



# TONAWANDA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

April 14, 2021

Dear Tonawanda City School District Students and Families:

We are excited to announce that the updated NYSDOH guidance now allows students in grades K-5 to return to school while maintaining a distance of three feet in classrooms. This allows our elementary students the opportunity to attend school in a traditional five day a week instructional schedule.

We will be transitioning **all elementary students in grades K-5** to a five day a week schedule beginning on **Monday, April 26, 2021**. This will include transportation, food service, special services, and other expected components of a traditional school week.

Students in the secondary building (Middle/High School) will continue participating in the hybrid or Remote Warrior instructional model. The updated guidance from the NYSDOH requires that all schools that reside in a county that has a significantly high transmission rate, such as Erie County, continue educating students in a hybrid model if cohorting cannot take place. Cohorting is arranging students to be in the same classroom and with the same classmates for the entire day and during all nine periods. Our comprehensive instructional program and robust course schedule do not allow for the cohorting model to be operated.

We will continue to await further updates from the NYSDOH and modify our programming at that time.

We have posted our updated plans on our website. You can also see the Face-to-Face Instructional plan by clicking: [https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded\\_file/1211285/Face-to-Face\\_Learning\\_Plan.pdf](https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/1211285/Face-to-Face_Learning_Plan.pdf)

Here are the significant changes required from the updated NYSDOH guidance:

- Schools/districts may choose to reduce physical distancing to no less than three feet between students during academic instruction, however:
  - Schools/districts must follow CDC recommendations for physical distancing depending upon community transmission rates and grade levels.
  - Schools must adhere to the exceptions where a minimum of six feet of distance must be maintained including:

- Six feet is always the required distancing between adults (teachers, staff, visitors) and between students and adults.
- Six feet of distance is required when eating meals or snacks, or drinking, or other times masks must be removed.
- Individuals participating in activities that require projecting the voice (e.g., singing) or playing a wind instrument must be six feet apart and there must be six feet of distance between the performers and the staff during performances and concerts.
- Six feet of physical distance must be maintained in common areas and outside of classrooms (e.g. lobbies, auditoriums, gymnasiums, cafeterias, and hallways), where possible.
- All schools/districts must have a mandatory face mask policy.
- Physical barriers are no longer recommended by CDC.
- Indicators: Due to evidence that transmission risk ranges by the age of the student, the CDC recommends that physical distancing requirements differ by grade level and community transmission risk. CDC has developed four levels of indicators and thresholds for community transmission of COVID-19. Please refer to *Table 2* in the [CDC guidance](#) for more detail.

Additionally, please see the information below regarding a ZOOM meeting schedule for Thursday, April 15, 2021 at 5:30pm. This hour long meeting will provide a brief update and presentation regarding our updated plan. Participants will have the opportunity to provide feedback and input to our plan through the chat room following the presentation. This meeting will be recorded and posted on our website for those people that are unable to attend this virtual meeting, as scheduled.

**Topic: Updated Plan Meeting - Parents/Community**

**Time: Apr 15, 2021 05:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

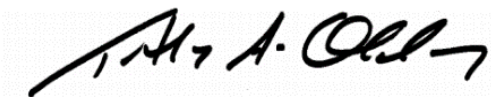
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84932008401?pwd=U2xTMmZyNFBiT0ZjeUR5c1R5cmZTd09>

Meeting ID: 849 3200 8401

Passcode: 671621

Thank you for your trust, support, and partnership with our proud district. This is an exciting time to begin returning students to school in a traditional format. We are committed to providing and maintaining a safe and healthy environment for our entire school community. Go Warriors!

Sincerely,



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