

East Haddam Public Schools

Brian S. Reas, Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Families,

As of 4:00pm on Wednesday, we have had 494 responses to the survey about school re-opening. Thank you for participating in the process. The survey is still open if you did not get a chance to respond. The purpose of the survey is to take a quick sample of data to find out how parents were thinking about students returning to the school buildings in the fall. We received information from every grade level in the district and I thought you would appreciate some summative data points. 29.4% of responses indicated that at this point, they would choose to have their child learn via distance learning. 92% indicated that they would be providing their own masks. In addition, many other suggestions and comments were shared. This is all very helpful information for our reopening teams.

Reopening teams are steadily progressing on plans to make schools as safe as possible for students that are ready to return. Unnecessary furniture in classrooms is being removed to clear more space. Where appropriate, Plexiglas shields are being installed to minimize contact between students. We are working on the assumption that some students will start in the school building and others will start with distance learning. The State Department of Education has indicated that we need to plan for 100% to return while understanding that some students will be in the distance-learning model.

We have many students with special needs and I know that these times have been additionally challenging for many. With every step, our reopening teams are considering and reconsidering our students' individual needs. As we get closer to a final plan, we will reach out to families to discuss and problem solve unique and specific needs of our students with special needs.

The timing of this situation does not lend itself to communicating through letters. I want to communicate with you in a more responsive manner. I am creating a weekly Superintendents' Zoom Meeting for me, and my team, to update you on the developments of the planning for reopening with an opportunity for parents to share concerns and perspectives. I am confident that this will support our working together in this tumultuous time. Details on the Zoom call will follow; the first one is scheduled on Tuesday, July 21 at 6:00pm.

I know that we have amazing students, unbelievably dedicated staff, and an incredibly supportive community. With this knowledge, we are going to make this work and find success for all of our students.

Thank you for your patience and collaboration.

Sincerely,



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Superintendent of Schools

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