



An Important Message from the Superintendent of Schools - Reopening Update

July 10, 2020

Dear Irvington School Community,

I hope this message finds you well, enjoying the early days of summer. While we typically think of summer recess as a time to slow down, we in the IUFSD have been very busy planning for the reopening of school in September. This communication is intended to provide you with important information on this process.

Since early June, the District has been implementing a comprehensive planning process to be ready for all aspects of the school experience regardless of whether we are engaged in distance learning, on-site learning or a hybrid of the two. The [District's planning process](#) includes four committees that are representative of our community by having among its membership teachers, nurses, staff, administrators, Board of Education Trustees, parents, the school physician, Irvington Police Officers and the District's security and safety consultant, Altaris. The four committees are comprised of a Steering Committee and three subcommittees.

The committees are completing very focused work to develop recommendations that will inform the creation of our reopening plan. This plan, which will be completed by the end of July, will outline recommendations for all educational, health and safety measures that may be implemented come September. Below, please find a description of each committee's responsibilities:

Steering Committee: The Steering Committee is charged with coordinating the work of three subcommittees and supporting the work of the development of the District's reopening plan. The Steering Committee is meeting with representatives of the three subcommittees who are presenting the development of their recommendations. The most recent [Steering Committee presentation/report](#) provides an overview of the District's process to date, along with the areas upon which the subcommittees are focusing.

Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee: This committee is in the process of developing recommendations that will outline models for instruction including an enhanced model for distance learning (utilizing our experiences and community feedback) and a hybrid model wherein students will attend school on a rotational basis (i.e. 50% of students in attendance daily) employing health and safety guidance/requirements from the respective governmental agencies. The committee is also focusing on any necessary curricular modifications that have to be made and are developing strategies for assessing our students' learning needs upon their return to school.

Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) Subcommittee: In addition to planning for the academic needs of students, the IUFSD recognizes that the pandemic has presented many members of our community with challenges in managing changing school and work schedules, family dynamics, and health concerns. The SEL

committee is focused on developing recommendations for student and staff support structures to facilitate the return to school including instructional strategies and programs that will be implemented during the 2020-21 school year.

Operations Subcommittee: The operations committee is responsible for developing recommendations to provide for the health and safety of all staff members, developing necessary protocols for cleaning and sanitizing school facilities, coordinating any modifications to transportation services and addressing food service needs.

While we are making great progress in developing our reopening plans, what has been absent from this process is any formal guidance from New York State (NYS) and the New York State Education Department (SED), which we look forward to receiving next week. With this information in hand, we will be able to finalize our operational recommendations for the reopening of school. [To further inform our decision making, please look for and complete an important parent survey related to the reopening of school that will be emailed to you next week.](#)

Finally, I look forward to presenting an overview of our planning process on July 21st at a Board of Education meeting that will be held via Zoom. Once Governor Cuomo and the SED provide the necessary guidance, the District will finalize its plans and present them to the school community. Details for these meetings will be communicated in advance of the meeting dates.

As always, should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

My best regards,

Kris

Dr. Kris Harrison
Superintendent of Schools

6 Dows Lane
40 North Broadway
Irvington, NY 10533
914-591-8500 | 914-591-3064
www.irvingtonschools.org

