



Akron Central School District

In Pursuit of Excellence

*Patrick D. McCabe
Superintendent of Schools*

March 17, 2021

Dear Akron Central Schools Community

As you may know, it is being reported that there could be changes in NYS regulations that would allow for more days of in-person learning. Naturally, in the absence of guidance from State officials, this led to a great deal of speculation. The purpose of this correspondence is to make you aware of our current status and plans to adapt should that guidance change.

The Akron Central School District has complied with all State and County Department of Health guidelines as well as the Governor's Executive Orders. We are legally required to comply with such guidance and directives, including social distancing standards, use of masks, health screenings, daily reporting of positive cases, and the wide variety of other measures and requirements. Under the existing legal standards and corresponding social distancing requirements, the District currently cannot operate on a full in-person basis.

Anticipating that a change in the guidance could come, the District is working to prepare for the return to full in-person instruction. Recently, I co-signed a letter with other area school superintendents and doctors requesting updated guidance from State officials. In that letter, we share a summary of science-based recommendations related to social distancing and call on State officials to give schools the opportunity to return to more days of in-person learning or simply confirm that the existing guidance requiring 6 feet of social distancing will remain in place for the remainder of the year.

Our aim, if permissible, feasible, and safe, is to return students to in-person learning. There is work to be done as classroom size limits, complexities related to complying with all safety protocols, scheduling and staffing limitations present us with some unique challenges. We also recognize the need for teachers and administrators to work collaboratively on all matters related to curriculum and instruction as well as means to address students' social and emotional development.

In order to effectively plan for a change in our instructional delivery model, we need to have a better understanding of the number of families that would elect to send their children to full-time in-person learning. This is critical information in order for us to effectively plan for students' safety and make important program and staffing decisions. A separate letter and parent survey will be sent to you next week.

In summary, we will continue to push forward and work in a thoughtful manner to create conditions for the successful return of students so when that day finally comes, we are ready and able to do all that we can for the children of ACS.

Sincerely,

Patrick D. McCabe
Superintendent of Schools

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