



TONAWANDA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

April 10, 2021

Dear Tonawanda City School District Students, Staff and Families:

As you may be aware, the Governor and the NYSDOH have reissued guidance regarding school requirements and mandates during this pandemic period. This updated NYS guidance is largely based on the recent CDC guidance.

While many people may be eager for the opportunity to bring students and staff together for instruction, programming, and services five days a week in a safe and healthy environment, this new guidance requires numerous considerations, steps, planning actions, and communications.

Our district has been planning and preparing for this opportunity. Now that we have been given the parameters required to consider making changes to our school scheduling, we will work to evaluate and understand this guidance and determine how to effectively incorporate it into our district to the greatest extent possible.

Next week, parents and guardians will be receiving surveys and other communications to assist the district in understanding the support and interest in offering an increased student attendance schedule. This will include input from our hybrid and Remote Warrior families in areas of student attendance and transportation.

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.

It should be recognized that the district is required to engage with the ECDOH and other stakeholders prior to finalizing or releasing any plans to return students to school with a three-foot distance in classrooms.

The new guidance clearly indicates that counties with a high transmission rate of COVID-19, such as Erie County, have additional restrictions for students that attend our Middle/High School. We are working on evaluating our options and logistics that may be possible while adhering to these new guidance mandates.

Despite the interest many of us share regarding providing the highest quality educational programs and returning students to school on an increased attendance schedule, we are required to follow the guidance, protocols, and requirements established by the Governor and the NYSDOH. You can read the full NYSDOH guidance [HERE](#).

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, understanding that this work is likely to take more time moving forward.

We will continue to share information as it becomes available.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Timothy A. Oldenburg", written in a cursive style.

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