

**EAST ORANGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**
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Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Deborah M. Harvest

April 1, 2021

Greetings East Orange School District Parents/Guardians and Caretakers,

My hope is that your families are thriving and well as we continue to persevere and finish up strong for the 2020-2021 school year. While no one could have predicted the devastating impact of COVID-19 on a global scale and in our daily lives, more than one year later, we are looking forward to welcoming our students back to school (in-person). I would like to reiterate that the East Orange School District is committed to the safety and well-being of our students and staff. To that end, we are monitoring the most updated news about COVID-19 and communicating with our local health officials frequently. Our district is taking the necessary precautions to flatten the curve by preventing the spread of the virus and other germs. We encourage parents/guardians and students to continue to follow the guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as well.

As we embark upon the road to in-person/hybrid instruction, please review the critical updates below:

Effective: **Monday, April 19, 2021**, we will open for a **full day, in-person learning model** for the following grades and student populations (Phase II – In-person option):

- **Grades Pre-K through 6 only**
- **Vulnerable Populations (Special Education and English Language Learners)**

All grades 7th through 12th will remain fully Remote (except for Vulnerable Populations, as described above)

In-Person Learning Model: In order to comply with CDC guidelines, all classrooms will have a maximum number of students in accordance with six feet social distancing, as required. As a result, students will be placed in two cohorts or depending on a school's percentage of students opting in for in-person instruction, the number of in-person days may vary.

We understand that the in-person learning model does not fit the needs of every family or student. Therefore, a few weeks ago, we created a "School Re-opening Survey" to allow families the option of selecting remote or in-person instruction for the remainder of the school year. I want to personally thank all of the parents/guardians for completing the survey which was used to guide us in our decision making to ensure the safety for all as we reopen schools.

School Cohort Models

- In-Person Learning Model - Cohort Days of Week: Monday/Tuesday or Thursday/Friday or Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
Wednesdays are fully remote (no in-person learning will occur); **or**
- Full Remote Students – 100% Virtual (5 days a week)

Principals will notify parents/guardians of the specific schedules and student cohorts. Teachers will still be available daily to interact with their students through virtual support. For additional information including the extensive protective measures put in place to make the return to school safe for children, our updated reopening guide can be found on the district's website.

In closing, we appreciate your patience, collaboration, and partnership in this process. Though this has been a long journey, we are certainly looking forward to opening our doors to our students soon! Through the instructional and academic leadership of our principals, teachers, and support staff, we will ensure that every student continues to thrive as we close out this school year stronger than ever.

Educationally yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "AbdulSaleem Hasan", with a circular flourish at the end.

AbdulSaleem Hasan, Ed.S.
Superintendent of Schools