



Colchester Public Schools

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Good Morning Parents and Caregivers,

Last night, the Board of Education approved a new school calendar with a start date of September 8, 2020 for students. The approved calendar maintains 177 days of instructional time for students and the five days of professional development for faculty that was approved by the BOE on July 23, 2020. The delayed start date was recommended by the administrative team for a number of reasons, including the allowance of more time for:

- District preparation for a safe and smooth reopening, in light of significant lost time due to the recent storm as well as delayed guidance from the State on the Hybrid Model option;
- Parents and caregivers to secure childcare;
- Provision of more detailed information surrounding at-home learning.

I understand and appreciate that this change in scheduling may not be easy for some of you. Colchester Public Schools has always focused on providing the best possible educational experience for our students. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, our purpose has expanded to include balancing in the needs and concerns for our entire educational community, and the community of Colchester. I know the hardships that this ongoing situation has caused for our families, and we have been diligently crafting plans that take into account those hardships, while also ensuring that all decisions made are in alignment with recently released State mandates and public health officials' recommendations.

Later today, we will release a comprehensive document on our Voluntary At-home Learning Program. I have heard your questions and concerns, and sincerely hope that you will find the answers you are looking for in that document. I want each family to feel comfortable making an informed decision in the best interest of their student's safety and educational program. You may email remaining questions to planquestions@colchesterct.org.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this most challenging time.

Best Regards,

Jeffrey Burt, Superintendent