

January 22, 2021

Dear East Hartford Community,

Today, I am communicating with you regarding our intention to return our In-Person Learners (IPLs) back to school on Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup> as a component of [ReOpen 3.0](#). Throughout the past 31 days of Remote Learning, I am proud of the resolve and commitment that the East Hartford community has demonstrated to keep our students, faculty and community safe. We have persevered through an unfortunate spike in transmission data, followed the science, and found new ways to care for each other. I am truly grateful.

This week, we received positive data from the Department of Public Health (DPH) identifying that East Hartford has dropped from a high of 405 cases/week on January 9th to 290 cases/week on January 16th. In consultation with local health officials, we believe this data provides an opportunity to safely return our IPLs to school while maintaining our Reduced Enrollment Model (REM) for all grades, Pre-K-12.

While we are thrilled to see this improvement in the data, we recognize the need for caution and vigilance as we work to stamp out the virus in our community. We urge you to continue to maintain the practices that will allow us to keep our schools open for our students. Please wear your mask, avoid large groups, maintain social distance, and stay home when ill. While the implementation of the vaccination program is certainly exciting, the battle against COVID-19 is far from over. Together, we can beat this virus!

Prior to the holiday, we sent a detailed communication of what to expect when we return our IPLs to school. Please take the time to review the [linked overview](#) of ReOpen 3.0. For your convenience, a few important details are captured below:

- *Reduced Enrollment Model (REM) Calendar for IPL Students:* To enhance the district's ability to socially distance students, ReOpen 3.0 will implement the [REM \(A/B day schedule\) calendar](#) for IPL students. For clarity, Monday, January 25 is an A Day for IPL students.
- *Impact on Remote Learning Experience (RLE) Schedules:* All secondary RLE students will transition to a [full five day/week schedule](#). At the elementary level, the RLE schedule has been enhanced to provide for a greater level of consistency across the district as well as align with the IPL schedule.
- *Concurrent Instruction Description:* As the highlight of ReOpen 3.0, "concurrent instruction" will be provided to enhance students' learning during Virtual Learning Days. Designed to resemble In-Person Learning Days, students will log into Google Classroom from home and click on the 'banner' to gain online access to their class. Following a 20-30-minute concurrent learning session, students will be released to complete an assignment independently.
- *Special Education/Programmatic Exemptions:* Based on guidance provided by the Bureau of Special Education, EHPS will maintain five day/week in person schedules for Synergy School, Woodland School, all Autism/Medically Fragile Programs, Elementary Panda Pride program, EHMS SOAR program and all self-contained programs at EHHS.

- *Transportation:* Students and families should expect identical arrival and pick-up times at their assigned bus stop for the start of semester 2. The change to a concurrent instructional model will not impact the bus pick-up or drop-off times.
- *Meals for RLE/IPL students (on assigned Virtual Learning days):* Free breakfast and lunch will be provided for anyone 18 years of age and under at the East Hartford High School pick-up location (rear of building). Meals will be served between 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. For additional details, please consult our [website posting](#).

As a school district we remain committed to the principles of our ReOpening Plan: *Safe, Incremental and Adaptive*. To this end, we will continue to work with our partners at the Public Health Department and respond as appropriate to future changes in the health of our community. We take the responsibility of keeping our community's children safe very seriously and ask for your continued support, flexibility, and understanding.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's school principal or my office directly.

Sincerely,



Nathan D. Quesnel  
*Superintendent*  
East Hartford Public Schools