



Olga Hugelmeyer
Superintendent of Schools

January 12, 2022

Dear Elizabeth Public Schools Learning Community,

I hope this communication reaches you in good health as we enter 2022 with hope and optimism that our ongoing journey through the pandemic will lead us to brighter days ahead.

Throughout the pandemic, the safety and the wellbeing of our learning community has always been first and foremost in guiding our decisions as it pertains to how we deliver instruction. Returning from the holiday recess when families were expected to gather, we anticipated the rise in positive cases within our community and acted accordingly with a switch to remote learning to help ensure the safety of our students and team members.


The district and the Elizabeth Board of Education have been steadily consulting with the city health officer and health professionals since the onset of the omicron variant while observing the updated guidelines and protocols of the CDC, NJ Department of Health, and the NJ Department of Education. Those conversations have included the assessment of our ability to provide the safest possible learning experience for our students, taking into consideration the guidelines for in-person instruction, while navigating the everchanging course of the pandemic. We have also accounted for the social, emotional, and educational impact of students learning remotely versus learning in person and how it affects their performance and acquisition of knowledge.

After extensive consultation with medical experts, analysis of data, and assessment of our ability to provide a safe environment for team members and students, we have determined that **Elizabeth Public Schools will return to full-day in-person learning beginning Tuesday, January 18, 2022.**

As has been the case throughout the pandemic, we will continue to maintain our pledge of opening our schools safely and responsibly by exceeding minimum expectations to put health and safety first for all members of our learning community.

Thank you for all you are doing to support Elizabeth Public Schools, including our students and team members, throughout these very challenging circumstances. I also appreciate your support, patience, and flexibility as we work together to provide the education our students so richly deserve in the safest learning environment possible.

Sincerely,



Olga Hugelmeyer

Office of the Superintendent of Schools