



7/15/2020

Dear Families and Staff,

We hope that this email finds you and your loved ones safe and well! There is still a lot of uncertainty about what, exactly, school will look like in the fall, plans are well underway to address some of the needs that we know will exist.

On Wednesday, July 8th the Governor held a press conference during which he provided an update about schools reopening in the fall. He has laid out the following schedule of targets:

This past Monday, July 13

- The Governor released a huge health and safety protocol message for schools to follow when schools reopen. This is 28 pages long and we are taking careful measures to examine these.
- The Board of Regents met to discuss the guidance that was developed from their stakeholder reopening meetings

Friday, July 31

- Districts are required to submit reopening plans based on the July 13 guidance

August 1-7

- The Governor will make a determination about reopening schools this week
- It's important to note that districts must have a plan to reopen, however, approval of these plans is not an authorization to open

Since this information came to us just this past Monday, we have started to prepare to send plans, we are proactively meeting with stakeholders this week and next week to create reopening plans. Once we are done with our initial plan, we will take a week to review parent survey feedback and, when it arrives, we'll include the guidance from the Governor.

Safety Planning

Health and safety continues to guide us in all of our reopening plans amid this pandemic. New York State and Center for Disease Control will provide most of this guidance for reopening schools, but we have begun district-wide protocols now for visitors and staff members who work 12-months. These protocols include a daily wellness screening for anyone who enters our buildings, mandatory face coverings, and designated entrances.

Readying for Students

When reopening comes, we know that there will be learning gaps that need to be addressed. Some of the gaps we can anticipate based on what we know about the prioritized essentials that were part of the remote learning plans provided to students between mid-March and June. Other gaps will be more difficult to predict as those will be based on the degree to which individual students were able to successfully engage with the remote learning. Time will need to be spent next year identifying and effectively addressing learning gaps for all students.

We are moving toward common technology platforms that all teachers will be utilizing in their classrooms beginning in September. This means that we will need to take time at the start of the school year to acclimate students to these platforms.

Finally, we know that we will need to address the many and varied social emotional needs that our students will present as they return to school. Making sure that students feel physically and emotionally safe will require teachers to spend additional time building relationships and developing a strong and supportive classroom culture. Students will need to re-acclimate to routines, and expectations that are part of the daily life of school, but which they will have been away from for close to six months.

In Closing, we hope to get back to you with multiple pathways to learning for the fall in the next week. Please be on the lookout for any further email communications because they might require a response from you.

Please stay safe and take care!

Sincerely,

Walter Larkin Jr.

CEO

UPrep