



Committed to Excellence

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Sunday, March 15, 2020

Dear Trumbull Educational Community,

Over the past couple of days, the district has received several communications asking for more specificity about our plans for the future, especially regarding Distance Learning versus Supplemental Enrichment. I hope this notation clarifies that issue and provides you with some previously disseminated information and some new points obtained late Thursday and Friday from the State Department of Education.

Late Thursday afternoon, the Commissioner of Education, Dr. Miguel Cardona, and his staff held a proactive and informative conference call with a majority of superintendents. The Commissioner strongly supported that districts provide its students with Supplemental Enrichment Learning; however, as of Friday, 14 waivers (out of approximately 165 districts) were received by his office on Distance Learning. We did not apply for a waiver for Distance Learning following the guidance and position from the Connecticut State Department of Education recommendation based on the following: Trumbull already offered on its website the recommended Supplemental approach and feedback on that initiative was very good; SEL is less costly, reducing the possibility of increased monies being spent; an unassessed type of learning experience being offered at our level; assuring parity and consistency among districts; and avoiding the many complexities of providing the same services for Special Education students offered during their normal school year as those received by other students. As such, regular and special need students would receive their usual education at the same time and in a typical setting. Nevertheless, I will speak with the Commissioner's office on Monday, March 16, and address their recommendation with him. Needless to say, with anything connected to COVID-19, things can change rapidly, but I will keep you updated.

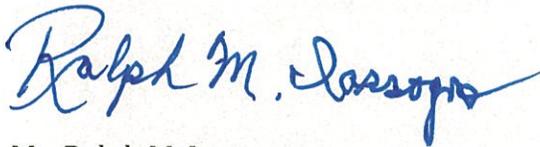
Other key points reviewed:

- No matter what, the last day of school cannot exceed June 30th; however, if a district does not meet the 180 minimum requirement, it will not be penalized if it makes every attempt to do so by using available days:
 - Days between a district's last day of school and days available to the June 30th deadline,
 - The April vacation, beginning with Friday, April 17th, Thursday, April 16th...
 - Memorial Day

- Beginning, Friday, March 13th, each school and building will be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized
- If it comes to the parents keeping their children home, it will be considered an “excused” absence with no doctors note necessary
- All in and out of state field trips are cancelled
- THS musical, *Bye, Bye Birdie*, was postponed with staff trying to reschedule it in early May
- If a district is having difficulty obtaining cleaning supplies, the State will provide assistance
- Our return to school date is not known at this time, but when determined following numerous work sessions, we will immediately notify you. (Although we will be closed on Monday, March 16 through Wednesday, March 18, 2020.)
- Gatherings of 250+ are not permitted in Connecticut, except for essential school or municipal functions
- State and local districts are working on a plan to provide meals to students who are identified through the Free and Reduced Lunch Program
- All after school activities are cancelled

Thank you for your patience, input, and continued cooperation and note you will receive a further update next week following our weekly meetings with local and state health officials and the Commissioner of Education’s office.

Sincerely,



Mr. Ralph M. Iassogna
Acting Superintendent