



DEPEW UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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To The Depew School-Community;

As we continue to experience various levels of success in our current non-traditional learning model; from academics to athletics to our numerous extra-curricular activities, it is evident and simply amazing that our students and staff continue to make incredible strides under these difficult circumstances.

Please know, that even though we are experiencing some levels of success, the Depew Union Free School District continues to urge the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and the NYSED to collaborate with superintendents during the development stages of any changes related to their distancing guidance. For instance, on decreasing the social distancing requirement from 6 feet to 3 feet, a change which would allow us to make preparations for students to return to in-person instruction five days a week and closer to our traditional learning model.

Since September, we have had very few active COVID-19 cases within our School-Community and from what we know from the ECDOH, zero cases have been transmitted within our school buildings. As we navigate a return to traditional in-person instruction five days a week, many people are wondering who makes the final decision to lower the social distancing requirement. While it is true that the District could make the choice to lower social distancing requirements against the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, NYSDOH and our Erie County Department of Health, such a move would not be prudent or safe and potentially expose the District to liabilities. We need these experts, especially the NYSDOH, to give us criteria for lowering the social distancing requirements, which would allow us to fully reopen in the safest manner possible.

If you haven't already, please consider sending a letter to your state legislators and Governor Cuomo advocating for lower social distancing expectations. We have a sample letter for your use on our website at www.depewschools.org

Sincerely,

Jeffrey R. Rabey Ph.D.

"Inspiring, Challenging, Achieving"