



Pearl River School District

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Marco F. Pochintesta, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

March 23, 2021

Dear Pearl River School Community,

I am writing to update our school community regarding our progress towards a full return to in-person instruction. Over the last two weeks, we have accomplished the following:

- School and District administration continue to meet regularly to chart the course for what needs to be in place for our target date of April 19th.
- Three-sided desk barriers for use in classrooms have been ordered.
- Re-opening plan has been submitted to NYSED.
- Furniture needs have been assessed, and ordered as needed, as some of the more recent flexible seating purchases for groups will not yet be placed back in the classrooms.
- Face shields have been ordered for students to use on school district transportation, when social distancing is not possible.
- Attention is being given for social and emotional needs and support for students at all levels.

The following is a description of what our initial full return will look like:

Students in grades K-2 will report to school 5 days per week, but they will remain in their individual cohorts as they are now, remaining seated 6 feet apart. Because of the continuation of this level of social distancing these classrooms will not be outfitted with desk barriers. Plans for unified experiences for students in both cohorts in Kindergarten up to second grade to come together are being developed. There will be opportunities and activities for social and emotional learning to support students at all levels as everyone re-acclimates to full-return status and the differences of a larger social dynamic.

We have ordered three-sided desk barriers for students in grades 3-12. These barriers will be used in classrooms where 6 feet of social distancing is not possible. Middle School and High School students will carry the folding barriers from class to class. More information on the use of barriers will be provided as NYSDOH issues guidance on the subject. Additional information will allow the district to move forward in addressing details on the implementation of barriers.

As we get closer to April 19, the projected date of return, we will survey parents again to understand their choice of the instructional model their child(ren) will participate in, full remote or full in-person learning.

Sincerely,