

Lancaster Central School District

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Michael J. Vallely, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

March 19, 2021

Dear Lancaster Families,

A few weeks ago, I co-authored and signed a letter (see attached) with local superintendents to advocate the return of students to full-time instruction on a daily basis.

I'm excited to report that earlier today the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released changes ([CDC Summary of Changes](#)) that could potentially impact New York State (NYS) schools in the coming weeks. The CDC guidance removes some of the barriers that prohibited us from implementing full-time in-person instruction for our students.

It's important to note that school districts in NYS are regulated by the New York State Education Department (NYSED), the New York State Department of Health (NYS DOH), the Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH), and under the current executive order, Governor Cuomo. As of the writing of this letter, none of these New York State institutions have adopted or commented on the newest CDC guidance; therefore, we continue to prepare for the return of our students until we receive the necessary guidance from NYS.

The CDC guidance that NYS may adopt includes a change from 6 feet of distance between students to 3 feet in a classroom setting. The CDC also does not recommend physical barriers at any distance. It is recommended that 6 feet of physical distance is maintained in spaces in which masks cannot be worn or increased exhalation is expected such as meals, physical education, and in various music activities. There are numerous challenges that we have to overcome. We have been planning for several contingencies over the past few months and will continue as we wait for updated New York State school reopening guidance.

I am hopeful New York State will adopt the CDC guidance in its current form. The District has been and will continue to prepare for the return of students to full-time, in-person instruction. Additional communication with stakeholder groups regarding the next steps will be forthcoming as we navigate the multitude of variables to reinstating full-time, in-person instruction. Please know that we are committed to providing the best education possible in a safe learning environment. We look forward to the anticipated return of our students to full-time, in-person instruction. We will continue to plan and advocate for our students.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Vallely, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Attachment: E-NSSA Letter to NYSED