

Superintendent Report

Region 1 Schools

May 2021

COVID-19 Update - Region One - Positive cases continue to remain low throughout the Region. We are past the two week post-travel window. Thus, as long as the positivity rate remains low among adults in Region 1, student cases should remain low as well and we can finish the school year with a majority of students safely in school for in-person learning.

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

School District	Month	Total Number of Cases to Date
Canaan - Lee H. Kellogg	August - March	12 cases - 5 students, 2 staff members, 5 community members
	April	No cases
Cornwall - Cornwall Consolidated School	August - March	5 cases - 2 staff members, 1 student, 2 community members
	April	2 community members
Kent - Kent Center School	August - March	21 cases - 5 students, 1 staff member, 15 community members
	April	3 community members
North Canaan - North Canaan Elementary School	August - March	36 cases - 13 students, 2 staff members 21 community members
	April	3 students, 4 community members
Region 1 - Housatonic Valley Regional High School	August - March	27 cases - 16 students, 1 staff member, 10 community members
	April	1 student, 1 community member
Salisbury - Salisbury Central School	August - March	29 cases - 9 students, 3 staff members, 17 community members
	April	1 student
Sharon - Sharon Center School	August - March	26 cases - 1 student, 7 staff members, 18 community members
	April	No cases

Distance Learners - Region 1 Trends - The trend continues for students throughout the Region to be returning to school.

Number of Distance Learners	9/30/2020	1/31/2021	3/26/2021	4/30/2021
Canaan - Lee H. Kellogg School	15	19	17	12
Cornwall - Consolidated School	12	8	5	6*
Kent - Kent Center School	21	21	17	16
North Canaan - North Canaan Elementary School	60	50	31	25
Region 1 - Housatonic Valley Regional High School	60	75	72	55
Salisbury - Salisbury Central School	23	18	13	9
Sharon - Sharon Center School	17	19	6	6
Total	208	210	161	129

* 1 New Student Started 4/27

Vaccination Update

- **Vaccination clinics** - Various organizations continue to send us news about clinics for students age 16+ . I forward this information to Principal Strever immediately so that he can share it with HVRHS families. We have had recent news from the Torrington Area Health District that students who are 12-15 years of age might be able to receive the vaccine before the end of May. TAHD staff are busy working with Hartford HealthCare to organize private clinics for students in its catchment area. We will be providing families with information in this regard as soon as it is available.
- **Vaccination legislation** - As you may be aware, last week Governor Lamont signed HB 6423- An Act Concerning Immunizations. This act eliminates the religious exemption from immunization requirements for individuals attending

- (1) public and private schools, including higher education institutions, and
- (2) child care centers and group and family day care homes.

The act grandfathers in individuals enrolled in grades kindergarten or higher who submitted a religious exemption prior to the bill's passage. "Passage" is the date the bill was signed. It continues to grandfather these students if they transfer to another public or private school in the state. Children with prior religious exemptions who are enrolled in pre-kindergarten or other preschool programs generally must comply with immunization requirements by September 1, 2022, or within 14 days after transferring to a different public or private program, whichever is later. However, the act allows these children to extend the timeframe within which they must comply with the immunization requirements if they present a written declaration from the child's physician, physician assistant (PA), or advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) that an alternative immunization schedule is recommended.

The act also retains current law's medical exemption from these immunization requirements for individuals who can document that the immunization is medically contraindicated.

We have not yet received any guidance from CSDE or the DPH with regard to the implementation of this new legislation.

End of Year Activities - With the relaxation of some of the Governor's health and safety restrictions, our K-8 students are able to engage in some expanded activities this spring. I am working with Principals and Dr. Suzanne Lefebvre to coordinate playground guidelines, end of year field trips, activities and graduation ceremonies to ensure that that health and safety guidelines are being followed.

Human Resource (HR) Audit Next Steps for The Central Office - Work continues to flesh out the recommendations provided in the EdAdvance audit as follows:

- The HR Generalist position description has been prepared (with the help of EdAdvance staff), reviewed by the Region 1 Personnel Committee and has been submitted (accompanied by the salary range) for approval by the Region 1 BOE. The position will be posted per the recommendation of the Personnel Committee as soon as it is approved by the Region 1 BOE.
- A workflow impact analysis is underway (with the help of EdAdvance staff) to identify modifications to the other Central Office positions. Final position descriptions will be presented to the Region 1 BOE Personnel Committee when this work is completed at the end of May.
- When all position descriptions have been approved, training will be scheduled for each staff member, as needed, to ensure each incumbent is able to successfully complete the tasks to which they are assigned.

Legislative Update - This [link](#) will take you to the most updated list of bills that can impact education. The bills are summarized in the document and continue to cover a broad range of educational issues. We are watching them all, but are paying particular attention to those that are concerned with school funding and curriculum (academic, social emotional and distance learning).

Student Achievement in 2020-2021 - Administrators and I will present a summary of student achievement for this school year during the June BOE meetings as well as our thoughts about plans for next year, which consider the steps that must be taken to accommodate adjustments to curriculum and learning expectations as a result of the interruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

End of Year Administrator Evaluations - Administrators have scheduled appointments for end-of-the-year evaluations. We will be discussing their progress against the goals set for 2020-2021 as well as discussing plans for the next school year.

Strategic Planning Update - I reviewed the revised strategic planning template with all administrators during the last administrators meeting in April. I will share this revised format with all Region 1 Boards of education at the June meeting.

ARP/ESSER Grant III - Summer Enrichment Program - In late April, Governor Ned Lamont presented his vision to dedicate up to \$11 million in federal funding that Connecticut has received for COVID-19 recovery efforts toward the expansion of summer programs. This competitive grant application will award Expansion Grants and Innovation Grants to eligible organizations to provide students and families with engaging summer enrichment and learning experiences. Grant application materials were created in collaboration with dozens of key stakeholders across the state – including leaders of summer programs – and will enable the state to identify and support high-quality programs that are able to expand capacity for summer 2021.

The activities that may be covered by this grant funding can include expanded park and rec and early childhood education programming. Jill, Scott and I will be working with our administrators and town park and rec organizations to see if we can qualify for any of this funding.