



# FAIRFIELD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dear FASD Families and Staff,

In my previous communications, I have been transparent regarding the growing health and safety considerations and constraints being placed on the district based on the circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic.

Here are a few examples of the new reality we are navigating since presenting the FASD Reopening Health & Safety Plan in early August.

- A rising risk of exposure of our students, staff, and families to COVID-19, resulting in the possibility of illness and/or being identified as a close contact requiring quarantine.
- Ever-changing guidelines and recommendations by the PA Department of Education and PA Department of Health.
  - The August 10, 2020 recommendation stating our district should transition to a blended learning model or full remote learning model.
  - The August 17, 2020 order requiring all students to wear face coverings **at all times** while in school, regardless of social distancing capabilities, is deemed detrimental to our previously offered model of hybrid brick-and-mortar instruction.
- Ongoing updates in student rosters and teacher assignments based on the fluidity of COVID-19 impacts.
- An increasing number of staff who are unable or not planning to return to work, in addition to the limited availability of substitutes, which raises concern about the ability to properly staff instruction and auxiliary services.

I fully recognize the impacts of this polarizing topic and no longer believe that the guidelines and mandates are practicable for our district students. So that we can remain steadfast in our commitment to maximizing the safety of students, teachers, and staff, and to productively manage the delivery of education to our students in a consistent and cohesive approach, it is with a heavy heart that I will be making the following recommendation to the Board of School Directors:

- Modify the FASD Reopening Health and Safety Plan in order to provide a fully virtual model for the delivery of education to our students for the first marking period of the 2020-2021 school year. The district will continue to evaluate the instructional model throughout the first 9 weeks of school.

My recommendation will be presented during the Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup> Board meeting at 7:00 p.m.

- It will be a virtual meeting hosted through Zoom and live-streamed through the District YouTube Channel.
- The Agenda will be available on the District website.
- In order to accommodate all Public Comments, in light of our current Zoom-licensing restriction, there will be two (2) options available to all district stakeholders:
  - Verbally (Zoom) – Consistent with past practice, for the first 100 who are able to register into the Zoom meeting.
  - Written (email) – In the event the Zoom meeting is full, district stakeholders will be able to submit their comments through the district's email: [questions@fairfield.k12.pa.us](mailto:questions@fairfield.k12.pa.us)

If you are unable to participate Monday evening, a link to the meeting's audio recording will be posted on the district website. Thank you for your understanding and patience as we summarize the results of Monday's meeting and provide families with updates.

Yours in Education,

Mr. Michael Adamek  
Superintendent