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[www.fnesu.org](http://www.fnesu.org)

Lynn Cota, Superintendent

July 28, 2020

Dear FNESU Families,

As the beginning of the school year approaches, I understand that families are under a tremendous amount of pressure around school reopening plans in FNESU, throughout Vermont, the United States, and the world. Parents and educators are struggling with concerns around childcare, remote learning expectations, what learning will look like, and what health and safety measures will be in place to protect students and staff members when we return. In addition, families have added concerns about the ongoing financial hardship and employment issues this pandemic has caused. The process for developing our FNESU Reopening plan has been complex. As I have previously stated, our plan has been designed to allow us to shift between the steps in our plan when we are able to and when the data suggests we should. Throughout the year, it may be necessary for us to spend some time in a hybrid model, in a model with more students returning to in-person learning, a model where all students can return to in person learning, and in a fully remote model for all students. Currently, we are focused on planning logistically to be able to shift as smoothly as we can between these steps throughout the year. In addition, as guidance changes, we will continue to update our plans.

### **Childcare**

We understand that childcare is a primary concern for many families and staff members. We are working hard with partners in our area, region, and throughout the state to be able to find ways to provide support for families without childcare when students are in a remote learning period during this pandemic. Even if we were able to return to in-person learning for more children to start the year, childcare would still be a problem we would need to find a solution to with the potential of other remote learning periods throughout the year. Friends, neighbors, community members, schools, and outside agencies actively working together will have the best potential for a viable solution for our families. We do not have all the answers figured out, but we are certainly working hard to try to be creative and work with the network of stakeholders who might be able to help us to come up with some viable solutions.

### **FNESU Playschool/Preschool**

Schools in FNESU will offer preschool programming to families. Preschool students (4 year olds) will be divided into two cohorts (A/B). Each cohort of students will be offered 5 hours of programming two days per week, either Monday/Tuesday or Thursday/Friday. Schools that have the space to accommodate play school students (3 year olds) will do so. Space may be

limited in some schools, if that is the case serving preschool students (4 year olds) will take priority. Each school will be communicating directly with families about programming availability for both 3 and 4 year olds along with information about schedules.

If your preschool child receives special education services, the IEP team will determine those services through the IEP process, via a virtual team meeting.

### **School Calendar Adjustment**

During today's press conference, Governor Scott announced that he will be releasing an Executive Order that pushes back the start of the school year to September 8. Therefore, **the first day of school for FNESU students will be September 8.** Schools will be working to make adjustments to the school calendar for families in the coming weeks. Please understand, we will not be able to answer the question about the anticipated last day of the school year for families until after the Vermont Legislature decides whether or not they will adjust the statutory definition of school year. The legislature returns on August 25.

### **Virtual Town Halls**

Over the course of the next three weeks, there are Virtual Town Halls scheduled for FNESU families to unpack the details of the Reopening Framework. I hope you will join us for the Virtual Town Halls. These will be recorded and posted.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Sections of the Reopening Plan</b>
7/30	6:00-8:00	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <i>Health and Safety</i></li><li>2. <i>Operations and Management</i></li><li>3. <i>Food Service</i></li></ol>
8/6	6:00-8:00	<b>Instruction and Learning</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <i>Academics</i></li><li>2. <i>Social Emotional Learning</i></li><li>3. <i>Student Services</i></li></ol>
8/13	6:00-8:00	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <i>After School Programs</i></li><li>2. <i>Transportation</i></li><li>3. <i>Leadership/Policy/Finance</i></li></ol>

We will email families a link to the first Virtual Town Hall by Thursday morning. It will also be posted to our Facebook page and our FNESU website.

### **FNESU Families Frequently Asked Questions Document**

When we released our Reopening Plan last week, we asked families to submit questions via our [covidqs@fnesu.org](mailto:covidqs@fnesu.org) email address. Families have submitted some great questions. Please keep the questions coming and we will continue to keep this FAQ document updated. Here is the link to our FNESU Families FAQ.

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1n0j6DcGDIPaWh8ZkcSU5YNC1r\\_Xw82imJaXZMTUyg6s/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1n0j6DcGDIPaWh8ZkcSU5YNC1r_Xw82imJaXZMTUyg6s/edit?usp=sharing)

Sincerely,

Lynn Cota  
Superintendent