



# Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen

585 N. Corona Avenue Valley Stream, New York • 11580 • (516)568-6100  
[www.valleystream13.com](http://www.valleystream13.com)

*Constance D. Evelyn, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools*

June 17, 2020

Dear Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen School Community,

Our schools are the center of our community for learning, safety, and the social emotional health of our students and families.

This has become more evident as a result of the impact of COVID-19. The Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen has developed a comprehensive plan to ensure a community-wide, inclusive effort that culminates in a reopening plan representing the collective voices of all stakeholders. The plan, entitled “Reopening 2020-21: A Blueprint for Success,” is guided by six main principles. It is comprised of several committee structures that support executive district leadership and community engagement including a Superintendent’s Task Force, district level committees, and focus groups.

It’s important to note that we are only contemplating two constructs in our plan; a full physical opening or a virtual opening. We cannot consider hybrid models as operationalizing these concepts far exceed our organizational capacity, especially, but not limited to our fiscal and human resources. For example, during typical school hours, we do not have the resources to simultaneously provide in person first grade instruction and remote (virtual) live instruction. Some school districts are exploring other options such as alternating student attendance days, however, we know that this will not meet the needs of all Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen families. Additionally, our reopening plan must align with federal and state guidelines relative to safety and health concerns.

The guiding principles for reopening are listed below.

- Maintaining student, staff, and community health and safety
- Promoting continuity of instruction
- Ensuring access and equity for all students
- Meeting the needs of all students and families
- Providing regular communication to all stakeholders including families, staff, and community partners
- Working within the district’s fiscal capacity

The Superintendent’s Task Force is comprised of all Assistant Superintendents, the Directors of Technology and Facilities, and the Superintendent. The nine (9) district level committees are being led by district and building level administrators. They are grappling with essential questions from each area (i.e., health and safety, curriculum and instruction, operations) for the purpose of producing an executive summary that will be presented to our focus groups as a starting point to these discussions.

Focus groups will be primarily convened during the week of July 6<sup>th</sup>. The Task Force will work directly with our PTAs and all other critical stakeholder groups to ensure robust representation and participation. Most meetings will necessarily be conducted through the use of a digitized platform.

After completing the cycle of district level committee meetings, leadership will develop executive summaries of this work. Focus group members will review these executive summaries and add their perspective. The Superintendent's Task Force will finalize a culminating report and plan for reopening in September.

We realize this is an ambitious timeline, however, it is necessary to meet the deadline of having to submit our plan to the New York State Education Department (NYSED) by July 15<sup>th</sup>. The submission of our plan will be reviewed by NYSED and we will be expected to be responsive to their feedback that can include a continuum of outcomes from the plan being rejected, recommended for changes, or approved.

Thank you for your continued confidence and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dr. Constance Evelyn". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Dr. Constance Evelyn