



TONAWANDA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

March 19, 2021

Dear Tonawanda City School District Students, Staff and Families:

As you may be aware, the CDC has changed its guidance of six-foot spacing between students and staff in schools to a three-foot spacing.

While this will allow the district to adjust its hybrid model, it will take a period of time for our district (and many others) to evaluate this guidance, determine additional measures needed to bring more students together, plan for Remote Warriors' continued instructional program, transition hybrid students to an increased attendance schedule, and address staffing needs for all students in all instructional models. Additionally, we will continue to address the needed schedule and staffing changes to our operations, such as transportation, food service, and other special services.

Although our district has been planning and awaiting the potential change that would allow students to return to school more regularly, there will still need to be a transition period to effectively and appropriately make such significant changes to our schedule, staffing, programming, and service delivery.

In addition, despite CDC guidance that allows distancing of three feet in schools, in NYS it will require additional guidance from the Governor and/or the NYSDOH that will allow our schools the ability to modify our programming and student attendance schedule. Until that time, we must remain in our current model.

I wanted you to be aware of our position and processes regarding any upcoming change in school guidance. I am sure many parents will be as eager as we are as educators to have their children have the opportunity to return to school more regularly and as soon as possible.

However, we are required to follow the guidance, protocols, and requirements established by the Governor and the NYSDOH. Additionally, the careful and thoughtful pandemic planning of our district and staff has provided a safe and healthy environment for learning since returning students to school in the hybrid model in September. We will continue to take every precaution and to plan carefully and purposefully for a return to a more traditional school schedule as soon as it is possible, responsible, and safe for everyone.

We will continue to share information as it becomes available.

Sincerely,

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