



*Serving With Pride The
Township of Manalapan
and the
Borough of Englishtown*

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Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

Initially Governor Murphy indicated that all New Jersey Schools would return to in-person instruction next September and a virtual option would not be available. The following week he stated the following "I did not intend to include folks who have some immunity or some other issue with their health where that (in-person instruction) could put them at risk". He also added it would be up to the district to determine who would be allowed to participate in virtual learning and how it would be implemented.

At this past Tuesday's Board of Education meeting, this issue was discussed and the following was decided. Since planning for next year has already begun it is important that those students who will require a virtual option be identified early so scheduling can proceed. It has also been determined that consistent with the governor's directive, documentation of the student's medical condition needs to reflect the specific health concern that will put the child at significant risk that exclusion from the social emotional benefits of in-person instruction is warranted.

It is expected at this time that the number of children requiring a virtual option will decrease significantly from the approximate 1200 students currently in the Virtual Academy. The virtual option next year will consist of synchronous instruction into an existing in-person class in the child's assigned building. This will allow for an easy transition to in-person instruction whenever that becomes possible.

If you believe this option is appropriate for next year, you will need to do the following:

1. Submit to the principal of your child's current school a letter from the medical specialist who is treating your child indicating the need for a virtual option. Any letter from a pediatrician will be reviewed by the District doctor and additional documentation might be required.
2. The deadline for submitting all documentation is June 1st.
3. The medical status of someone in your child's household will not be considered a valid rationale for being given the virtual option.

Clearly the pandemic has created situations for schools and families that have never occurred before and have required new procedures. It is expected there will be circumstances that are unique to a specific family that can not be addressed with a simple procedure described in a letter. You can be assured that the district will listen and attempt to address your concerns.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact my office. Stay healthy.

Sincerely,

John J. Marciante, Jr., Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools