

Superintendent Report

Region 1 Schools

April 2021

COVID-19 Update - Region One - Several school districts within Region 1 experienced a slight uptick in cases throughout the month of March. Cases continue to occur as household clusters that initiate with the adult family members. Students in these families are then quarantined as part of the Region safety protocol, which has helped to prevent in-school transmission. Per the advice of the CT Department of Public Health, the Torrington Area District, the Sharon Health Department and the Region 1 Medical Advisor, it is extremely important to continue to follow the health and safety guidelines, especially with respect to wearing a properly fitted face mask when in the presence of other individuals. While the presence of a vaccine will eventually help to suppress the spread of COVID-19, public health officials have indicated that we are many months away from being able to abandon the mitigation practices that have helped to control community transmission.

Summary of Positive COVID-19 Cases in Region One

August 25-March 31, 2021

School District	Month	Total Number of Cases to Date
Canaan - Lee H. Kellogg	August - February	10 cases - 4 students, 2 staff members, 4 community members
	March	1 student, 1 community member
Cornwall - Cornwall Consolidated School	August - February	5 cases - 2 staff members, 1 student, 2 community members
	March	No cases
Kent - Kent Center School	August - February	18 cases - 5 students, 1 staff member, 12 community members
	March	3 community members
North Canaan - North Canaan Elementary School	August - February	33 cases - 12 students, 1 staff member, 20 community members
	March	1 student, 1 staff member, 1 community members
Region 1 - Housatonic Valley Regional High School	August - February	24 cases - 14 students, 1 staff member, 9 community members
	March	2 students, 1 community member
Salisbury - Salisbury Central School	August - February	23 cases - 8 students, 2 staff members, 13 community members
	March	1 student, 1 staff member, 4 community members
Sharon - Sharon Center School	August - February	25 cases - 1 student, 6 staff members, 18 community members
	March	1 staff member

COVID-19 Vaccination Update - All Region 1 staff members who indicated that they wanted to be vaccinated have received their first dose by the end of March. The round of second doses should be complete during the week of April 19. Because we do not have access to individual appointment lists, it is difficult to provide precise information with regard to the percentage of staff who will be vaccinated by the end of April. However, based on the number of teachers who signed up on our list combined with those Region 1 staff members who are first responders (vaccinated in early 2021), we can safely estimate that 75-85% of the staff has received the vaccine.

Student Enrollment Update - The data displayed in the tables below indicate that enrollment has remained stable or has slightly increased between December and March. A few member districts continue to experience COVID-19 in-migration, but at a much lower rate than was true for earlier in the year. The number of homeschooled students remained relatively unchanged between December and March.

Table 1
Student Enrollment by School - Mid-March, 2021

School District	Total Students 2020-2021 (as of 8/31/20)	Total Students (as of 12/21/20)	Total Students (as of 3/16/21)	Difference (8/31/20 and 3/16/21)
Canaan - Lee H. Kellogg School	68	73	74	+6
Cornwall - Cornwall Consolidated School	103	107	114	+11
Kent - Kent Center School	212	203	203	-9
North Canaan - North Canaan Elementary School	247	254	254	+7
Region 1 - Housatonic Valley Regional High School	323	313	316	-7
Salisbury - Salisbury Central School	316	311	309	-7
Sharon	109	109	111	+2
Total	1378	1370	1381	+3

Table 2
Home-Schooled Students in Region 1 - Mid-March 2020

School District	Number of Homeschooled Students 2019	Number of Homeschooled Students October 2020	Number of Homeschooled Students December 2020	Number of Homeschooled Students March 2021
Canaan - Lee H. Kellogg School	9	11	12	12
Cornwall - Consolidated School	0	5	5	5
Kent - Kent Center School	2	8	10	11
North Canaan - North Canaan Elementary School	8	9	10	11
Region 1 - Housatonic Valley Regional High School	9	14	18	17
Salisbury - Salisbury Central School	2	6	9	9
Sharon - Sharon Center School	0	6	6	6

Total	30	59	70	70
-------	----	----	----	----

Distance Learners - Region 1 Trends - The data in the table below indicate that students are returning to school for in-person learning in all of our schools. Most schools are expecting this trend to continue into the spring. We would like to encourage all families to send their children to school to finish the year. If distance learners return to school in the spring, they will enjoy a more effective learning experience and they will be reintroduced to the school routines, which will help prepare them for the start of school in the fall.

Number of Distance Learners	9/30/2020	1/31/2021	3/26/2021	Probability of 3/26 Distance Learners Return before the EOY
Canaan - Lee H. Kellogg School	15	19	17	Possibility of 2 returning
Cornwall - Consolidated School	12	8	5	Possibility of 2 returning
Kent - Kent Center School	21	21	17	2 confirmed returning after Spring break, 4 maybes
North Canaan - North Canaan Elementary School	60	50	31	Expecting 6 more will return after April break.
Region 1 - Housatonic Valley Regional High School	60	75	72	78-88% likely to stay home, depending on circumstances
Salisbury - Salisbury Central School	23	18	13	2 more coming back this week, expect maybe 4 after that
Sharon - Sharon Center School	17	19	6	No significant changes anticipated
Total	208	210	161	

Human Resource (HR) Audit for The Central Office - EdAdvance completed the audit in February. Sam Herrick and I presented an audit summary and recommendations for next steps in a [presentation](#) to the ABC Committee on Wednesday, March 24. The Committee discussed the findings and approved the recommended next steps, which include:

- The creation of an HR Generalist position in the Central Office
- Reorganizing and redefining workflow and position descriptions
 - Central Office
 - Schools
- Training with respect to the HR function and digital tools
- Cross-training among those who work in the HR function

The scope of work will be focused on improving compliance with legal requirements, better communication and improving efficiency of operations throughout the Region. The Region 1 BOE will vote on the recommended next steps at the April 5th BOE meeting.

One Eleven Group Update - I presented the Umbrella Campaign to all of the Superintendents at the Litchfield County Superintendents Association at our March meeting. Several Superintendents asked questions, but to date, not one has reached out to express an interest in joining our group. Chris Leone, the Superintendent in Region 6 and Litchfield, and I will be meeting with Janet Carlson on Wednesday, April 7 to discuss our next steps.

Legislative Update - This [document](#) contains an abbreviated description of all of the bills that are being proposed in the current legislative session as of noon on March 26th.

DESSA - The CSDE Social Emotional Screening Tool - You have all received the CSDE announcement about the Devereux Student Strengths Assessment (DESSA) and social-emotional learning screener. The press release is [linked here](#). The DESSA will be available to 100 districts in two cohorts for the 2021/22 school year, and nearly 200 districts for the 2022/23 school year. The partnership includes training, access to reporting features, hundreds of growth strategies and interventions, and technical assistance. In Region 1, we began using a screener called SAEBRS this year. We are in the process of comparing DESSA to the SAEBRS program to see if we want to make a change. SAEBRS is currently included in our FastBridge screening package at no additional cost, thereby eliminating economics from the discussion of the two programs.

Region 1 Summer Programming - CSDE is strongly recommending that school districts create robust summer programming that include time for academic learning as well as for socializing with peers. Based on our research, guidelines from educational experts suggest that tutoring and small group instruction offered in the form of engaging activities will ensure the best experience for our students. Additionally, due to the stress and challenges of the 2020-2021 school year, we recognize that this summer may be a time for families to relax and take a breath together. Thus there is a need to balance the attention to learning gaps that may have occurred throughout the year with the need to “let kids be kids”.

After much discussion among administrators, teachers and paraprofessional staff, Region 1 will be offering K-8 summer programming in two locations: Kent Center School and Salisbury Central School. Given the brevity of the summer program day (three hours), Kent will provide its own summer programming (due to its distance from Salisbury) while students from the other five schools will attend summer programming at Salisbury Central. By consolidating locations, we are able to offer a program for students in all grades K-8. We will be able to fund bus transportation with ESSER II and ARP/ESSER III funds to support families who may need help with transportation. HVRHS will also offer summer programming for students this summer. Scott, Jill and the Principals will provide details about these plans in their reports.