



Akron Central School District

In Pursuit of Excellence

Patrick D. McCabe
Superintendent of Schools

July 24, 2020

Dear ACS Students, Families, and Staff:

The purpose of this correspondence is to provide an informational update on the reopening of school in September. We understand that this issue has received a great deal of attention and that there may be a level of confusion and anxiety for everyone. It is my hope that this letter and the regular updates that follow it will provide clarity and a greater understanding of how we will address the resumption of school for our students.

Last week, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) and New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) released the long awaited reopening guidelines intended to help school districts as they plan to reopen, whether that occurs in person, remotely, or a combination of the two. These guidance documents outline strict parameters that districts must follow in order to reopen schools safely. In the days following the release of the guidance documents, a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) memo and a required Statement of Assurances document was provided to districts. These documents further delineated the requirements for reopening.

For many weeks prior to the release of the DOH and NYSED guidelines, the District had been working to prepare for a safe return to school, with the health and safety of all students, staff, and visitors as our top priority. We appreciate the valuable input and tireless work of our administrators, teachers, staff and parents. These individuals and committees have been creating plans while also carefully analyzing all of the guidelines set forth by the State with the intent to safely bring back students in a healthy learning environment. They will continue to follow guidelines set forth by the Centers for Disease Control, NYSED, and NYSDOH as well as all Executive Orders issued by Governor Cuomo after school resumes.

The Akron Central School District Reopening Plan must be submitted to the State by July 31, 2020. As required, the plan will have three different instructional models, including 100% of students returning to school for in-person instruction, 100% of students engaged in remote learning, and a hybrid of both in-person and remote learning. In addition, the plan will provide detailed information on the health and safety measures that will be employed throughout the campus and on school buses. Our reopening plan is meant to be viewed as a collection of best practices and possible solutions to the challenges we face moving forward. As this health situation continues to evolve, the plan will be responsive to changes. Thus, it should be considered "a living document" and it will be updated in response to the changing nature of the pandemic, community input, and evidence of best practice.

It is expected that the Governor will make a decision about the reopening of schools during the first week of August. Pending the outcome of his decision, and in keeping with the required guidelines issued by both NYSDOH and NYSED, the District will enact the corresponding reopening model. Families will be notified of the instructional model to be utilized on August 10th.

In an effort to gather busing needs for the 2020-21 school year, the district transportation department sent a survey to families on July 17th with a request for responses no later than July 31. This information is critical for planning and we ask that all families complete [the survey](#).

We recognize that there are many questions still unanswered and are appreciative of the support and patience that families have demonstrated thus far. If you have not already done so, please complete the Automated Phone Messaging Form that can be found on the “Quick Links” section of our website homepage so that you can receive important alerts and updates. In addition, our dedicated COVID-19 webpage at [Akron Central Schools-COVID-19](#) will continue to serve as the primary repository for District communications. Finally, we hope that the release of the ACS reopening plan next week along with the Governor’s announcement will provide even greater clarity.

Akron is a strong community with a great sense of civic responsibility. Together we will overcome the challenges that face us while ensuring that our students are able to return to school safely.

Sincerely,

Patrick D. McCabe
Superintendent of Schools