

WEST ESSEX REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Damion Macioci
Superintendent of Schools

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Dear West Essex Families,

Our School Reopening Task Force, consisting of 65 community stakeholders, has been working tirelessly over the past several weeks, developing plans to maximize in-person instruction, while maintaining a safe and healthy environment for students and staff. Previous district correspondence and information regarding reopening plans may be viewed at the [School Reopening Information Link](#).

In addition to the guidance from the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE), [The Road Back: Restart and Recovery Plan for Education](#), we have been carefully reviewing recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH), and the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRE).

On August 13, Governor Murphy signed [Executive Order 175](#) permitting districts to delay the implementation of in-person instruction to allow time and flexibility to ensure buildings are safe and ready to open. With that said, in effort to maintain the highest safety standards, our district will delay the start of in-person instruction until Monday, October 5. During this time, the following items will be finalized:

- Installation of higher efficiency air filters (MERV 13) into our heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems
- Installation of window air conditioning units into middle school classrooms (electrical upgrades as necessary)
- Assembly and installation of plexiglass barriers for classrooms and support staff offices
- Addressing of staffing needs

We realize there is no substitute for being in the classroom; however, we are confident our **Distance Learning Plan**, starting on **September 8**, will provide our students with a structured and routine experience to support their educational needs. You will receive detailed correspondence from your child's school principal regarding the revised reopening plan, including the adjustments to phases, calendars, and schedules.

West Essex remains committed to opening schools in the safest way possible while providing students with the highest quality educational experience.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

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