

February 9, 2021

Dear Parents and Staff,

I hope you and your families are well and managing the New England winter weather. I wanted to send some updates and reminders as we look ahead in the coming weeks and months.

Budget

As you know, the BOE passed its budget on February 2nd with a 2.58% increase. Our budget includes an extension of world language at Reed and NMS, academic support positions across the district, a new K-5 math program and digital resources, as well as 1-1 technology. The budget subgroup of PEAC (Parent Educator Advisory Council) created a brochure at the following link: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1DKXd2mNTg-k9jPxNu46nuRGgjD7K1apNXrS4vzEkuU4/edit?usp=sharing>. The brochure highlights important requests in the 2021-22 operational plan. In addition, you can review the BOE presentation with details on our website.

NOTE: The BOE will be presenting their budget to the Board of Finance on Thursday, February 11th.

COVID Update

In the last week we had a case at Reed and NHS, as well as Hawley. These cases were updated on the dashboard. I have **attached** the latest report by EdAdvance that shows a decrease in cases over the last 14 days rolling average. More importantly, this is the first time that all of the districts in the region have a secondary indicator showing a directional change (positivity rates vs. tests) trending toward flat. This is good news for our school community, and we want to thank you all – students, staff, and families – for your ongoing compliance with health safety protocols and mitigation strategies.

Athletics

Newtown athletic competitions kicked off yesterday! We want to remind staff and parents that you and your family members can stream high school events from across the country with a monthly subscription to NHFS Network. More details can be found at the following link: nfhsnetwork.com. You may also stream hockey which can be subscribed to at a different site: <https://livebarn.com>. We hope you are able to get to a few games “virtually” and support our students!

Vaccinations

We were notified by the State to upload our 65 and older group into the VAMS system for vaccinations. We have over 50 staff members who qualified in this group, and immediate notifications to set vaccination appointments were received by members of our school community.

Snow Days

Please know that the use of remote learning for snow days was authorized by the State of CT for this year as emergency only (COVID). The use of remote will be used in lieu of extending the school year. As was mentioned in a previous communication, we will be mindful of the timing of an impending storm, students' access to their devices, as well as other factors such as power outages that might impact virtual learning. Calls may be made in advance, whenever possible, but we base our decisions on the most recent meteorological information and the potential impact a storm may have on bus transportation. The use of these days will allow our schools to release earlier in June in accordance with our school calendar.

Parent Teacher Conferences in March

Our calendar outlines the 3-hr early release for ALL schools on March 18 and 19 for parent/teacher conferences. Please note that NHS will release early on March 19, but since no conferences are scheduled on that day for NHS, students will resume instruction for their last two classes remotely.

Upcoming Survey

The District Security and Safety Committee has had a long-standing partnership with John Jay College. Each year we work collaboratively on developing a brief research proposal that investigates a timely topic. This year, the theme of bullying at the secondary level will be reviewed and a brief survey will be sent out to parents, students, and staff in grades 7-12. Further information will be sent out by Dr. Kim Longobucco and Tom Einhorn by Friday, February 12th with details about the survey.

We are so glad our students are able to be back in school. We appreciate your patience, effort, and understanding as we continue to move through a challenging year. We will be working with school leaders on potential plans for spring activities and options for end of year ceremonies in the coming weeks and months ahead.

Stay well!

Dr. Lorrie Rodrigue, Superintendent



Public Health Indicators on COVID19 Data for LCSA and WCSA Communities

This report was developed and updated by Dr. Kevin Glass, Director of Program Research and Evaluation at EdAdvance. The sole purpose of this report is to assist the school district superintendents within LCSA and WCSA. Questions regarding the report can be sent directly to Kevin at: glass@edadvance.org

	More In-Person learning	Re-assess strategies to determine appropriate balance of in-person and remote learning (hybrid learning)	LESS In-Person Learning
Leading Indicator Number of New COVID19 Cases (14 day rolling average of new cases per 100,000 population per day)	< 10 new cases per 100,000 population	10 to < 25 new cases per 100,000 population	25+ new cases per 100,000 population
Secondary Indicator % Positivity Rate (# of positive tests/# of total tests, 14 day rolling average.)	Direction of Change: Secondary Indicators trending down to flat	Direction of Change: Secondary Indicators trending flat to upward	Direction of Change: Secondary Indicators trending upward

Pulled from data.ct.gov and represent 14 day rolling average of cases (confirmed and suspected) as calculated by the daily data reported by towns to the Connecticut Department of Public Health – EdAdvance will update and report these data on a bi-weekly basis, every Tuesday and Friday.

Report Date: 2/5/21

Town	Leading Indicator New COVID-19 Cases 14 day avg per 100k pop.	Secondary % Test Positivity	Town	Leading Indicator New COVID-19 Cases 14 day avg per 100k pop.	Secondary % Test Positivity
Barkhamsted	15.79	0%	New Milford	52.14	5%
Beacon Falls	35.86	3%	Newtown	30.07	4%
Bethel	38.07	7%	Norfolk	17.43	5%
Bethlehem	31.29	4%	North Canaan	32.93	2%
Bridgewater	8.71	2%	Plymouth	31.29	3%
Brookfield	50.00	6%	Prospect	38.71	4%
Burlington	50.29	6%	Redding	16.50	5%
Canaan	13.57	4%	Ridgefield	28.86	38%
Colebrook	0.00	1%	Roxbury	52.86	5%
Cornwall	0.00	2%	Salisbury	21.79	2%
Danbury	50.71	6%	Sharon	29.07	3%
Easton	28.50	6%	Sherman	29.64	3%
Goshen	22.36	2%	Southbury	35.57	3%
Hartland	30.36	4%	Thomaston	39.71	3%
Harwinton	39.43	4%	Torrington	38.86	4%
Kent	23.07	2%	Warren	15.29	1%
Litchfield	24.57	2%	Washington	27.07	0%
Middlebury	21.21	6%	Waterbury	52.50	5%
Monroe	26.79	4%	Watertown	40.93	4%
Morris	41.07	1%	Winchester	23.43	4%
New Fairfield	40.64	7%	Wolcott	52.36	5%
New Hartford	20.29	3%	Woodbury	27.00	3%

Report Date: 2/5/21

	Leading Indicator	Secondary		Leading Indicator	Secondary
Region 1			Region 10		
Canaan	13.57	4%	Burlington	50.29	6%
Cornwall	0.00	2%	Harwinton	39.43	4%
Kent	23.07	2%	Region 12		
North Canaan	32.93	2%	Bridgewater	8.71	2%
Salisbury	21.79	2%	Roxbury	52.86	5%
Sharon	29.07	3%	Washington	27.07	0%
Region 6			Region 14		
Goshen	22.36	2%	Bethlehem	31.29	4%
Morris	41.07	1%	Woodbury	27.00	3%
Warren	15.29	1%	Region 15		
Region 7			Middlebury	21.21	6%
Barkhamsted	15.79	0%	Southbury	35.57	3%
Colebrook	0.00	1%	Region 16		
New Hartford	20.29	3%	Beacon Falls	35.86	3%
Norfolk	17.43	5%	Prospect	38.71	4%
Region 9					
Easton	28.50	6%			
Redding	16.50	5%			

County	Leading Indicator New COVID-19 Cases 14 day avg per 100k pop.	Secondary % Test Positivity 14 day avg
Fairfield	41.79	6%
Hartford	44.86	6%
Litchfield	34.86	5%
Middlesex	37.36	5%
New Haven	45.71	5%
New London	52.86	7%
Tolland	36.93	6%
Windham	60.71	7%

Data is shared by the Connecticut Department of Public Health and is current as of

Wednesday, February 3, 2021

All data in this report are preliminary; data for previous dates will be updated as new reports are received and data errors are corrected.

Town data can be found:

<https://data.ct.gov/Health-and-Human-Services/COVID-19-Tests-Cases-and-Deaths-By-Town-/28fr-igqx>

County case data can be found:

<https://data.ct.gov/Health-and-Human-Services/COVID-19-Cases-Hospitalizations-and-Deaths-By-Coun/bfnu-rgqt>

County testing data (Secondary Indicator) can be found:

<https://data.ct.gov/Health-and-Human-Services/COVID-19-PCR-Based-Test-Results-by-Date-of-Specime/qfkt-uahj>