



**CARBONDALE AREA**  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

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August 6, 2020

Dear Charger Parent,

During my time as an educator, those I have served know that I always put their welfare and safety first. I consistently have their best interests in mind, and when I make significant decisions that will greatly impact District students, staff, and the community, I must be thoughtful, pragmatic, and reflective.

The Pandemic team at the Carbondale Area School District designed the Carbondale Area School District Phased School Reopening Health and Safety Plan 2020-2021 with the intent of providing a safe environment for students and staff when they return to District buildings. The team knew that planning for the return to school would have its challenges, as there was not a playbook to follow. Nonetheless, measured decisions were made and necessary precautions were planned for the return to school.

The plan was informed by the health conditions within Lackawanna County and the Commonwealth, orders and guidance provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH), Center for Disease Control (CDC), World Health Organization (WHO), the American Academy of Pediatrics, and Governor Wolf's Process to Reopen Pennsylvania. The school district also utilized the feedback from parents via a survey sent in June, as well as from a parent and staff survey sent in July. The survey included the chosen phased reopening option, as well as the opportunity to provide questions and comments about the Health and Safety Plan.

Based on our current conditions and feedback from our staff and community, I recommended a total remote learning reopening on September 8, 2020, with the following subsequent steps:

- Phase 1: September 8, 2020 - Total Remote Learning Reopening  
September 22, 2020 - Decision to remain in Phase 1 or move to Phase 2
- Phase 2: October 6, 2020 - Hybrid Reopening
- Phase 3: Total Reopening - TBD

We will continue to evaluate additional guidance and recommendations from the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH), World Health Organization (WHO), and the Center for Disease Control (CDC). As information regarding COVID-19 changes, we will also enhance our plan as necessary.

I look forward to updating you in the next four weeks about our distance learning plan and the start of the school year. We appreciate your continued support as we work toward not only reopening our buildings, but also safely serving the needs of our students and staff.

With Charger Pride,

Holly W. Sayre  
Superintendent of Schools