

From: "Mary Cozzolino" <xxxxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxx.xxx.xx.xx>
To: "Vin Gopal" <xxx@xxxxxxxx.xxx>
CC: "Neal Dickstein" <xxxxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxx.xxx.xx.xx>
Date: 7/10/2020 4:34:33 PM
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Concern about DOE Guidance

Thanks

On Jul 10, 2020, at 12:22 AM, Vin Gopal <xxx@xxxxxxxx.xxx> wrote:

Checking

On Thu, Jul 9, 2020 at 7:19 AM Braz, Justin <xxxxxx.xxxx@xx.xx> wrote:

I'll send over to DOE

From: Vin Gopal <xxx@xxxxxxxx.xxx>
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 12:08 AM
To: Braz, Justin <xxxxxx.xxxx@xx.xx>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Concern about DOE Guidance

Can u advise

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Neal Dickstein <xxxxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxx.xxx.xx.xx>
Date: Wed, Jul 8, 2020 at 6:01 PM
Subject: Concern about DOE Guidance
To: Vin Gopal <xxx@xxxxxxxx.xxx>

Hi Vin,

I hope you are doing well. I have a concern regarding the NJDOE guidance document relative to virtual instruction. After surveying the community, I have about 8% who do not want to send their children back to school. The reasons vary, but some parents aren't comfortable doing so. I have the capacity to provide virtual instruction for that 8%, however the NJDOE has clearly stated that virtual instruction can only be provided to students who have underlying medical conditions or students who have family members at home who are immunocompromised.

There are significant consequences to not providing virtual instruction to students whose parents aren't comfortable sending them to school. First, they will likely withdraw their children from the district and provide homeschooling. This will impact state aid as the register will be reduced. However, parents will send their children back to school when they feel comfortable and we will not be adequately funded to provide them FAPE. Additionally, when students who are homeschooled return, there may be gaps

in their attainment of the NJCCCS as there isn't consistency in the instruction they receive. SEL is a priority in the plan, and if students are not enrolled in the district we can't build relationships among them and monitor their wellness.

I know that several of my colleagues in Monmouth County share my concern that the NJDOE guidance prohibiting students from virtual learning without a medical condition is going to erode public education and negatively impact our children. I ask that this component of the guidance is reconsidered.

Thank you,

Neal Dickstein

--

Neal Dickstein
Superintendent of Schools
Freehold Township School District
384 West Main Street
Freehold, New Jersey 07728
(732) 462-8400 x8807

Sent from my phone - please excuse any typos