



Secaucus Public Schools

Ms. Jennifer L. Montesano
Superintendent of Schools
(201) 974-2000 x 2113

Ms. Grace Yeo
Business Administrator/Board Secretary
(201) 974-2000 x2087

July 22, 2020

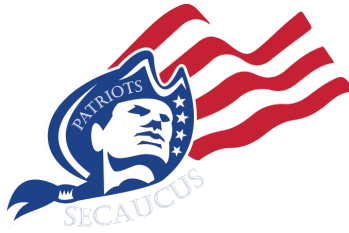
Dear Secaucus School District Community,

I hope this letter finds you and your families well and you are enjoying the summer weather. Since the New Jersey Department of Education released its [guidance](#), *The Road Back*, on Friday, June 26, our district has been working tirelessly to create a set of reopening plans that address both instructional and safety concerns. Although the guidance provides various requirements and suggested considerations, it stresses the importance of students making a return to the school buildings in September, while asking the district, its staff, and students to take many precautions in order to maintain everyone's health and safety.

Our district developed several committees, including a Pandemic Response Committee for each school building, as well as a District Re-Start Committee. These committees, coupled with the information our community has provided within the surveys that were shared, have enabled our district to make decisions that we feel are equitable, appropriate, and comprehensive. These plans focus on bringing students and staff back into our school buildings that are properly equipped, address safety concerns, and allow for effective instruction to take place. The administrative team has already taken a plethora of issues and concerns into account. The buildings have model classrooms set-up, plans for disinfecting and sanitizing, accommodation plans for both staff and students who may have medical concerns, and proper daily screening processes for each building.

We are currently developing a well-thought-out and comprehensive plan that meets all of the Department of Education requirements, as well as their recommendations. Once our plan is completed and reviewed, by both the Board of Education and the Mayor and Town Council, it will be submitted to the Department of Education for its review and approval, before it can be shared with the entire community, no later than August 10, 2020.

In order to be as transparent and forthcoming as possible, I would like to share our current intentions. I ask that you keep in mind that this information is pending, may be altered, and is subject to approval from the Department of Education.



Secaucus Public Schools

Ms. Jennifer L. Montesano
Superintendent of Schools
(201) 974-2000 x 2113

Ms. Grace Yeo
Business Administrator/Board Secretary
(201) 974-2000 x2087

Secaucus Tentative Plans for Prek-12 in September 2020: Factors that were taken into consideration: Enrollment, Budget, Classroom Size, Schedules, Specials, Disinfecting Procedures, etc.

Model: Full Day/Hybrid Learning Model

Student Groupings: 2 Cohorts: A&B (every effort will be made to keep siblings together).

Scheduling: “A Group” will attend school: Monday/Tuesday & “B Group” will attend school Thursday/Friday.

Virtual Day: Wednesday will be a virtual day for ALL students. This day will be dedicated to having A/B Groups meet virtually to review and build community while looking forward.

Disinfecting/Sanitizing: Cleaning protocols and procedures will be done daily and heavily on Wednesdays when staff and students are virtual.

Special Education: Students in self-contained, special education classes will attend school for full-days, Monday/Tuesday/Thursday/Friday. This allows for programming needs and can be accommodated due to class sizes, which already allow for proper social distancing.

Face Coverings: Although we are able to accommodate for social distancing in the classrooms, our schools will *require face coverings for all students* while they move about in their classrooms, in hallways, bathrooms, offices, and other areas where they may come in contact with others within 6 feet spacing. Please note that accommodations will be made for students with certain medical or other conditions that would cause a hazard if face coverings are worn.

Transportation: We understand that many need the aid of transportation in order for their child/children to attend school. In order to accommodate those who are in need of transportation, we will be running our buses as usual. In order for this to take place in a safe manner, **ALL** students who ride on the bus **MUST** wear a face covering the entirety of the trip. We will be sending a waiver home to ask parents to sign, who may be able to bring or pick-up their child/children from school.

Daily Health Screenings: Staff and students will be screened daily before entering the building. This screening will include a mask check, a temperature check, and a symptom review. Detailed procedures for this are currently being created.



Secaucus Public Schools

Ms. Jennifer L. Montesano
Superintendent of Schools
(201) 974-2000 x 2113

Ms. Grace Yeo
Business Administrator/Board Secretary
(201) 974-2000 x2087

Our district understands you may feel apprehensive about sending your child/children to school, but we can assure you that we have chosen this plan with 100% of the safety and well-being of our staff and students at the forefront, which is needed before any effective instruction can take place. Please also note that this plan may be changed, adjusted, or altered before the school year begins or as the school year progresses.

We also understand that you may have various questions regarding this suggested plan and its elements. In order to accommodate you, we will be holding small group meetings virtually throughout August to answer any questions and/or discuss your concerns.

Although this is a lot of information to review and discuss at home, this is only a template of our full plan, which will be very comprehensive and address various scenarios, situations, and considerations including: schedules, assessments, extra-curricular activities, before- and after-care, technology support, etc. As stated earlier in this letter, please note that as soon as this plan is complete and approved, it will be shared with you.

As always, we appreciate your continued support and we look forward to working with you to bring your child/children a safe, clean, and instructionally sound building to return to in September.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Montesano
Superintendent of the Secaucus School District