



# School Administrative Unit 21

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May 17, 2020

Dear SAU 21 Families:

I am writing to you today with updates on three (3) very important topics: the Return to School Task Force and Working Groups, our Special Education Extended School Year (ESY), and the New Hampshire Special Education Information System (NHSEI) Parent Portal.

*William H. Lupini, Ed.D.*  
*Superintendent of Schools*

*David T. Hobbs, Ed.D.*  
*Assistant Superintendent for  
Curriculum, Instruction and  
Assessment*

*Caroline P. Arakelian, Ph.D.*  
*Executive Director of Student  
Services*

*Matthew C. Ferreira, M.S.Ed.*  
*Business Administrator*

## Return to School

We have begun working on a planning process to return to school, including the creation of working groups to consider issues like instruction, operations, mental health (students and staff), and technology, as well as the multitude of scenarios that we might encounter in September (remote instruction, returning on time, rolling closures, and the guidelines that might need to be put in place around PPE, social distancing, etc.). This past week our Task Force and five (5) Working Groups held their initial meetings.

I have attached a complete list of members of the SAU 21 Return to School Task Force and each of our Working Groups. My thanks to each of these individuals for their willingness to be part of this extremely important work.

As part of this effort, we will publish weekly updates to keep you informed of the challenging work ahead and our efforts to ensure a safe return to school for all employees and students. We expect to issue a report to guide our efforts to return to school by Friday, June 12, 2020. In addition, we expect that each of our schools will then use this guidance to craft more specific implementation plans by June 30, 2020.

## Special Education Extended School Year (ESY)

Planning for special education summer programming (ESY) is underway in all SAU 21 Districts. We anticipate that the New Hampshire Department of Education will continue to recommend restrictions and safety protocols for throughout the summer months that will make on-site programming impossible. Therefore, we have decided that all 2020 summer programming services will occur in a **remote learning fashion**. This applies to students with Extended School Year (ESY) services on their IEP, as well as our Title I Summer Program. Please expect to hear from case managers and program directors about remote ESY and Title I services for the summer by the end of May.

In addition, we recognize that revised information and guidance is being provided from the Governor's office and Department of Education at a rapid pace. If further guidance is issued that eases social distancing and personal protective equipment

*Serving the communities of:*  
*Hampton Falls*  
*North Hampton*  
*Seabrook*  
*South Hampton*  
*Winnacunnet High School*

(PPE) requirements, we will consider these updates as they apply to students and educators. It is our strong desire to continue to provide quality services with the health and safety of students and staff in mind. Consideration of individual situations and needs will be examined on a case-by-case basis once clear safety protocols are finalized.

Thank you all for supporting your students' learning and for communicating with staff about the successes and challenges that have occurred thus far. Continued collaboration is greatly appreciated as we work together for student learning. If you have further questions or information for consideration regarding your student(s), please reach out to your child's Case Manager.

NHSEIS Connect: Parent Portal

The New Hampshire Bureau of Student Support has activated NHSEIS Connect, which is the parent portal to the special education online information system. To date, we have been holding meetings and pursuing parental consent via email, however, this is a new method to formalize digital (written) consent.

This system will send an email notification to parents when there is a proposed IEP for your child needing a signature. In addition, for those families who have students with IEPs, you will receive a notification to view your last quarter progress reports by June 9<sup>th</sup> in this system.

The NHSEIS Connect Parent Guide, instruction sheet, and link to the tutorial will be posted on the Student Services webpage (found in the “Departments” drop-down menu) on our SAU 21 website @ [www.sau21.org](http://www.sau21.org).

Please feel free to contact me at [blupini@sau21.org](mailto:blupini@sau21.org) if you have questions on any of these topics.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Lupini". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B" and a prominent "L".

Bill Lupini  
Superintendent of Schools