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Hello North Syracuse Central School District staff,

This is the week we have been waiting for...additional guidance from New York State on the reopening of schools. On Monday, we eagerly received and pored over the 28 pages of "[Recovering, Rebuilding and Renewing: the Spirit of New York's Schools Reopening Guide](#)," anxious to see how the North Syracuse Central School District could adopt the model. As we quickly realized that the document would offer no "one size fits all" solution, I breathed a sigh of relief thinking about the work we have already done around reopening.

As you know, [our Re-Entry Committee](#), with more than 100 stakeholders, has been meeting since May to formulate a plan for the NSCSD. Today we will receive each sub-committee's initial recommendations and begin vetting them. Our groups have been exploring all options in order to create a comprehensive plan for the safe re-entry of all students and staff. It is important to stress that while all options are being discussed, no decisions have yet been finalized for our District.

In a survey we administered to staff this spring, one of the outcomes was the need for clear, consistent and predictable communication from the District. To this end, please know that any communication about school reopening will be coming directly from me. The District is required to submit an initial reopening plan to the state by Friday, July 31. The plan we submit will include some mandatory pieces such as how we will perform regular cleaning and disinfecting and protecting the health and safety of students with disabilities, but other elements of the plan will continue to be worked out.

Things continue to change on an almost daily basis, and it is difficult to make decisions too far in advance but I want to give you a timeline of what we do know.

- July 15-24 – Cabinet will be taking Re-Entry Committee sub groups' initial recommendations and vetting them with union leadership
- July 17-24 – District will be surveying the community about reopening (A survey specifically for staff will be sent out at a date TBD)
- July 27-31 – Cabinet will be creating an initial plan to submit to SED
- August 10 – Re-Entry Committee will present initial plan to Board of Education
- First week in August – SED/Governor Cuomo will determine feasibility of in-person school taking place

Additionally the month of August will be filled with training opportunities as we implement any necessary new procedures and precautions. I anticipate the next few weeks will move very rapidly so please take some time to rest and be with family and friends as we head into a busy time. Stay well.

Sincerely,


Daniel D. Bowles
Superintendent of Schools