

ANNA SCIACCA
Superintendent of Schools

January 13, 2021

Dear Members of the Garfield School Community:

As you are aware, the Garfield District planned for the reopening of In-Person instruction and the implementation of the Hybrid model on January 25, 2021. Our school officials and our local health department have been closely monitoring COVID19-related data throughout the city of Garfield as well as the available data on a county and state level.

Based on the guidance from the New Jersey Department of Health's COVID-19 Regional Risk Matrix, which provides public health recommendations for local health departments and schools to consider based on the level of Covid-19 transmission in their region, Garfield falls within the High-Risk category, and it is ***recommended*** to consider full remote learning. The specific data for the month of December for Garfield included 607 individuals who tested positive for Covid-19 and most unfortunately, 13 deaths. January's data to the current date includes 210 positive cases of Covid-19 and one death. Therefore, after collaboration with the Garfield Health Department, a decision was reached to continue implementing fully remote instruction through March 5, 2021. **The District intends to open for In-person instruction and the implementation of the hybrid model on March 8, 2021. The staff will return to our schools on March 1, 2021.**

We are hopeful that the situation in our city will improve within the next few months and that a safe reopening of the schools can occur in early March. All families are urged to continue to follow the safety protocols that will aid in mitigating the spread of the virus in our community.

It is our goal to make remote learning as effective as possible and for the most part, great progress has occurred with the delivery of remote lessons. If your child is experiencing any issues, either on an academic or on a social-emotional level, please reach out to the teacher, counselor, or school administrator for support.

Parents will be contacted again prior to March 8th for your decision to either have your child return to school for In-Person instruction or continue with fully remote learning. While I completely understand that this news can be very disappointing, we will continue to make health and safety our first priority. Thank you for your patience, support, and understanding as we work through the challenges presented by this pandemic.

Regards,

Anna Sciacca

Anna Sciacca
Superintendent of Schools

WE ARE AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/ EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYEE
We Do Not discriminate as to Age, Race, Creed, National Origin, Gender, Sexual Orientation, or
Disability

WE ARE AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/ EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYEE
We Do Not discriminate as to Age, Race, Creed, National Origin, Gender, Sexual Orientation, or
Disability