



For CEC 14 Members, Parents on the DLT, CSD 14 Presidents' Council & Parents

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Dear Parent Leaders and District 14 Families,

Approaching the reopening of our schools for blended and remote learning, I want to thank each one of you for your patience, flexibility, and advocacy for your child's education. I also want to assure you that the principals and their teams are working diligently to ensure that each child's needs are met with the efficiency of school schedules, programs, curricula and access to instruction.

In the summer, many of you participated in school-based town halls and offered your feedback and advice about reopening. Thank you for your engagement and support. The questions you submitted also helped us in preparation of district-wide events such as the August and September Family Forums. My team and I planned those engagements with the CEC 14 and the Presidents' Council that represent you.

This week, and in the weeks to come, individual schools will invite you to town halls and smaller virtual meetings so your children and you can meet the teachers and the staff and ask questions specific to your child's school.

The district team is committed to the ongoing conversation about how to better service our diverse students in the time of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our focus this year is on unfinished learning from the Spring and on creating inclusive, anti-racist school communities where every child and every family feels welcome and appreciated. We will continue our work in creating healing schools where teachers and leaders are prepared to provide trauma-informed instruction. Many of our students and their families are returning to schools with traumatic experiences from the past several months. We want the schools to support you and your children. I also know how much you all care about the teachers and the staff members in your children's schools. I want to thank you for always advocating for them and their health and safety.

We welcome you to the new, unprecedented school year and I echo our Chancellor when I say that health and safety of our students remain our priorities. I am also asking you for your continued

partnership with our schools and the district. Never hesitate to email and contact my team or me with your feedback, questions, or concerns. Working together we will make this school year successful for all our children.

The beginning of the National Hispanic Heritage Month leads us into the school reopening. We celebrate the rich cultures of our district community and recognize the strength in diversity of students and families who contribute to the growth of our community. We embrace, appreciate and celebrate the Hispanic Heritage.

Yours truly,

Alicja Winnicki

Return to School 2020 -2021 Information

Learn how the DOE is preparing for the Return to School, our Guiding Principles and Our Planning Process for opening schools (updated constantly) . Use drop box “Select Language” to view in your desired language.

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/school-year-20-21/return-to-school-2020>

Transportation

DOE has reached an agreement with 60 bus companies and will have bus service by first day of school for all students who are eligible for DOE transportation. There will be approximately 6,000 special education routes and 2,500 general education routes, serving approximately 100,000 students. DOE’s Office of Pupil Transportation has already begun to let families know about their routes, and will complete all notifications by the end of next week. Bus route information can also be accessed through your New York City Schools Account (NYCSA) or by calling your child’s school.

There will be health and safety measures for our children and bus company employees. Buses will operate at 25% capacity to allow for social distancing, and due to the blended model the bus routes will accommodate all in-person kids during the day. Buses will be deep cleaned every night, and everyone will wear a mask.

All companies will have:

300k masks + 10k face shields

Disposable plastic gloves

300k bottles of hand sanitizer

Electrostatic sprayer

Learning Bridges

As the New York City Department of Education resumes in-person schooling this fall, most schools and early childhood programs will operate on a blended learning model. This means that each week, students will have some school days in person, and some school days remotely. **Learning Bridges is a**

new program that will provide free child care options for children from 3-K through 8th grade on days when they are scheduled for remote learning. ⁱ

How to Apply

- **If you are interested in the Learning Bridges program, please complete links below in the language of your choice**
- Need help completing the online application? Call 311 for assistance.
- If you already filled out the expression of interest form, you do not need to complete another application.

Programming and Safety

The Learning Bridges programs will:

- Be operated by community-based organizations and other partners
- Provide opportunities for children to connect to their remote learning activities
- Include time for art, recreation, and other age-appropriate activities
- Follow the same rigorous health and safety precautions as schools

Eligibility and Enrollment

Learning Bridges is open to 3-K through 8th grade students enrolled in a DOE school or contracted early childhood program. This includes District 75, 4410 programs, contracted 3-K, Pre-K, and EarlyLearn programs, and DOE elementary and middle schools.

Currently, Learning Bridges is not available for families that have opted for a 100% remote schedule.

Priority for placement will be given to:

- Families in temporary housing, including shelters and hotels
- Children of NYCDOE school and program staff, including staff of Learning Bridges sites and other contracted early childhood providers
- Families residing in NYCHA developments
- Children in family foster care or receiving other child welfare services
- Students with disabilities
- Children whose parent/guardian is an essential worker or was previously enrolled in a Regional Enrichment Center (REC)
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Learning Bridges sites will be paired with DOE schools and contracted early childhood programs so that students will be interacting with a similar cohort of students even between sites.

Where placements are available, families will receive a letter from the DOE detailing their Learning Bridges site and next steps to enroll their child. Seats will continue to be added throughout the fall on a rolling basis.

Learning Bridges Link - Use drop box "Select Language" to view in your desired language.
<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enrollment-help/learning-bridges>

School Building Ventilation Survey

We look forward to kicking off the 2020-2021 school year together with you. As always, the health and safety of our staff, students and families is our number one priority.

Properly ventilated classrooms are key to our reopening our schools safely. We have been working around the clock to ensure that every school has been carefully surveyed for ventilation by consulting engineers under the direction of the New York City School Construction Authority. The results of your child's school building ventilation survey will be posted on the individual school page on our website, on the Overview tab, under Building Ventilation Information.

- Use [Find a School](#) to get your school page and see the report.

The report is a snapshot of the results of inspections on ventilation systems performed in school spaces over the past few weeks. We found that the ventilation in more than 95 percent of our classrooms is in good working order. Out of the 64,000 classrooms we surveyed, fewer than 3,000 had issues. These results for individual schools (posted on Tuesday, September 8, 2020) are preliminary and are intended to help focus our repair and maintenance efforts. They do not indicate any space's ability to open on Monday, September 21, 2020, as we are continuing to repair and correct any outstanding ventilation issues.

The DOE will make repairs or improvements with rooms prior to Monday, September 21, and/or will close any rooms not repaired by that date. Ongoing updates will be provide as repairs or improvements are made.

Any room that does not meet our stringent safety standards will not be used for instructional purposes unless it is repaired or remediated. Final decisions about rooms or buildings that should not be used will be communicated to principals in advance of Monday, September 21. We want to remind you that while ventilation is essential to our COVID-19 prevention plan, it is only one part of a comprehensive strategy to keep our students, educators, and staff members safe inside and outside our schools.

Please do not hesitate to [reach out to your school](#) with any questions or concerns. Please also note that if a significant number of rooms in your child's school have issues regarding ventilation, you will receive additional information from your principal.

School ventilation Survey Link - Use drop box "Select Language" to view in your desired language <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/about-us/reports/school-building-ventilation-survey>

School Building Ventilation Survey Update

The School Ventilation Assessment Teams have completed their inspections of all DOE schools. 1485 buildings have been inspected, and 10 buildings have temporarily been taken offline so that they can be remediated. Of the 64,550 classrooms surveyed, 96% (61,568) classrooms have operational ventilation. Rooms in need of repair must have those repairs made before first day or they won't be used for school.

2020-2021 School Calendar (other languages available using this link as well)
<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/docs/default-source/default-document-library/school-calendar-for-families-2020-2021>

Please note the following details regarding this year’s calendar:

- The first three student attendance days, **September 16–18**, are fully remote, partial instructional days for students. Teachers are expected to engage students for at least one hour on each of these days.
- Election day (**November 3**), and any days on which in-person instruction cannot be provided due to inclement weather or other emergency, will be fully-remote instructional days. Teachers will be expected to provide instruction and students will be expected to participate in remote learning on these days.

Schools are expected to take daily attendance on all fully-remote instructional days, including all days listed above.

Regardless of the school’s programming model, **September 21** will be a cycle day 1.

Contact Tracing and Confidentiality

Recently, the state legislature passed the [Contact Tracing Confidentiality Bill](#) to ensure that contact tracing information is only used for public health purposes, and that police and ICE are not allowed to access any information given to contact tracers. Contact tracing will be an important tool in the DOE’s fight against Covid-19 because tracing cases and identifying who may have been exposed to the virus, will help keep our students and their families healthy. The bill is waiting on the governor to act.

Outdoor Learning

The DOE is pleased to let you know that 826 Outdoor Learning Initiative proposals were submitted by August 28; each one of those proposals received a response by Friday, September 4th. There are currently 903 applications for outdoor learning of which 807 have been approved. 489 of the proposals propose to use the school’s own outdoor space, 224 proposals intend to use park space, and 94 plan to utilize street space. Schools can still submit proposals to use outdoor space, which will be reviewed on a rolling basis,

Additional Resources

Food-

Grab and Go Meals

The health of our students is our first priority this fall, and that includes making sure every student has access to nutritious meals regardless of whether they are learning remotely or in-person. No student will go hungry this fall and students learning remotely, or their parents, can pick-up grab and go meals from whatever Department of Education school is most convenient to them.”

The program is not ending. Students learning in-person will receive both breakfast and lunch in school. For students who are learning remotely full-time or students who are at home during their remote days in blended learning, families can pick up free grab-and-go meals from whatever school is most convenient to them.

No signup or registration is necessary and meals will be set up near entry points for easy access and pickup by students and families. The City will continue to provide free breakfast and lunch to all students under the Free Lunch for All initiative.

For adults, there may be some changes to the program in order to address concerns about student safety - for example moving the hours to the afternoon so that adults are not in the buildings getting food at the same time as student instruction. But Grab & Go will continue at hundreds of sites across the city- including some dedicated kosher locations and those serving the halal protein options - and the info is available at nyc.gov/getfood or the DOE website is always up to date for that day.

<https://www.opt-osfns.org/schoolfoodny/meals/default.aspx>

P-EBT/SNAP COVID-19 Information (Excerpt – use link below for more detailed information)

The parents/guardians of eligible children who did not receive their P-EBT food benefits on a SNAP, TA (Cash) or Medicaid card will receive a P-EBT 2020 food benefit card in the mail. A card will be sent for each eligible child. These cards will be mailed in each school-aged child's name, not a parent's or guardian's name. A picture of what the P-EBT 2020 food benefit card looks like is included below. P-EBT 2020 food benefit cards and instructions on how to use them will be mailed to these households through the month of **September**.

<https://otda.ny.gov/SNAP-COVID-19/Frequently-Asked-Questions-Pandemic-EBT.asp>

COVID-19 Emergency Food Distribution Info

<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dsny/contact/services/COVID-19FoodAssistance.shtml>

Coping Through COVID-19

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/acs/about/covidhelp.page#FreeWiFi>

Health –

NYC Care is a health care access program that guarantees low-cost and no-cost services to New Yorkers who do not qualify for or cannot afford health insurance. All NYC Care services are provided through NYC Health + Hospitals .

<https://www.nyccare.nyc/>

Telehealth Tips for Families information

<https://www.familypathways.nyc/telehealth-tips-for-families>

Internet Services -

Free and Low-cost Internet Services for eligible families

Comcast is offering free services for 60 days for new customers who apply and are approved by December 30, 2020.

<https://www.internetessentials.com/>

AT&T and Spectrum are offering discounted service (\$10-\$14.90 per month) for income-limited households or those who qualify for the National School Lunch Program.

AT&T

<https://www.att.com/internet/access/>

Spectrum

<https://www.spectrum.com/browse/content/spectrum-internet-assist>

NYPL

Get SimplyE, the Library's free e-reader app!

<http://view.email.nypl.org/?qs=f699281f4f5e835068a931787f770adcfb17f7701fa291d0895d867da6d9dc1f48948b4b8fed68bf89f5b0e202d4627615a418c3a4901eaa06a274bc060479ddd21e4b212273d494>
