



BERGEN COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOLS / SPECIAL SERVICES

District Administrative Office

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Howard Lerner, Ed.D.
Superintendent

COVID Educational Update 5/15/20 - BCTS

Dear Administration, Faculty, Staff and Parents/Guardians,

I hope this week has treated you well, and that you and your loved ones are healthy and safe. We end the week with no new announcements from the state about the reopening of our schools. The Governor's Office continues to work with the NJ Department of Education and other experts on decisions about summer programs and school attendance in the fall. These are complex and difficult decisions that require detailed deliberation. We will pass along any new information on these topics as soon as it is known.

Our internal Re-Entry Task Force began a regular schedule of meetings this week, so that it is as prepared as possible for decision-making once the state provides specific information and guidance. Some of their initial work is already focused on developing procedures for students and staff to come back to their schools as the school year ends to drop off school materials that need to be returned, and pick up any personal items they want to take home for the summer. The Principals will communicate out the plan details for their particular buildings as soon as those details are finalized.

As I indicated in previous updates, our administrators, faculties and staffs continue to work on "virtual" alternatives to our traditional on-site Graduation ceremonies and other end-of-year activities, such as Senior Awards ceremonies and the Spring Sports Awards ceremony. Next week, your principals will be sharing details about all of these activities.

Please remember that on Thursday and Friday next week (May 21st and May 22nd) we have scheduled online/virtual "Social-Emotional Learning" activities for all district students. School administrators, district counselors and outside experts will be creating presentations and exercises to engage, support and strengthen our students on both of these days. Our teachers will be "off-line", to ensure that our students' time and attention is completely focused on these important efforts.

Our Interim Executive County Superintendent of Schools has asked that all Bergen County school districts remind their staff members and parents/guardians to complete and submit



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their 2020 Census forms (a copy of the Interim ECS' reminder is attached). Data gathered from the U.S. Census has a significant impact on how federal resources, including those that support schools and education, are divided up among the states. This is our one chance until 2030 to ensure that every New Jersey child gets the resources they need for a quality education. Please take a moment to complete this short but important task, if you have not already done so.

Finally, Saturday (May 16th) is Armed Forces Day. Please take a moment this weekend to thank anyone you know who serves in our military. They not only stand ready to protect the freedoms we enjoy as Americans, they are also uniquely equipped and valuable supports to civilian authorities when domestic crises require humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. Every member of our volunteer military services deserves our gratitude.

Stay safe, be well and enjoy the weekend.

Sincerely,

Howard Lerner, Ed.D.
Superintendent