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[SKSD COVID-19 Information Website](#)

[SKSD Virtual Learning Website](#)

[SKSD Virtual Learning Plan](#)

[Link to Statewide Calendar](#) & [Calendar FAQ](#)

June 11, 2020

An Important Message for Our South Kingstown Learning Community
Fall 2020 Reentry Message #1

During her press conference yesterday, **Governor Raimondo stated that it is her GOAL is that all school districts are aiming to return to in-person learning on August 31, 2020.** She **simultaneously released a statewide school calendar for the 2020-2021 school year.** I realize that at this time you may have many questions about the reopening of our school buildings, this new statewide calendar, and how we will all be impacted.

In the coming weeks, the RI Department of Education, (RIDE) and the RI Department of Health (RIDOH) will provide specific guidance for the school departments. We are required to develop a plan that is due to the RI Department of Education in mid-July. **It is also the goal of the South Kingstown School Department to reopen schools for all of our students. To do this properly, we need to ensure we can offer a safe and healthy learning environment while simultaneously implementing required protocols and practices to ensure the well-being of our students, staff, and families.**

The South Kingstown Leadership team has been diligently reviewing state and federal information, CDC guidelines, and frameworks from other states for reopening schools. Our Leadership Team will be leading the effort on our re-entry, as they led our virtual learning transformation. We are in the process of asking our staff if they can help us. We will also be reaching out to parents and the community as we dig into the feedback and communication for these plans. Surveys will be shared in the coming days to learn about your concerns, thoughts, interests, and transportation needs. We will also lean on our PTO/PTGs for their continuous feedback and facilitation with the larger school community.

While there is still much to anticipate, I do know the following:

- This statewide calendar is required to be implemented by all school districts for the 2020-2021 school year. (**Link for Calendar:** https://www.ride.ri.gov/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/COVID19/2020-21_School_Calendar_%206.10.20.pdf?ver=2020-06-10-114447-400 & **Link for Calendar FAQ:** https://www.ride.ri.gov/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/COVID19/RI_School_Calendar_2020-21_FAQ_ENG_6.10.20.pdf?ver=2020-06-10-114853-573)



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- The first day of school will be August 31 and the 180th day of school will be June 16th.
- The school calendar consists of 180 instructional days which also includes monthly professional development days for staff. Teachers and support staff will participate in professional learning to assist them in the provision of instruction.
- On these professional development days, students will be participating in distance learning lessons from home; they will not be vacation days as they have been in the distance learning schedule this spring.
- All districts will have the same vacations; February 15-19, 2021 and April 19-23, 2021
- Snow days will still be at the discretion of local districts; they will not be state-wide. If SKSD does have any snow days, virtual learning lessons can be sent to students and it will be an instructional day. Snow days will not be made up at the end of the school year.
- The South Kingstown School Department had planned for an additional professional development day on September 8. We hope to keep that day on our calendar. This day will not impact instructional days for students and families.
- We will work with our leadership team and our staff, including our union leadership, on any modification that we can make with the calendar.
- This new school calendar will be adopted by the South Kingstown School Department at our next meeting.

Throughout the summer we will continue our weekly updates. It is my goal to work collaboratively with our community, to be transparent, and to communicate updated information to you as it becomes available. I appreciate your patience and support as we develop our plans for reopening schools. I encourage you to get involved in the conversations about how to do that safely.

Finally, I would like to share that I have never been more grateful for our collective partnership. I remain committed to our staff, students, and their families. Thank you for your patience, support, and collaboration.

Sincerely,

Linda F. Savastano
Superintendent of Schools