

HUDSON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Office of Student Services
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June 19, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

The purpose of this letter is to update you on our Extended School Year (ESY) program for students with disabilities. After careful consideration, and out of an abundance of caution placing the health and welfare of our students and staff above all, we have made the difficult decision that the Hudson City School District's 2020 ESY program will be provided through remote learning. We believe this decision will still afford students an appropriate summer experience, while keeping everyone safe, which must be our priority.

As you know, the Governor advised in May that all summer school programs would be virtual, giving us time to organize and plan accordingly for virtual continuity of instruction for our students. Unexpectedly, on June 5th, the Governor announced that ESY programs may be offered onsite. The Governor's announcement was met with both excitement and trepidation. We were excited about the opportunity to provide programming for the population of students who have been most adversely impacted by our current remote instruction, but at the same time, we were concerned about ensuring the safety of our students and staff and being able to meet the Department of Health's requirements.

Since the announcement on June 5th, our leadership team spent time reviewing the existing guidance and working towards developing a plan that would meet the unique needs of our students as well as ensure the health and safety of all students and staff. Specifically, we considered the recommended health and safety measures, program capacity with regards to staffing, as well as logistics related to class size and social distancing. Our team took into great consideration the unique needs of the students we serve, including the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) and implementation of safety protocols.

We have worked with our county school district leaders as well as the Columbia County Department of Health and our regional BOCES to assess the feasibility of transportation, social distancing, availability of personal protective equipment and the availability of staff to maintain safety for both students and staff. To date, the only guidance we have on reopening comes from the general guidance from the Center for Disease Control, and a supplemental guidance document issued on June 8th by the NYS Department of Health. Critically absent from the picture is key input on a range of educational issues, leaving unresolved compliance questions related to IEP programs and service implementation.

Through this review, we determined that we would not be able to ensure the safety of students and staff in an in-person summer program. As always, the health and safety of our students and staff is our priority.

If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact us directly.

Sincerely,

Kim L. Lybolt

Kim L. Lybolt
Director of Student Services

