

**EAST ORANGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

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Assistant Superintendent

Ms. Anita Champagne

Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Deborah M. Harvest

August 13, 2020

Dear East Orange School District Parents, Guardians, and Caretakers,

On March 16, 2020, Governor Phil Murphy signed Executive Order No. 104 (EO 104), implementing aggressive social distancing measures to mitigate further spread of COVID-19 in New Jersey. Among other directives, Governor Murphy's Executive Order indefinitely closed all public, private and parochial preschools and elementary and secondary schools to students beginning on March 18, 2020. Since that time, the state of New Jersey has continued to enforce additional precautions and re-implement restrictions due to the climbing COVID-19 transmission. **Most recently, on August 12, 2020 Governor Murphy issued Executive Order No. 175 (EO 175) permitting school districts to provide remote-only instruction in the fall.**

A few weeks ago, the East Orange School District virtually shared the proposed fall reopening plan with the East Orange community. In the video, I announced that we would begin the school year with a hybrid model for all students as part of the initial reopening phase with a caveat that the plan may be subject to change. Unfortunately, we had to revise our return to learning plan as we identified additional challenges and risks of providing in-person instruction at the start of the 2020-2021 school year.

After careful review of the district's parent/guardian survey results, real time data as well as consultation with local agencies and partners, the East Orange School District's Board of Education, on August 11, 2020, approved the Superintendent's full remote learning plan for submission to the New Jersey Department of Education. To that end, ***the remote learning plan for all students will begin on September 8, 2020*** pending approval from the New Jersey Department of Education. ***As it stands, there will no longer be an in-person learning option for students in September.***

We understand that this is a shift from our original reopening plan; however, the changing landscape of the pandemic poses risks and challenges that are far too great. Our core beliefs say it best: *We will reopen our physical buildings as fast as we can but as slow as we must, all while continuing to provide choices and opportunities for our students.* As we continue to prioritize the health and safety of our staff and students, our revised reopening plan allows for a wider safety net for our entire community. There will be additional details forthcoming. Thank you for your patience, understanding, and cooperation.

Educationally Yours,

AbdulSaleem R. Hasan

AbdulSaleem R. Hasan, Ed.S.
Superintendent of Schools

“Developing Leaders One Student at a Time”