



July 1, 2020

Dear Rutland Schools Community:

We want to update all on the work being done to plan for school reopening.

First, our staff thanks our family partners for helping our students navigate this unprecedented event in recent memory. Likewise, I wish to thank all district employees for the great effort necessary to serve our families during the last four months. Finally, great credit goes to our students who clearly demonstrated the district's vision statement as a "...resilient community of critical thinkers...." The Rutland Schools completed a successful year through a true team effort.

We understand what a challenge this was for our whole school community. And yet, the task is not complete. As we see in the news, conditions worldwide require a flexible approach to learning for the school year 2020-2021. Given our accomplishments last spring, we are confident that we can provide the model to meet the need.

Through the month of June, a RCPS team met to review research and planning tools from a large variety of sources; in-state, nationally, and abroad. The committee represents teachers, school psychologists, district and building administrators, and our nursing staff. Our initial goal was to inform our practices to respond well to the various circumstances that we might see this fall. The state expects that we could face three types of settings, depending on the state's progress through the summer: that all students will be in our buildings; that all students might have to learn remotely again; or some hybrid form of those two extremes. Thus, we considered those settings applied to broad categories of school functions, including: Teaching and Learning, Health and Wellness, Daily Structure, Operations, and Technology.

That planning work continues through the summer. Recent guidance from the Agency of Education and the Department of Health advise our process. That most recent document is on the AOE's website, linked [here](#). More specific guidance from those agencies is due out in mid-July. So while there are questions right now about what school will look like in the fall, we await more direction from the state on just what the parameters will be. We encourage our families to be alert for updates accessed through our [website](#) and district social media outlets.

Please be assured that our district team and teams at the building level are moving forward in planning. As those specifics become finalized with the help of state guidance, we will communicate all to our families. Again, our dedicated school community members will plan and collaborate well in order to create another successful learning year for our students. Thanks to all, and please enjoy a healthy summer!

Sincerely,

Bill Olsen, Superintendent