

From: [Jolene Mosley](#)
To: [Michael Martirano](#)
Subject: Mandate copy
Date: Friday, January 22, 2021 4:38:53 PM

Please send me a full copy of the mandate you mentioned in your email.

Thank you,
Jolene

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From: [Michael Martirano](#)
Subject: Important Update from the Superintendent on In-Person Hybrid Instruction
Date: Friday, January 22, 2021 3:49:20 PM

Dear Colleagues,

As you are likely aware, Governor Larry Hogan and Maryland State Superintendent of Schools Dr. Karen Salmon announced yesterday their expectation for school buildings to reopen in a hybrid format no later than March 1. At this time, we are reviewing guidance that we received today, and the Governor has acknowledged that plan development could take several days. There are still many details that need to be considered and a lot could change in the coming days and weeks.

Below is a message that will be sent to our families today, but I wanted to first take this opportunity to write to you directly.

I understand that many of you are likely feeling mixed emotions today, as am I. We miss our students and want to be back with them in schools and classrooms as soon as we possibly can. At the same time, we see that the current health environment is still unstable, and that causes fear and uncertainty.

Today, I urge our students, staff and family members to be patient. I convened my cabinet immediately following the Governor's press conference yesterday and did so again this morning. I also met with Dr. Salmon and my counterparts across the state to better understand the State's expectations. We hope to receive additional information from the state in the coming days and will be discussing this mandate with the Board of Education during work sessions scheduled for Monday and Tuesday of next week. As soon as we have additional information to share with staff, we will.

I want to impress upon you how much your efforts throughout the past year have meant and that they have not gone unnoticed. Your dedication to students throughout virtual instruction and your ability to innovate and shift to new models of teaching and collaborating, in less-than-ideal circumstances, has and continues to amaze me. You may not always feel it, but you are appreciated, respected and valued.

I commend those of you who have been working in-person since the beginning of the pandemic and those who chose to return to support small groups and other programs. I also commend each of you who have navigated the many challenges associated with virtual instruction and tending to the well-being of our students, our colleagues, our families and ourselves during this difficult time. There undoubtedly will continue to be bumps in the road, and I know that each of you are deeply dedicated, consummate professionals who will continue to work for, and value the interests of our students.

Thank you for your perseverance and flexibility. My leadership team and I will continue to provide information and guidance to you as quickly and frequently as we are able.

Sincerely,
Michael J. Martirano, Ed.D.
Superintendent

The following will be sent to HCPSS families this afternoon:

Yesterday, Governor Larry Hogan and Maryland State Superintendent of Schools Dr. Karen Salmon announced their clear expectation for all school buildings to reopen in a hybrid format no later than March 1. At this time, we are reviewing guidance that we received today and the Governor has acknowledged that plan development could take several days. There are still many details that need to be considered and much could change in the coming days and weeks.

This morning, I am certainly experiencing mixed emotions as a result of the Governor's mandate. My heart has ached for the students and families who have struggled during virtual instruction and isolation, and I hope that a return to schools for hybrid instruction will provide the instructional and supportive environment they need to thrive. At the same time, I look at our current metrics and while they are trending in the right direction, we are still operating in the double red band, according to metrics approved by the Board of Education.

Today, I urge our students, staff and family members to be patient. I convened my cabinet immediately following the Governor's press conference yesterday and did so again this morning. I also met with Dr. Salmon and my counterparts across the state to better understand the State's expectations. We hope to receive additional information from the state in the coming days and will be discussing this mandate with the Board of Education during work sessions scheduled for Monday and Tuesday of next week. As soon as we have additional information to share with the community, we will.

I want to acknowledge our staff, who I know are feeling mixed emotions today. There isn't an educator who doesn't miss interacting personally with their students. Many staff members have been teaching and working from our buildings. At the same time, many—understandably so—remain nervous at the prospect of returning to buildings when countywide health metrics remain high. Educators are indispensable employees who tend to and care for our most precious resources—children. I thank all HCPSS staff for their continued resilience, kindness, and empathy in the face of this unprecedented pandemic.

We are grateful for our wonderful and supportive community. We have stayed strong these

last 10 months and we will move forward together in the common interest of our children. It hasn't been easy and we all have to tend to our own challenges and considerations, but we are a resilient community. We will get through this together.

I have a special message for our students that they can access in Canvas. I also invite you to read and share this message with your children.