



5355 West Taft Road
North Syracuse, NY 13212
(315) 218-2150
dbowles@nscsd.org

March 12, 2021

North Syracuse Central School District Families,

I am writing to share important information regarding updated plans to bring students back to school for additional days of in-person instruction. On March 4, Onondaga County provided new guidance reducing social distancing requirements from 6 feet to 3 feet with the use of barriers and masks. These changes allow school districts across Central New York to provide additional in-person instruction.

With Onondaga County's seven-day positivity rate (rolling average) less than one percent (currently 0.7%), all districts are amending their instructional plans. We understand that not all districts are the same and that what works for one, does not necessarily work for another. The North Syracuse Central School District plans to implement changes on a staggered schedule beginning April 12. Our first target date is to shift our K-4 in-person students from two to five days a week (Monday through Friday) on April 12. The second target date of April 19 is to bring in person students in grades 5-12 from two to four days a week (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday). As a reminder, K-4 students transitioning from remote to in-person learning may be switched to a new teacher in their home school.

Our target dates may be adjusted as we receive additional guidance on transportation and safety precautions from the Onondaga County Department of Health. We will continue to update staff and families.

Parents of students in grades 5-12 who want to make a change from remote to hybrid or hybrid to remote should contact their school principal. All requests must be submitted by **April 7**. No additional requests for change in placement for the 2020-2021 school year will be accepted after April 7. Early next week, each secondary principal will send a letter to parents detailing their building's individual process for switching instructional models.

As we bring students back for additional in-person instruction, our top priorities will be building a sense of community and ensuring the safety of all. We are committed to helping our students integrate with the classroom and school communities. Parents can also draw upon these resources on [reducing anxiety](#) and [supporting children during this transition](#).

We will continue to closely monitor positivity rates throughout our school community and take guidance from the Onondaga County Department of Health. In the event of a spike in new positive cases, we will reevaluate our current status. Students and staff will continue to be screened daily and the District will continue to offer regular school-based testing for students and staff. Additionally, weekly testing will continue for all student athletes.

Please note that even though the guidelines for social distancing are being reduced from 6 feet to 3 feet, masks need to be worn at all times and barriers are required.

Thank you for your continued support as we work through these challenges associated with COVID-19 and support our students.

Sincerely,

Daniel D. Bowles
Superintendent of Schools