be contacted no later than November 6 to discuss your preference on whether your child will return for four days of in-person learning or remain in the current remote learning model. This information will guide us in finalizing logistics prior to the January 4, 2021 start date.

Thank you for your ongoing support, patience, and flexibility. We are here to support you and will do all that we can to ensure our scholars have the materials and supports necessary to be successful and move our District **Forward. Together. Now.**

Sincerely,



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