November 17, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We have proudly witnessed the visible efforts of students, staff, and families in complying with the mitigation strategies in place since the school year began. When we return to our buildings following the holidays, we want to provide assurances that the learning environments across our buildings are as safe as they can be and that we can continue to keep our schools open for in-person learning.

As we approach the holiday season this year, the Litchfield County Superintendents Association (LCSA) wants to remind families that they can still enjoy time with loved ones while remaining focused on health and safety. Our communities are interconnected with families who work or have relatives in neighboring towns. More importantly, district leaders share a similar goal in ensuring that students and staff are able to return safely to our buildings and classrooms following the holidays. We understand that students will be returning from college, and families may be traveling to celebrate with relatives in or outside the State. With the number of cases rising in Connecticut and the importance of keeping our students, staff, and other vulnerable populations protected this year, we want to share some relevant tips to support a safe holiday season. Please click this link to view the CDC holiday guidelines for families.

Each of us contributes to the well-being of our communities. This holiday season may include travel or large group gatherings (see Governor Lamont’s phase 2.1) where appropriate social distancing or mask-wearing may difficult. We strongly encourage all members of our school communities to adhere to the guidelines set out in Governor Lamont’s travel advisory, which is constantly being updated. If you travel to a state on the advisory and stay longer than 24 hours, you are required to self-quarantine for 14
days or present negative results from a PCR COVID-19 test three days prior to leaving the state or upon return. The Department of Public Health also requires that you quarantine at home until you receive the results.

Thank you for your support and understanding, and we wish you all a wonderful, safe, and healthy holiday season.

Sincerely,

[Signatures]

Mr. Chris Leone
Litchfield Public Schools

Mrs. Sherri Turner
Plymouth Public Schools

Mrs. Lisa Carter
Regional School District 1

Mr. Chris Leone
Regional School District 6

Judith Palmer
Regional School District 7

Mr. Howard Thiery
Regional School District 10

Mrs. Megan Bennett
Regional School District 12

Dr. Joseph Olzacki
Regional School District 14

Mr. Josh Smith
Regional School District 15

Mr. Michael Yamin
Regional School District 16

Dr. Anthony Serio
The Gilbert School

Mrs. Francine Coss
Thomaston Public Schools

Dr. John Ramos
Watertown Public Schools

Ms. Melony Brady-Shanley
Winchester Public Schools

Dr. Anthony Gasper
Wolcott Public Schools