

School Administrative Unit #9

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July 10, 2020

Dear SAU 9 Community Members,

We are writing to update you on re-entry planning for the 2020-2021 school year. The health and safety of our students, staff and community is our top priority. The primary focus is on minimizing risk and creating a safer environment for the return to the facilities.

The re-entry planning committee has been meeting since mid-June. The committee is made up of about 50 members including, teachers, administrators, support staff, bus drivers, parents, school board members and doctors from our community. The committee's goal is to develop a dynamic operational plan for the return to SAU 9 school facilities for students and staff members. The plan will include multiple paths for a return. Resources from the American Academy of Pediatrics, Center for Disease Control, New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, as well as state guidance resources have been of great service in our plan development. At the same time, we recognize that no plan is completely risk-free.

Five subcommittees (transportation, co-curricular, personnel, scheduling, and facilities) are developing recommendations that are being brought to a Steering Committee. A complete set of recommendations will ultimately be brought to the SAU 9 school board and local district school boards for acceptance. We are hopeful that an adopted plan will be communicated to the greater community in early August.

The plan will include concentrated attention in the areas of hygiene and sanitation, masks or other face coverings, physical distancing, and minimization of group intermingling. Planning also includes response protocols in the event of a student or staff member becoming sick. Regardless of whether the students return to school on-site or remotely, we acknowledge that "schooling" will be different from what has been experienced previously. There are three potential scenarios that are being planned for this fall are described below:

Full Face to Face Reopening: All students would return to the school district facilities. This would include modifications to schedules, proactive safety and sanitation protocols and changes to routines and operational practices. Adherence to physical distancing guidelines would be part of the implementation plan.

Hybrid Reopening: Students would engage in a combination of in-person and remote learning. A schedule will be built to reduce the student and staff population in a facility at any given time. Students would essentially have a schedule that would include two weeks of on-site instruction followed by two weeks of remote learning.

Full Remote Learning: All students would continue to be served through remote learning. This would look similar to the structure used during the spring of 2020. It is important to note that

there is a possibility of having to move to remote learning at some point during the school year as a result of the pandemic.

We will continue to seek feedback from you, the parents/guardians and students. Building principals will schedule “Listening Posts” during which you will be able to share feedback and perspectives regarding re-entry planning. Your building principal will be communicating when and how this will take place in the near future. We would like to thank you for your prompt response to the transportation survey that went out recently as that information will help us develop plans.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused all aspects of our lives to change and adapt. We have learned from the experiences of Spring 2020 and look to improve our educational practices regardless of the scenario as a result. Regardless of the model adopted, we will focus on the continued development of high quality instruction and assessment practices. The current situation changes daily and with any unknown we can only make decisions based upon the information that we have currently. The goal of the re-entry plan is to have a dynamic operational plan for the safer return to SAU 9 schools.



Sincerely,

Kevin Richard
Superintendent of Schools, SAU 9