



TONAWANDA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

May 11, 2021

Dear Tonawanda City School District Secondary Students and Families:

We continue to follow the updated NYSDOH guidance that allows students in secondary grades (6-12) to return to school while maintaining a distance of three feet in classrooms. As soon as the Erie County rate of COVID infections is below 100 new cases per 100,000 residents over a 7-day rolling average, secondary students may attend school in a traditional five day a week instructional schedule without student cohorts.

Our district has been preparing for this transition and may return secondary students to a traditional 5-day per week schedule as soon as late next week. Our return to this full-time student schedule will include transportation, food service, special services, and other expected components of a traditional school week. Students enrolled in the Remote Warrior program will be allowed to continue to use that instructional model for the remainder of the school year. The hybrid model will no longer be used. It is our intention that this traditional, 5-day per week, instructional model will be used for the remainder of the school year.

We will share more information and definitive dates of this full-time student schedule as soon as our Erie County COVID rates allow. The current trends suggest that this will occur in the coming days. Additionally, our curriculum, technology, facilities and operations departments will need time to prepare and execute our plans to return our secondary students to school full-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

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

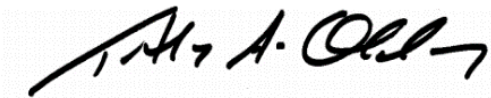
- Schools/districts may choose to reduce physical distancing to no less than three feet between students during academic instruction, however:
 - Schools/districts must follow CDC recommendations for physical distancing depending upon community transmission rates and grade levels.
 - Schools must adhere 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, 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.

Please continue to be vigilant with the required daily health screening for all students that attend school. Please do not send your children to school if they present any symptoms or health-related conditions that may be COVID concerns. Your efforts and attention in these areas will continue to provide a safe environment for our students and staff.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy A. Oldenburg", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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