



Denville Township Schools

1 St. Mary's Place, 2nd Floor, Denville, New Jersey 07834

August 11, 2020

Dear Denville Families,

During this turbulent time, the Denville Board of Education's first priority is the safety of our students, staff, and visitors. The District mission of educating and empowering students to excel cannot be accomplished if the students and staff do not feel safe within their schools. Guided by this mindset, a reopening committee of key stakeholders was formed to include administrators, staff, DEA co-presidents, health officials, parents of a variety of students, and a Valleyview student. These stakeholders collaborated to identify optimal plans for students and staff to re-enter schools that fit within the parameters set forth by New Jersey's Departments of Education (NJDOE) and Health (NJDOH).

In New Jersey, broad mandates have been handed down by the Governor and the NJDOE which allow for certain operational details to be decided at the local level. One current mandate is to open all public schools in the state following the guidelines disseminated in *The Road Back*, a state guide to school reopening. This set of guidelines requires local districts, like Denville, to create both an educationally-sound in-person plan and a full virtual learning option. These two options give parents the choice to either send their children to the school buildings or to keep them home to learn virtually. NJDOE does not currently allow local school districts to decide whether to re-open school buildings or keep them closed. While some boards have passed resolutions with the intention of keeping their buildings closed, these plans have not been approved by the NJDOE and do not follow the current guidelines.

Unfortunately, a perfect reopening plan that eliminates all health and safety risks does not exist. That is why the BOE and the administration will keep lines of communication open with staff and the community, remaining sensitive to concerns and adapting plans as necessary and allowable by state mandates. Our goal is to ensure that the best safety and educational practices are in place.

As always, please reach out to a member of the administrative team (contact information here) with any questions or concerns you have, or email a member of the BOE (contact information here).

I hope you and your family are able to safely enjoy the rest of the summer; the first day of school will be here soon.

Sincerely,

Laura Wagner
President
Denville Board of Education