

July 27, 2020

Dear Edison Parents/Guardians:

In March, Governor Carney ordered all of Delaware's public schools to close, to slow the spread of the COVID-19 Virus and to protect our students, staff and families. Our teachers and staff immediately began to transform how they provided instruction and our students sacrificed so many school activities (graduation, formal, trips and sports). You supported your children at home in more ways than anyone could ever imagine. You are amazing!

All of these efforts made a big difference but as you are aware, the Coronavirus pandemic has continued and has spread to every state in the country. We were planning to open school for students in late August but so much has changed over the past few weeks and months. The number of positive cases has risen in Delaware and many other states and there are still a large number of people who are not practicing social distancing, wearing masks, or following the latest guidance from our public health officials. We have heard from teachers, staff and parents who are eager to get back to work and return kids to school, but only when it is safe to do so. We appreciate your honesty and commitment to the safety of our children and community. Although it is a very difficult decision to make, we must prepare for a scenario in which it is safe to begin the 2020-2021 school year with a hybrid model (where students can learn at home and at school part time) or a fully remote model where students can learn at home full time. Any model we choose must allow students to follow proper social distancing guidelines as released by the CDC (Centers for Disease Control). This difficult decision is being made for the safety of our students, families and staff.

While we intend to bring students back whenever it is safe, we do also understand that some families will prefer to continue to keep their children home. In recognition of the unprecedented nature of this pandemic and the need for flexibility, every parent will have the option to opt out of any part time or full time in-person instruction and learn remotely from home. Over the next two weeks, we will continue to work with Governor Carney, the Delaware Department of Education (DDOE) and the Division of Public Health (DPH) to prepare for the potential impact that an extended closure could have on our students, their families, and our staff.

Governor Carney is expected to make a decision regarding the opening of schools the first week of August. Due to this late announcement and in order to give us more time to prepare for the new school year, our first day of school will be moved to **Tuesday, September 8, 2020**. In the coming weeks, we will be finalizing our plans for implementing a much-improved, high-quality learning model. We will continue to need your input and support so that we may provide the safest education for your child. We will be releasing a final plan by mid-August, after we have greater clarity on the public health situation and the Governor's decision. Despite this new reality, we are confident in the ability of our teachers and staff, families, and community partners to work together to provide all Edison students with an engaging

and high-quality education.

It will take all of us working together to make this school year a success and uphold necessary health and safety protocols in our school and community. We hope you will unite with us in these efforts. We thank you for your input, patience, and flexibility. We remain committed to reopening the school to the fullest extent possible when it is safe. We will remain in close contact with the State of Delaware and local public health officials throughout the duration of the summer and will provide updates to families as appropriate. We encourage you to stay informed of the situation by regularly checking updates from [Division of Public Health](#) and the [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#).

We understand this is a time of uncertainty and concern. We will work through this together to keep our students, families, and staff safe. If you have health-related questions, please contact your family physician. If you have questions about our school, please contact us at: info@tecs.k12.de.us. Thank you for your cooperation and support.

Sincerely,

Thomas Edison Charter School Administration