

# WEST ESSEX REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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**Damion Macioci**  
Superintendent of Schools

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July 2, 2020

Dear West Essex Community,

The New Jersey Department of Education recently provided guidance to school districts to assist in the process of reopening schools. This set of standards provides strategies and safety measures so school buildings can open in some capacity for in-person instruction and operations in the fall. We must also recognize the need to prepare for any adjustments in our educational plan should guidelines change as we get closer to the start of school.

With that said, we will begin the process of creating a plan to reopen schools in collaboration with community stakeholders, including faculty, staff, parents, board of education members and students. Together we will work diligently to establish a plan that best fits the needs of our school community.

Our process will include the creation of a School Reopening Task Force. This group will devote a considerable amount of time during the upcoming weeks developing a plan for safely reopening our schools. This task force will be divided into smaller sub-committees, including:

- Social Emotional Learning and School Climate and Culture Committee
- Facilities Committee
- Medical Advisory Committee
- Building Operations Committee
- Extra Curricular Activities/Athletics Committee
- Distance Learning Committee

Gathering feedback from students, staff, and community members is an important part of the planning process. Please take a moment to complete the [Return to School Survey](#). If you are interested in a greater commitment to this process and would like to volunteer to serve on one of our committees, please contact Kathy Straus at [kstraus@westex.org](mailto:kstraus@westex.org) and include your name, town of residence, and grade level of your child. Those who serve on the committee are expected to attend several sessions during the workday throughout the month of July. The majority of these meetings will be held virtually or outdoors.

I look forward to working with our passionate and highly committed staff and school community to ensure all students achieve success and maximize their learning potential.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Damion Macioci  
Superintendent of Schools