



Willingboro Public Schools

Where Excellence is the Expectation

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October 27, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope this letter finds you well.

The Willingboro Board of Education approved the resolution listed below at its meeting on October 26, 2020.

Be it resolved that the Board of Education accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent to submit a request to the NJDOE to allow the Willingboro Public Schools to remain on all-remote instruction (Option 2) through the end of the second marking period (February 4, 2021).

The decision to present this resolution to the Board of Education Members was not taken lightly as I am cognizant of the fact that research indicates that face-to-face instruction is the best method to create an environment in which students can excel both academically and emotionally.

My decision was based on the following data sources:

- A parent/guardian survey in which 57% of respondents indicated that they wanted their children to continue with all remote instruction (2,500 respondents).
- The recent shut down our football program for 14 days due to a positive COVID-19 case.
- COVID-19 numbers are beginning to spike in New Jersey. The level of new cases on Saturday, October 24, 2020, was consistent with the new cases reported in May 2020.
- October 26, 2020, marked the ninth consecutive day of more than 1,000 new positive tests in New Jersey while COVID-19 hospitalizations surpassed 900 for the first time since July 2020.
- The statewide rate of transmission jumped to 1.23 and remains above the key benchmark of 1 that shows the outbreak is growing. The transmission rate has been above 1 since early September 2020. A 1.23 rate of transmission means that every 100 people infected will spread the virus to 123 other people.

Based on this data, I do not believe it is safe at this time to have large amounts of people in our school buildings.

Please be assured that the District will continue to ensure that we offer relevant and rigorous instruction guided by the analysis of formative assessment data. On Friday, October 30, 2020, the district staff will engage in the 5th virtual instruction professional development session (students will have an asynchronous learning day). We will continue to provide staff with job-embedded professional development. Our primary goal is to provide a quality education for our students that is engaging, relevant, targeted and specific to on-going data analysis.

With the upcoming week off from school (November 2, 2020 through November 6, 2020) and the holiday season, we encourage parents and students to continue following the Centers for Disease Control safeguards, such as:

- Staying home when sick;
- Washing hands often with soap for at least 20 seconds;
- Covering coughs and sneezes and properly disposing of tissues;
- Limiting close contact with people who are sick and not sharing food, drinks and utensils;
- Practicing social distancing (maintaining 6 feet of distance-please note that person of contact for a positive COVID-19 case is defined as anyone who has been exposed to the person for less than 6 feet and for 15 or more cumulative minutes);
- Wearing a face covering;
- Continuing to monitor your health for symptoms.

In addition, please be mindful of the following:

- Quarantine time for exposure to a non-household person who is positive for COVID-19 is 14 days.
- Quarantine time for exposure to a household person who is positive for COVID-19 is 24 days.
- Quarantine time for a person who tested positive for COVID-19 is 10 days.

As always, we appreciate our community's support and cooperation. We look forward to students returning to school on February 5, 2021. Should you have any questions about remote instruction, please feel free to contact your child's principal.

Sincerely,



Dr. Neely Hackett
Superintendent