

July 31, 2020

Dear NSSSED Families and Staff,

As promised, we are sharing our final Reopening Plan and other important information in this week's communication. We know you are busy, so please continue to help us by taking the following actions:

- Access our Reopening Plan at nssed.org/reopening.
- Families, please fill out the [Fall 2020 Learning Model and Transportation Selection form](#) below by 5:00 p.m on Wednesday August 5.
- Staff, please fill out the [staff survey](#) by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 4.

Reopening Plan

The NSSSED Reopening Plan is posted on our website or directly at [this link](#). The document includes an overview of our process and the final plan as well as specific guidance relating to topics of concern and will continue to be updated as new information or experience dictates. ***NSSSED administrators will follow up with program-specific information on Monday, August 3.***

We are committed to providing in-person instruction and are working toward that goal in a thoughtful way. The health and safety of students and staff must be our first priority while we implement many new guidelines and procedures to do so. Other considerations are the status of our workforce and our ability to provide individualized special education and specialized transportation services. By working together, we will create a safe learning and working environment.

Our year begins with remote learning (Phase 1 - orange), while monitoring state and local metrics to decide whether or not it is safe to be able to move toward a blend/hybrid of remote and in-person learning (Phase 2 - yellow). Subsequently, after a blend/hybrid time period, it is our hope to return to a fully in-person model in early fall (Phase 3 - green).

A full remote option will be available to families within each program as an option for those not comfortable sending their child. This option requires a commitment until winter break for scheduling and staffing purposes.

Here is a reminder of our **schedule for the launch of the school year**:

- August 13-14 We welcome new staff for a virtual orientation
- August 17-19: We welcome all staff back for virtual training and preparation; staff may begin gradually working on-site (optional).
- August 20-September 4: Students engage in remote learning; staff will gradually begin working on-site in order to learn and practice new safety procedures (additional details to come).

- September 8-October 2: Students follow a blended remote learning schedule; this means each site will follow a weekly hybrid schedule of in-person instruction and remote instruction; staff will work on-site (additional details to come).
 - October 5: Students return to full day in-person instruction; staff will work on-site.
- NNSSED classrooms and services within host member-districts would align with those particular districts' plans.

What Can I Do to Prepare?

Face coverings are a non-negotiable state requirement and likely will require problem-solving meetings, including for individuals with documented medical conditions related to identified disabilities. We again encourage you to see your family practitioner now in preparation for the start of the school year, if this is a concern for you. Families, if exposure to individuals who are not wearing masks is a concern for you, we encourage you to choose all-remote learning for your student(s), and/or opt to transport your child to and from school yourself.

Families: Learning Model Selection and Transportation Selection Form

As you know, we are offering an all-remote learning plan to all families. Please use [this form](#) to let us know which learning model you choose for your child. *Please know if you are choosing the all remote option, you are committing to this learning model through winter break.* If you have questions, please contact your administrator.

- The form also asks you to choose whether your child will use NNSSED transportation services, or whether you will provide transportation for your child through December, 2020.
- If you have more than one child enrolled in an NNSSED program, please complete this form for each child.
- Please complete the [Fall 2020 Learning Model and Transportation Selection form](#) to indicate your choices by Wednesday, August 5, at 5:00 p.m.

NNSSED Staff Survey

Please respond to this [staff survey](#) by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 4, 2020; we need your voice to continue to inform our planning. Please note: you must be logged into your [nnsed.org](#) Google account to access the survey.

NNSSED Staff: Stay Healthy!

Your health and safety are our top priority. As professionals, you must help by following 6-foot social distancing and face covering guidelines, frequent handwashing, and other safety practices whether you are at school or not.

NNSSED Staff: Employment Opportunity

In preparation for keeping our facilities clean and sanitized, we have an increased need for light custodial support to help our Buildings and Grounds Team. An email message

went out today that shares a [description](#) of responsibilities and how to apply for this opportunity. Please reach out to Gabbi Jones (gjones@nssed.org) by Friday, August 7th to be considered.

Kurt A. Schneider, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Northern Suburban Special Education District