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August 7, 2020

Dear CTECS families and students,

I have three important updates to share with you regarding school reopening:

**1. We plan to begin the school year in our Phase 2, 50% Hybrid Learning Model.**

This means that two grade levels will attend school in-person for their trade-area classes, while the other two grades remain at home for their academic classes, which will be taught virtually via live streaming from each classroom.

Beginning the year in our hybrid model will benefit our staff and students in many ways. First, it's important that we take time to reestablish routines and expectations for our students after they have been out of the school building for so long. Starting at 50% capacity will help ease this transition for everyone. Second, a building at half capacity supports social distancing and gives our staff the time and space to implement our new health and safety protocols. Finally, we want to give our students every opportunity to get the hands-on trade education that is the hallmark of our schools. A hybrid model supports the continuation of high-quality instruction in the trades.

Currently, we plan to remain in a hybrid model of learning through the completion of the freshman exploratory phase. This phase ends around October 15, although each school differs slightly depending on the number of trades offered. You can expect to receive a detailed school schedule from your principal in the coming weeks.

Please know that we may need to change plans if public health data changes for the worse in the state. We will let you know if that occurs.

**2. If you are choosing to have your student learn full-time from home, please fill out the [Voluntary Opt-In to Distance Learning Form](#) ([Opción Voluntaria de Aprendizaje a Distancia](#)) by Friday, August 14.**

Please complete the [Voluntary Opt-in to Distance Learning](#) ([Opción Voluntaria de Aprendizaje a Distancia](#)) ONLY if you are planning for your student to start the school year distance learning from home, for both trades and academics, on a full-time basis. By selecting this option, you are choosing to not send your student for in-person trade classes. Please note: students will still be able to participate in trade classes virtually. Students will also be able to participate in extracurricular activities.

Students who opt-in to distance learning will be expected to attend all classes following the school bell schedule. They will log into class at the regularly scheduled time and participate via a live stream. Families are expected to support their student's engagement and ensure they are fully accessing the distance learning format.

If you have multiple students in the technical high schools, please complete one form for each student.

If you change your mind, and want your student to attend in-person trade classes at school, we request that you provide your school with at least one (1) week notice if possible so that they can plan for your student's arrival.

Before you complete your official form, please take some time to review our [Guide to Reopening](#) so you understand all the protocols we will have in place.

Please complete this form by August 14, 2020.

**3. In order for us to more effectively plan for transportation needs this fall, we'd like to know how your student will get to and from school if they are attending in-person trade classes.**

[Complete this form \(Encuesta de servicio de transporte escolar\)](#) ONLY if your student is attending in-person classes beginning in September. Please fill out one form for each student you have in a technical high school by August 14.

Please keep in mind that students and staff who travel outside of Connecticut within the two week period just prior to the first day that they return to school may be subject to a mandatory travel quarantine. The list of current affected states is available [here](#).

Jeffrey Wihbey, Superintendent of Schools