



Olga Hugelmeyer
Superintendent of Schools

September 10, 2021

Dear Hillcrest Academy South Campus Families,

Elizabeth Public Schools was recently notified that due to storm damage sustained by the Union County Educational Services Commission (UCESC) building located at 1571 Lamberts Mill Road in Westfield that serves as home to Hillcrest Academy South Campus, Lamberts Mill Academy, and Westlake School, students will begin the year in remote instruction.

UCESC Acting Superintendent Michael J. Kowalski obtained approval from the New Jersey Department of Education to implement remote learning for the three impacted schools to minimize the disruption to the education of students. Instruction will be consistent with schedules in the “District Plan for Emergence Remote Instruction” posted on the UCESC website [here](#).

The UCESC acknowledges that remote instruction is not the optimal learning environment for its students and views the option as a short-term intervention measured in days, not weeks or months. You can expect follow-up correspondence from your child’s principal that contains additional information regarding the schedules.

Acting Superintendent Kowalski met with Westfield Mayor Shelley Brindle, Westfield Police Chief Christopher Battiloro, FEMA representatives, and county and state emergency management officials in efforts to secure disaster relief funding and to identify possibilities for relocating students will the 1571 Lamberts Mill Road Complex undergoes extensive repairs. He is committed to returning students to school with undue delay and will be meeting with several organizations to discuss potential building lease agreements to relocate our schools.

The UCESC apologizes for this unanticipated disruption and thanks you for your understanding and support.

Sincerely,

Olga Hugelmeyer

Office of the Superintendent of Schools