



# TONAWANDA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

100 HINDS STREET  
TONAWANDA, NEW YORK 14150  
716-694-7784-Phone 716-695-8738-Fax



**TIMOTHY A. OLDENBURG, Ed.D.**  
**SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

December 5, 2020

Dear Tonawanda City School District Students, Staff and Families:

**At this time, our school district will remain in a fully remote instructional model.**

Our district continues to plan, prepare, and work towards reintroducing our students to a hybrid model of instruction as soon as possible.

We understand that our students, families, and staff eagerly await more information on our potential transition planning. We just received the new guidance from the Governor or the NYS Department of Health that changes the requirements and depth of random COVID-19 testing for schools in an ORANGE Zone. This information will allow us to finalize, implement, and administer our required actions to return students and staff to a hybrid instructional model.

As we work on understanding this new guidance and the efforts of executing these mandates through the weekend and into early next week, please understand that:

- Our schools are safe to learn and work. Leading medical experts have deemed public schools safe for students and staff at this time of the pandemic.
- The developmental appropriateness of children being in school in an in-person model is largely reported on and supported by overwhelming research as a significant need and value for every student.
- Our district continues to collaborate with other districts in Erie County regarding the establishment of consistent policy, procedures, and protocols for the planning and potential return to a hybrid model of in-person instruction.
- In Erie County, the local school districts share staff, faculty, programming, and resources. Our decisions have an impact on the other districts in Erie County, and their decisions impact our ability to transition to a hybrid model of in-person instruction.

We will assess our zone designation and the many factors that will allow us to re-open our hybrid instructional model each week. We will continue to communicate and update our school community with any opportunity to appropriately, safely, and effectively return our students and staff to the hybrid model as soon as possible.

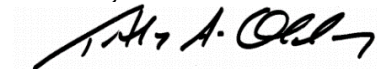
The transition between hybrid and remote instructional models takes time, coordination, and careful preparation among administrators, staff, students, and families both within our district and other districts in Erie County.

Please be reminded that our ability to return to a hybrid model will be directly dependent on our ability to secure consent from students (parents/guardians) and staff to participate in the required

random COVID-19 testing. We have begun to contact those individuals that have been randomly selected to consent to the required COVID-19 test. In the future, if you are contacted to provide consent to participate in the random testing, please consider consenting to this process so that we may return and remain in a hybrid model of instruction for our students.

Thank you for your continued support and patience with our district. Please continue to take necessary precautions and continue with recommended healthy actions to prevent the potential spread of COVID-19 in your homes and in our schools. Go Warriors!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy A. Oldenburg", written over a light gray rectangular background.

Timothy A. Oldenburg, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools