



BERGEN COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOLS / SPECIAL SERVICES

District Administrative Office

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Howard Lerner, Ed.D.
Superintendent

BCTS Educational Update 7/20/20

Dear Administration, Faculty, Staff and Parents/Guardians,

At the end of June, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) released "The Road Back", its guidelines for reopening schools in the fall. The guidelines emphasize safety and flexibility for both students and staff but make it clear that in-person instruction must be at least a part of every school district's operational plan for the coming school year.

The NJDOE guidelines were developed by state education officials with input from school district leaders, parents/guardians and school communities. They provide districts with a baseline of standards, along with suggestions of additional elements to consider. The guidelines give districts the ability to implement schedules and protocols that work best for their own students, parents/guardians and staff.

Back in May our district formed a "Re-Entry Task Force" committee, comprised of central office administrators, school administrators, faculty and staff, in anticipation of this next phase. Our committee has been meeting weekly and discussing ideas for scheduling, cleaning protocols, social distancing, PPE, technology, etc. In accordance with the NJDOE's guidelines, our committee now also includes Board of Education, parent/guardian and student representation.

Our committee has continued over the summer to formulate a plan that works best for our school district, and one that is versatile. We will be guided by data from local and state health departments and as such, our plan will also be flexible. The instructional schedule of school attendance will be communicated out to all district constituents in early August so there is ample time to digest how it will impact each of us and ask questions as necessary before September arrives.

As it was throughout the spring, communication will continue to be a priority to ensure we are gathering input, adjusting our plans and expectations, and keeping all parts of our school community engaged in this "team" process.



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As we look to the 2020-2021 school year, our priority will be safety of students and staff, while building a schedule of school attendance that will meet the needs of all students. If the state updates any of its directives or guidance during the summer, I will let everyone know.

For now...stay safe, be well and enjoy the summer.

Howard Lerner, Ed.D.
Superintendent