



EASTCONN

Celebrating 40 Years 1980~2020

July 21, 2020

Dear ACT, QMC and LEAP Parents, Guardians and Students,

I hope this communication finds you all well and enjoying the summer. Much has happened since our last communication announcing we would be returning to school in person in the fall. In addition to an all EASTCONN Reopening Committee, each school has formed a school reopening committee consisting of teachers, parents and students. As we plan to reopen, the state has provided guidance that is grounded in these six principles:

1. Safeguarding the health and safety of students and staff;
2. Allowing all students the opportunity to return to school in-person starting in the fall;
3. Monitoring the school, students and staff and, when necessary, potentially canceling classes in the future to appropriately contain COVID-19 spread;
4. Emphasizing equity, access and support to the students and communities that are emerging from this historic disruption;
5. Fostering strong two-way communication with our families, students, teachers and staff
6. Factoring into our decisions the challenges to the physical safety, social-emotional well-being, and the mental health needs of our students when they are not in school.

Our EASTCONN schools value first and foremost everyone's physical and emotional safety and well-being. Reentry plans are evolving daily. While you do not have all of the information as to what reentry looks like, we did send out an initial survey to you last week to enlist your current thoughts on returning to school and riding the buses. We will conduct another survey to gather that same information once we provide you with our plan. The first draft of our reentry plan will be submitted to the Connecticut State Department of Education on Friday, July 24, shortly after which we will make it available to you.

Key components of our EASTCONN reentry plan include the following:

- **Health and Safety precautions that include the expectation of all students and staff to wear protective face coverings or masks.**
- **Use of a Family Model (also known as cohort model)** in which students are grouped together and remain together as much as possible throughout the day.
- **Instruction that is personalized** and accommodates an **in-person, hybrid and totally virtual** scenario with an **emphasis on social emotional and academic goals.**
- **Classroom and building reorganization** to accommodate **physical distancing.**
- **A transportation plan** to operate buses with **heightened health and safety** protocols, including masks and physical distancing. **Transporting students will be encouraged.**
- **Clear Monitoring, Containment and Class Cancellation Plans and Procedures.**

Moving forward, you will be receiving a weekly communication from your school principal with updates on our reentry progress. While school won't quite look the same in the fall, what we can guarantee is that we will be here for each other and we will reconnect. Should you have specific questions, please reach out to your principals...

In the words of John Lewis, "In times of challenge it isn't about the despair, but rather about finding hope and being optimistic."

Stay well and see you soon!

Diane Dugas
EASTCONN Director
Leading and Learning
