



PEARL RIVER
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Re-Opening of Schools

June 19, 2020

Dear Pearl River School District Community:

With the ending of the school year, we now turn to the work of planning for the eventual re-opening of schools with greater attention. For so many reasons, like all of you, it is my fervent hope that we will be able to return to work and school in September in a way that, to the greatest extent possible, resembles school life as we knew it before COVID-19. This summer we are going to move forward very carefully with a re-opening planning effort so that we reduce to an absolute minimum, risks to the health and safety of our students and staff.

Re-opening planning work is underway at several different levels. Local school districts, such as Pearl River are assembling re-opening committees and engaging in that work while also being connected to the same work that is happening at the County, Regional, and State levels. In Rockland County, each school district participates in County-wide meetings, and staff members from different departments are members of subcommittees that are exploring the various re-opening challenges that can be expected and identifying potential solutions to those challenges.

At this time Pearl River's Re-Opening Task Force has created eleven subcommittees. Each subcommittee appears below with a brief description of its mission, and the name of the subcommittee chairperson. As the planning for re-opening progresses subcommittees may expand by the formation of different working groups

that will carry the planning further. We may also need to add new subcommittees as needs are identified. The experience of this crisis has taught us the importance of being able to have a flexible response.

We value the participation of all of our district stakeholders in the critical work of planning for the re-opening of our schools. Parents, and staff are encouraged to join in this work through our subcommittees. We will strive to have subcommittees that are representative of all of the schools, and reflective of the whole district community. If you would like to participate in the reopening planning process please complete the form for volunteering available here <https://forms.gle/xg5ipXcujBppisVi7>

Athletics and Extracurricular Activities: Chair Artie McCormack. This committee will develop a plan for the continuation of student activities that will meet department of health guidelines for safety and risk reduction.

Business Operations: Chair Ann Marie Tromer. This committee will develop a plan that provides for the special needs of re-opening.

Communication and Public Relations: Chair Diana Musich This committee will develop a communication plan to keep all stakeholders apprised of developments.

Facilities Safety: Chair Ann Marie Tromer - This committee will create a plan to ensure we have done everything possible to create a safe environment — especially for those who may be at higher risk.

Human Resources: Chair Diana Musich This committee will identify and resolve any staffing and employment issues as a result of any changes implemented. This committee will also develop a Training Plan for re-entry.

Instructional Practices: Chair Robert Roelle. This committee will develop several models for instructional delivery in preparation for a wide range of re-entry requirements and possible student/staff enrollment restrictions. The plans will reflect available instructional options for different steps in the re-entry process including the continuation of/return to remote learning; the gradual re-entry of some students; to the full enrollment of faculty and staff. Instructional time, resources, and methods will be considered for the continuation of learning at all levels of re-entry.

School Health: Chair Peggy Lynch - This committee will work on preparing for reopening by identifying and implementing policies, procedures and best practices based on current guidelines from NYS, the Department of Health and the CDC.

Social and Emotional Needs: Chair Carolyn Moffa - This committee will identify and address staff and student supports and needs for Social Emotional Learning, mental health support and trauma specific resources.

Special Education: Chair Carolyn Moffa - This committee will work to develop an inclusive plan that addresses the needs of diverse learners and students with exceptional needs.

Technology: Chair Jamie Haug - This committee will work on creating a technology infrastructure that will support online learning, blended learning, and capacity to stream learning for all students and staff

Transportation: Chair Mary Cinelli - This committee will develop a list of recommendations that will allow providers to safely, effectively, and efficiently transport students.

We will continue to update the District Community as our re-opening planning progresses. A list of the members of each subcommittee will be posted to our website.

Sincerely,

Dr. Marco F. Pochintesta