



July 30, 2020

Dear Hillside Public School Families,

I hope you and family are having a safe and healthy summer. The start of the 20-21 school year and an era of progress and transformation is rapidly approaching. I understand families are anxious to receive as many details as possible to begin planning for your child's return to school. I'm writing to share information regarding request for full time remote learning, moreover, to reassure you our School Reopening Plan will be shared with you and available on our [website](#) on Friday August 7, 2020.

As many of you know, on June 26, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) published "[The Road Back-Restart and Recovery Plan for Education.](#)" The document specifically outlines 10 critical areas of operation schools must address in developing reopening plans for September. More importantly, it mandates district reopening plans to account for resuming in-person instruction in some capacity.

The Hillside Public Schools' Reopening Committee was established in April of 2020 and is comprised of district leaders, staff, and community stakeholders. An overview of our committee's work and progress can be found on our website under alerts and is entitled, [July Superintendent's Report: Reopening Schools.](#) Moreover, we will be releasing a detailed video on our website outlining our plans to launch the school year on August 4, 2020.

Our reopening plan includes a flexible approach with health and safety safeguards in place, as we may begin the school year implementing one instructional model, and as public health trends suggest, pivot to a different model. While we are proposing to launch the school year implementing a virtual learning model, we are prepared to execute a [hybrid learning model](#) that combines face to face instruction with virtual learning to reduce the number of students in a classroom, adhering to social distance guidelines.

Notwithstanding, throughout the 20-21 school year, all Hillside Public School students and families are eligible to opt for full time remote learning. Families opting to participate in remote learning must complete the request form by **August 14, 2020**. The [Remote Learning Request Form](#) can be found on our website and will also be made available at our Central Office building located at 195 Virginia, St. Hillside, NJ 07205.

Please know that your submitted request for remote/virtual learning will be binding for an entire marking period. Parents opting to transition their children back to in-person instruction or requesting remote learning must notify your child's principal at least 3 weeks before the start of the next marking period. All student schedules and cohort assignments, if applicable, will be mailed on August 21, 2020.

We remain committed to academic excellence and ensuring every student receives the social emotional and mental health supports needed to transition into successful futures. We genuinely look forward to what will prove to be a historic year of transformation and improvements and thank you for your patience, support, and partnership throughout this complex process.

Warm Regards,

A. Robert Gregory
Acting Superintendent