



THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

ANITA SKOP, *Community Superintendent*

COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT 15
131 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201
718-935-4317

July 8, 2020

Dear District 15 Families and Community:

As you may have heard by now, the Mayor and the Chancellor have announced the initial roll out of a plan for the re-opening of New York City public schools in September. While there are still many more details that must be addressed, I wanted to reach out to you to ensure that you had an understanding of the plans and the reasons behind the decisions that have been made and that will be made going forward.

First and foremost, let me reassure you that the health and safety of our children and all District 15 educators, school staff and families is, and will always be the top priority for the Department of Education, every member of the district staff and every school leader. As the rollout continues, you will hear even more about all the protocols and precautions that will be instituted in line with CDC guidelines. Some of this information, along with a detailed description of the menu of possible plans, is posted on the DOE website at schools.nyc.gov/returntoschool2020.

Please note that these options are provided as menus, and were developed through extensive research into successful rollouts not only nationally, but also internationally. Discussions with parents, teachers and administrators across the city also provided different perspectives, as did a citywide survey that drew responses from over 300,000 families.

Like the Mayor and the Chancellor, as your Superintendent, I heard overwhelmingly from families at our District forums that they want their children to return to school. I know that these options are not the complete return to school in September that we all would love to be able to implement. To put it bluntly, that is not a viable possibility in light of the continuing COVID crisis. They do offer, however, blended learning models that enable schools to provide students with both safe in-school brick and mortar classroom instruction several days a week, depending on the number of students and the model selected. Further, all parents at every school, will have the option to select a remote learning only protocol should they wish their children to continue to learn at home.

The model at your child's school will reflect the actual needs of your school community as well as the social distancing concerns that your school's space defines. We, at the District office will be providing support, but you as parents and members of that community will have a voice in this as well. More opportunities will be available at the school level throughout the summer, but please do not hesitate to reach out to me at askop@schools.nyc.gov to share your ideas, concerns and questions.

I know that this is incredibly difficult. I wish that we never had to face this horrible pandemic and I pray that it ends as quickly as possible. So many people have suffered such devastating losses that we are all families in trauma at this point. I also know, however, that the District 15 community is the most caring and committed group of educators and families that it has ever been my privilege to work with. We can get through this because we work together and support each other.

With grateful appreciation for your support,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Anita Skop'.

Anita Skop
Community Superintendent-District 15