



Newark Board of Education

Roger León, Superintendent

Where Passion Meets Progress

January 6, 2021

Dear Newark School Community:

Over the past ten months, despite casualty unlike any other, we have witnessed inspiring acts of humanity. As a result, I hope this new year finds you and your families encouraged by the promise of a brighter future.

In Newark, we are at a critical stage in the fight against Covid-19, and the health and safety of students and staff remain my top priority. Based on what we know today, and in consultation with the Newark Health Department, I have weighed many factors and decided to continue remote instruction until after Spring Break.

On April 12, 2021, we will implement our hybrid model of instruction, with some students attending school in person and some attending remotely. At that time, parents will be able to elect to continue remote instruction through the end of the school year, if they so choose.

During the next few months, the [district's protocols](#) and [ingress procedures](#) will remain in effect. We will continue to distribute meals to students and families at the [22 food service program sites](#), and families may visit whichever location is most convenient. The City of Newark will continue to operate its [Remote Learning Assistance Program](#) for students and families, and its [Covid-19 testing locations](#) for Newark residents and district staff.

I know that constant and seemingly random changes seem to be part of the new normal. The decision to stay the current course for now is intended, in part, to counteract that feeling, foster confidence, and strengthen resilience. To that end, operational staff at central office and schools will report on January 11th. Teachers who will teach from their classrooms will return on January 19th. In-person counseling and other related services for students will resume on January 25th, and staff will reach out to families in the coming days to schedule accordingly.

Since last school year, every Covid-related decision I have made, has weighed heavily on me because I know each of these decisions has had profound implications for all of your lives. I have asked you to be flexible and patient, and I appreciate everyone's willingness to do so. At the same time, we have been working diligently to maintain confidence in our schools and educational programs. I have marveled at everyone's resilience.

We strive to be a strong partner with you to provide an excellent educational program for all of the children of Newark, despite this year's challenges. Principals, teachers and each school's Pandemic Response Team are ready and available to support our students and families. Please reach out to them with any questions or concerns.

I wish you and your families great health and good spirits in 2021. We will get through this together.

Sincerely,

Roger León
Superintendent