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Dear Rochester City School District Students and Families,

We have begun planning for the 2021-2022 school year, and the focus of that work is to return more students in person this September. Last week, the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) issued new guidance decreasing the social distancing requirements in classrooms from six to three feet, so we are moving forward with plans that will allow more students to return in person next school year. **If New York State removes all restrictions, students will attend school in person as they did before COVID closures.**

Beginning September 8, 2021, the Rochester City School District will return to school five days a week for in-person learning following the three feet of social distancing restrictions. All students in grades Pre-K – 12 will receive direct instruction from their teachers five days a week, as Wednesdays will no longer be asynchronous. We will offer a **100% remote learning option** to accommodate families who do not feel comfortable sending their children back to school in person.

If you are choosing the **REMOTE option**, please **call** your child's school to let them know.

You can also **choose online** via the *PowerSchool Parent Portal* at

<https://www.rcsdk12.org/parentportal>.

By making this decision, you are committing to have your children learn remotely for the first semester of school, which ends on Friday, January 28, 2022.

Families who want their children to take part in 100% remote learning **must respond by Friday, May 7, 2021.**

If we do not hear from you by May 7, your children will automatically be enrolled as in-person students.

While the first day of school seems far away, I want to inform you of these plans now, as this information is essential for the District to build student schedules, prepare our school buildings, coordinate transportation, and **plan for two groups of teaching staff – one dedicated to teaching in-person students and the other to teaching remote students.**

Students are our first priority, and they drive every decision we make. Please understand that while I am steadfast in my desire to have students back in school, new information and guidelines from New York State can change, which will require us to shift course and make modifications.

IF New York State requires us to open under stricter guidelines, below are the learning plans we will have to follow:

- **Restrictions: 6 Feet of Social Distancing Space in Classrooms**
 - **IN-PERSON/HYBRID** (combination of in-person and remote)
 - IN-PERSON/HYBRID: Students attend school two consecutive days a week to receive in-person instruction. These days will be either Monday-Tuesday or Thursday-Friday. The other three days are delivered virtually.
 - IN-PERSON/HYBRID SPECIALIZED SERVICES: Students attend school four days a week to receive in-person instruction, with Wednesday being remote instruction delivered virtually.
 - **100% REMOTE:** Students learn virtually all five days.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
In-Person/ Hybrid Group 1	Remote	Remote	Remote	In-Person	In-Person
In-Person/ Hybrid Group 2	In-Person	In-Person	Remote	Remote	Remote
In-Person/ Hybrid Specialized Services	In-Person	In-Person	Remote	In-Person	In-Person
100% Remote	Remote	Remote	Remote	Remote	Remote

- **Mandated Full Closure of Schools**
 - All students learn remotely five days a week, with all classes delivered virtually.

I will keep you updated on our plans as we move forward. I appreciate your continued patience and flexibility, as we work to plan for a successful 2021-2022 school year. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lesli C. Myers-Small
Superintendent of Schools