

Superintendent Report

Region One Schools December 2021

COVID-19 Update - Region One

As was predicted, with the onset of colder weather and the need to be indoors, positive COVID cases are on the rise throughout the State. Region 1 has experienced a steady incidence of COVID cases in all schools, but mitigation practices seem to be keeping those cases isolated and under control, including the recent spike that took place in Cornwall in mid-November.

Summary of Positive COVID-19 Cases in Region One August 25-November 30, 2021

School District	Month	Total Number of Cases to Date
Canaan - Lee H. Kellogg	August - October	1 student, 1 community member
	November	2 community members
Cornwall - Cornwall Consolidated School	August - October	1 staff member, 1 community member
	November	21 students, 2 staff members, 1 community member
Kent - Kent Center School	August - October	1 student, 1 staff member
	November	3 students
North Canaan - North Canaan Elementary School	August - October	2 students, 1 staff member, 6 community members
	November	2 students, 4 community members
Region 1 - Housatonic Valley Regional High School	August - October	3 students, 8 community members
	November	3 students, 1 staff member
Salisbury - Salisbury Central School	August - October	4 students, 1 staff member, 11 community members
	November	2 students
Sharon - Sharon Center School	August - October	9 students, 8 community members
	November	2 community members

The Commissioner of Public Health discussed the emergence of the Omicron variant at the November 30th meeting with all CT Superintendents and nurses. She indicated that it is too early and that there is too

little information available regarding the transmissibility of the new strain or the efficacy of existing vaccines. There are six CT laboratories studying the genomic sequencing of the Omicron variant and the Commissioner indicated that we should expect to hear more news in the coming days and weeks as the medical and scientific communities learn more. We will share what we learn as soon as we are able to do so.

New Board Member Orientation

All new BOE members for each Region 1 town have been invited to attend a new BOE member orientation hosted by Nick Caruso (CABE) on Thursday, December 9 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. They have also been provided with a “New BOE Member” packet (from CABE). Finally, I will meet with each new member in December and/or January to introduce myself and answer any questions. Any Board member who would like to attend the meeting with CABE as a refresher, is more than welcome. The zoom meeting link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88122714824>

Student Achievement Feedback

Discussions with administrators and teachers indicate that teachers and students remain happy to be in school and that they are engaged in their teaching and learning. Although most students are adjusting well to a more normal school day and schedule, some students (in all grades), who were not in school last year or who did not have access to early childhood program opportunities during the COVID lockdown period, are finding it more difficult to pick up school routines. Administrators, teachers and support staff are aware of the student needs and are providing intervention and SEL support to ensure that all students are engaged in their learning. Student achievement is evaluated using a variety of measures including FastBridge screening data, curriculum-based activity and assessment and social participation and engagement.

Region One Calendar 2022-2023

The administrative team has prepared a draft of the 2022-2023 calendar and is now in the process of reviewing it with leadership teams and teachers. The calendar will be ready to present to Boards of Education in January. We would like to engage in a combined BOE meeting session similar to last year to come to consensus with regard to the Region 1 Calendar. The date for this meeting is tentatively set for **January 25, 2022 from 6:00-7:30 p.m.**

NESDEC Enrollment Projections

We have received the New England School Development Council enrollment projections for the 2021-2031 time frame. Based on current enrollment, new births and projected births, most school districts can expect to see modest growth over the next ten years. Principals will present the projections for each district during the December BOE meeting.

Budget Planning - 2022-2023

All schools have begun to work on budgets for the 2022-2023 school year. Principals will have to be aware of possible price increases for supplies and services that may be affected by any continuing supply chain issues. We are also considering an increase to the substitute teacher daily rate to help rebuild our substitute pool for all of the schools.

Region 1 Website and Newsletter

When there is time, please have a look at the Region 1 website, Nancy Hegy-Martin has made some changes to the organization of the homepage and has worked hard to keep pictures and news current. In addition to her work on the website, Nancy also managed the publication of the first [newsletter](#) of this school year. Many thanks to Nancy on her work on these two projects and to the administrators, teachers and staff who contributed to the newsletter.

Learning Forward Conference Presentation

Amy Tepper & Patrick Flynn have invited me to be a part of their presentation team for a session entitled *Connection, Coherence, & Cause and Effect: Feedback for Efficacy* at this year's Learning Forward National Conference. The conference is virtual and our presentation will take place on Tuesday, December 7. Tepper & Flynn have worked with us for about 10 years in the area of teacher evaluation and feedback. Our presentation at the conference will focus on how we have worked together most recently to connect all of the Region 1 school improvement goals to existing instructional practices to support increased student engagement and achievement.

Middle School Sports and Activities - To be added