

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

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**Assistant Superintendent**

Dr. Deborah M. Harvest

October 5, 2020

Greetings East Orange School District Staff,

Welcome to the first week of Phase II for our educators all across the district! Though we officially began the school year a month ago remotely, this marks a very significant time as we continue to “educate in our new normal” and make progress on the road to pandemic recovery for our students and families of East Orange.

On this first day back (in-person) for so many of you, I want to assure you that the district’s *essential priorities* in the reopening and return to brick and mortar school facilities are the **health and safety** of students and staff. As you can imagine, there was much research completed, detail, reflection, and consideration as we worked diligently to prepare the school buildings for your arrival. However, *flexibility* continues to be the mantra as changes are often revealed from national and state agencies daily.

We are looking forward to the next few weeks when our students return back to their respective school buildings. Towards that end, as you return to work (in-person) two days per week, please continue to prepare for “educating in our new normal.” Be innovative and courageous. Don’t be afraid to take risks, try new things, share thoughts, and ideas. Most importantly, don’t forget who we work for and why what we do is so important – *our students*. They are anxious to meet or see you again and return to some form of “normalcy.” Remember, as much as we need each other, they need you.

I am thankful for each of you, for your presence, your dedication, and commitment. I look forward to visiting your schools soon, meeting you, and becoming thought partners in this work. Together, we will get through this and continue to successfully overcome obstacles and achieve excellence.

Educationally Yours,



AbdulSaleem R. Hasan  
Superintendent of Schools

*“Developing Leaders One Student at a Time”*