

Dear Simsbury Community,

As spring finally arrives and the warm weather has appeared, I hope that you and your family are well amidst the challenges that have been thrust upon us. My thoughts are with all of you who have been touched personally by this virus as its impact has been traumatic in so many ways. The good news is that there are positive signs being reported with hospitalizations trending down and plans to open our economy locally starting to take shape.

In his latest announcement earlier today, Governor Lamont directed schools to remain closed through the end of the school year. While this was anticipated by many, such a decision still brings with it sadness and angst -- a reminder of just how much our world has changed in the last two months. As an administrative team, we will be turning our energies toward planning for our eventual reopening. I recognize there will be many questions pertaining to what schooling will look like in the future. Know that our planning has begun, and when the time comes to reopen our schools, with parents heading back to work, we will be prepared to keep our students and staff safe. As more specific guidance is issued by the State Department of Education and the Public Health Department, we will keep you informed of our evolving plans.

I want to thank all those who participated in our [distance learning survey](#). With 1,717 responses, parent/guardian participation was high, and the input received is extremely valuable. The survey data validated areas of strength and also provided input on where we need to improve. The information received will help us adjust as we move into the home stretch of the school year and look toward the future, should we need to engage in some form of distance learning this summer or fall.

I continue to be inspired by the commitment of our families, staff, and students to work together to achieve the best outcomes possible during this historic time. Collaboration has long been a cornerstone value of the Simsbury Public Schools and never has that been more apparent than now. We are a caring, giving community in Simsbury, and the acts of kindness I have witnessed make me proud to be a part of such a special place. In that spirit, and with this being National Teacher Appreciation week, I want to give a shout out to all of our teachers whose work has never been so valued and so important. Thank you for forging ahead in these uncharted waters and for serving our community with such passion and pride. Our students and families have counted on you to provide connections and continuity. You are truly a special group! I do believe that from this hardship will come innovation and an even greater sense of community. When it is time to return our staff and students safely back to our campuses, we will be even stronger.

Be well,

Matt Curtis
Superintendent of Schools