

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION OF NEW JERSEY

<http://www.escnj.us>

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Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

On behalf of the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey (ESCNJ), I would like to thank you for your patience and input with us as we awaited guidance from Gov. Phil Murphy regarding an Extended School Year (ESY) programs for students. Please know that the safety and wellbeing of students have and will continue to drive all of our decision-making.

As you may be aware, on Friday, June 12th, Gov. Murphy issued an executive order (EO 149) declaring that ESY programs could – if local educational agencies deemed feasible and appropriate – offer in-person ESY programs. This order provides for “the operation of in-person summer camps that provide daily multi-hour programming for youths.” According to the state, school districts must attest that they can safely meet the needs of all students and staff.

As you may be aware, preparations for school programs take place months in advance. We began planning our ESY program in April under the premise that instruction would be virtual. When we received the governor’s new direction only a week ago, we considered it near impossible to design and implement all safety protocols in-house and with transportation. We continue to work on safety measures, as many outstanding items still exist.

We have no choice but to continue with our original plans for a remote ESY program this summer, begin on June 29, 2020 and ending August 7, 2020. Our staff has worked diligently to create a remote instruction and therapeutic program that meets the needs of our students.

We realize that many of you were hoping for an in-person summer program, as were we. However, the safety of our students and staff must always be our top priority.

One final note, we are working on our re-entry plan for this Fall and will keep you updated as we receive continual updated information from the state.

Have a wonderful summer. Be safe. Be well.

Mark Finkelstein

Superintendent