



Flemington-Raritan Regional School District  
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Dear Flemington-Raritan Regional School District Families,

On June 26, 2020, the New Jersey Department of Education released its return to school guidance [document](#). Board members, parents, staff, faculty, administration, and community members met to discuss the guidance from the New Jersey Department of Education Road Back to Restart and Recovery Plan for Education. The district's four task force committees used this document to guide their thinking when considering options for reopening in September. Each task force met multiple times to work through recommendations and suggestions to provide the best options available for our students, staff, and families this fall.

Our district sought the input, questions, and concerns from the members of each task force. Further, task force committee members imagined the possibilities in how we can make this school year positive and productive for our students and help families balance home and school schedules. Task forces met for over a combined 25 hours, not including the hours spent by committee members contributing to shared documents. The district's four task committees submitted their recommendations to me for the Flemington-Raritan Regional School District reopening plan. This weekend and next week, I will be reviewing each task force's recommendations in preparation for sharing with the community.

The Road Back Restart and Recovery Plan for Education mandates that districts must allow for social distancing of six (6) feet within the classroom to the maximum extent possible. Taskforce meetings engaged in extensive discussion around opening our schools in a limited capacity to follow the social distancing requirements by the New Jersey Department of Education. This has led to the conclusion that to provide the six-foot distance in classrooms, we will need to bring students into school at a reduced capacity. Limited capacity means that certain students would attend school in person on certain days and virtually on other days. Each task force believed that in-person school attendance is critically important to a child's education. Taskforce committee members believed there were many components to a safe reopening plan and helping students, staff, and faculty return with confidence. The most important aspect of the reopening plan is prioritizing the health, safety, and well-being of students and staff.

I am confident that you will have questions regarding the logistics of a reduced capacity opening, and it can be frustrating knowing limited information. I will share the framework of the plan with the community at our July 27, 2020 Board of Education meeting. Community members can find information about the meeting [here](#).

Survey information is integral in our planning as we continue to develop plans to reopen our schools while evaluating public health trends and guidelines from the Governor, NJDOE, and the CDC. Survey information will be needed as we continue to define our learning models for the fall. Taskforce committees need as much information as we can provide regarding the planning for fall 2020. Next week, I will ask parents to submit information through another survey. Please contribute your responses promptly.

Thank you for your continued support. I wish all our families good health and much happiness.

Sincerely,

Kari McGann, Ed.D.