



Marion Central School

District Office

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April 9, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Roughly 3 weeks ago, the NYS Department of Health announced that updated guidance regarding social distancing requirements and other COVID-19 safety measures was going to be released very soon. And then last week, Governor Cuomo made a similar announcement. Based upon our expectations of relaxed requirements, we set a target date of April 19th for a full reopening of in-person learning in Marion. We also began planning for this transition in the areas of furniture, equipment, transportation routes, daily building schedules, food service and the other logistics of this transition. Even with this advanced planning, however, the district would require roughly 10-14 days to complete this transition. The primary reasons for this would be to allow teachers time to alter their instructional planning to match a full day schedule, allow families time to make alternate child care arrangements, and to fine-tune transportation routes to adjust to anticipated changes in pick-up and drop off locations.

Unfortunately, despite the announcements that it was imminent, we have not yet received any updated guidance from the state. And without a change in the social distancing requirements from 6 feet to 3 feet, we do not have the physical capacity to achieve a full-in person reopening. Also, with our April 19th target date roughly one week away, we know we will not hit that target date. At our Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, April 13th, we will be reviewing the possibility of a new target date.

I am both disappointed and frustrated that we have not yet received updated guidance and will not meet our target date. I remain hopeful that the new guidance will arrive soon, and that we can transition to full in-person learning within a few weeks after the guidance is received.

Sincerely,

Don