



## Passaic Public Schools Will Begin School Year With Remote Home-Based Instruction

### *Four Phases Plan Begins September 10, Allowing for a Transition to In-Person School-Based Instruction*

(City of Passaic, NJ, August 12, 2020)- The Passaic Board of Education approved the **Schools Restart and Recovery Plan** at their board meeting on August 12. The plan consists of four carefully designed phases, intended to help transition all students and staff back to in-person school-based instruction.

*“Our priority is the health and safety of our school community. The challenge is to balance educational excellence with public health during a global pandemic,” said Passaic Board of Education President Christina Schratz. “After a lot of time and effort, we worked alongside our superintendent and school officials to create a phased-in reopening plan that included significant input from parents, staff and elected officials. I also would like to recognize Mayor Hector Lora and Council President Gary Schaer for their support during this effort.”*

The plan was developed with input from a 60 staff member Restart Committee, two Parent Focus Groups, the leadership of the five collective bargaining groups, and the survey results of over 6000 homes and 1600 employees. The reopening plan adheres to the guidance provided by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

*“I want to thank our school community for their incredible efforts, concern for one another, and belief in each other during this difficult time,” stated Passaic Superintendent of Schools Pablo Muñoz. “As students, parents, extended families, and school staff, the collaboration and support we have received truly exemplifies what is great about our Passaic community.”*

All students and staff will begin the 2020-2021 school year in **Phase 1**, which begins on September 10, 2020 and goes through October 31, 2020. The Passaic Board of Education will monitor the health and safety conditions, statutes, as well as the Governor’s executive orders, and decide by October 31, 2020 whether to remain in Phase 1 or to move into Phase 2 on November 1, 2020, if health and safety conditions permit.

In **Phases 2 and 3** parents will have a choice between hybrid instruction and remote home-based instruction. Hybrid instruction is defined as a combination of in-person school-based and remote home-based instruction. In **Phase 2**, hybrid instruction students attend in-person school-based instruction for one session. **Phase 3** provides a full day of in-person school-based instruction. Lastly, **Phase 4** allows for the return to a normal schedule of Full-Time In-Person School-Based Instruction.

*“We believe our Passaic 4 Phases approach helps to address the needs of our community in a thoughtful and methodical way,” added Board of Education President Schratz.*

Passaic Public Schools is working diligently to ensure that all students and families are informed of the services being provided to the community. Students will receive a letter from their principal by September 1, 2020, detailing information regarding the distribution of instructional materials, and how to access Google Classroom for their first day of school.

Students in need of special education related and out-of-district services will be contacted by a staff member to review the details of services and if needed, transportation. Parents and guardians can go to the Passaic Schools district website at [www.passaicschools.org](http://www.passaicschools.org) where they will find details on the school calendar, information on accessing technology, how to access the PowerSchool Parent Portal, links for registering your new student, along with other important services.

*“I want to commend our board of education commissioners under the leadership of Christina Schratz for including stakeholders and creating a school reopening plan focused on keeping our entire community healthy and safe. As a parent with children who attend our public schools, I understand that nothing is more important than the well-being of our children,” said City of Passaic Mayor Hector C. Lora. “While continuity of education is important, nothing is more important than the good health of our students, teachers, and school faculty.”*

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