



# Franklin Township Public Schools

Office of the superintendent

1755 Amwell Road

Somerset, New Jersey 08873

Dr. John Ravally  
Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Franklin Families,

The purpose of my letter is to follow up on yesterday's announcement regarding the opening of schools for this September. First, on behalf of the Board of Education, I would like to thank everyone who took the time to write and express their opinion regarding the restart and reopening of schools. Although we were not able to respond personally to every email please know your message was read and your voice heard. As announced in a broadcast message yesterday, on behalf of the Franklin Township Reopen Committee, I have submitted a request to the Somerset Executive County Superintendent of Schools requesting approval to delay our opening of in-person instruction. The flexibility is needed to allow the district to continue working through accommodation requests from employees who are requesting leaves according to the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) that became effective on April 1, 2020. The FFCRA amends the The Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) requiring certain employers to provide paid leave to certain employees to care for themselves or a family member due to Coronavirus illness, symptoms, quarantine, or school/childcare closure. In addition, we will take advantage of the time afforded to work with the Franklin Township Education Association and other constituent groups to investigate the reasons behind these leave requests and then continue refining the Restart and Reopen Plan accordingly. We recognize the value of in-person instruction and realize the sooner we are able to return to some in-person instruction the better, especially for students with special needs. With that said, below is the in-person phase plan also being presented to the Executive County Superintendent on behalf of the Franklin Township Public Schools Restart and Reopen Committee:

**September 8...All students in remote learning; In-person option:** Therapies, evaluations, and specialized testing (ESL).

**By October 12....In-person option:** Therapies, evaluations, specialized testing (ESL), PK-12 Autism, Elementary BD, staff resources permitting.

**By November 9...In-person option:** Therapies, evaluations, and specialized testing (ESL), PK-12 Autism, Elementary BD, PK-12 LLD Severe, PK-12 MD, PK-12 CI, staff resources permitting.

**By November 30...In-person option:** Therapies, evaluations, specialized testing (ESL), PK-12 Autism, Elementary BD, PK-12 LLD Severe, PK-12 MD, PK-12 CI, AND Blue/Gold Cohorts (Hybrid), staff resources permitting.

In addition, we realize the model of remote learning used to end the 2019-2020 school year lacked the necessary synchronous learning experiences needed to help push student learning forward. With that said,



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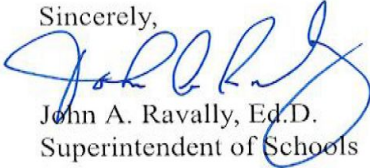
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the Office of Curriculum and Instruction has posted more information on our website defining the all-remote instructional program for all students which will be an all synchronous model. Please take some time to review this information ahead of your individual school's reopening presentation, which will be occurring in the very near future. Your Principal, if they have yet to do so, will be communicating the date of your school's presentation this week.

We know that this delay to in-person instruction is not optimal and can place an additional burden on some families, especially with regard to childcare. With that said, we are working with the Greater Somerset County YMCA in an attempt to plan a program that helps meet the childcare needs of our families. More information about this program will be released as it becomes available.

Thanks again for your understanding and we will continue working together to provide the best education possible to our students during these challenging times.

Sincerely,



John A. Ravally, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools