



October 28, 2020

Dear CTECS families –

By this point in the school year I did not foresee that we would continue to be in a hybrid mode of learning. I had fully hoped that we would have been transitioning into Phase I of our reopening plan and inviting all of our students back to the building full time. However, as I closely monitor the health metrics with our local boards of health and our medical advisors, I don't see a path to return to Phase 1 right now, or for the next month. Unfortunately, we are seeing slow upticks across the state of COVID positive cases. With that as our reality, we will remain in Phase 2 – Hybrid Learning for students, until at least Monday, December 7. At that time, we will reassess our opening status again. Please note that if your school is currently in Phase 3, you will continue to remain in distance learning until hearing otherwise from your Principal.

That being said, we will continue to work hard to provide the best services we can in these difficult times to our students. This will require more professional development and planning for our staff in order to deliver the top notch instruction you are used to. Starting on Wednesday, November 4, and every Wednesday until January 6, students will spend the first half of the school day synchronously learning, and the second half of the day asynchronously learning. What this means is the first half of the day will be spent in real time with their teachers (in-person or virtually), and the second half of the day will be spent doing work independently, not in real time with their teacher. Assignments will be provided for Wednesday afternoons and students will be expected to complete them.

This decision was made in order to give teachers extra planning time for instructional purposes. Preparing lessons for both distance learners and in-person learners takes a longer amount of time, and places extra demands on our teachers. But they are eager to provide the best instruction possible to every student and meet CTECS' high standards for education, regardless of the mode of learning your family has selected this year. This extra planning time will help improve instruction for all students.

Please reach out to your school with any questions or concerns. And once again, thank you for your partnership and patience this school year.

Jeffrey Wihbey, Superintendent of Schools