



**ESSEX REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE**

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Re: End of Year Letter

Good afternoon ERESK family,

Now that this unprecedented and most unusual school year is coming to a close, I want to thank you for your partnership throughout this school year, and especially for your patience, collaboration, and perseverance during our different forms and challenges with virtual engagement. Although being in this medium had its challenges and was not perfect, I am proud of what our staff members (from Central Office to Schools), students, teachers, and parents were able to accomplish.

As you know, we have been in the COVID-19 pandemic since mid-March and this will forever be known as the school year of virtual learning. Switching to distance learning and engagement would not have been successful without the support of the ERESK community. Thank you to everyone...because without each of you, this massive undertaking would not have been possible.

Over the summer, we will be systematically planning for school year 2020-2021. This will entail meetings with different stakeholders to ensure that we are prepared and we have gathered the necessary input from all relevant parties. Whether schools are open in September or not, I can assure you that we will continue to improve our use of technology, and distance teaching and learning practices to provide the best education possible to our students.

We have been awaiting updates and guidance from the NJDOE regarding what school year 2020-2021 will look like. While we may have ideas, we recognize that they must be consistent with the health and safety requirements from the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) in tandem with the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE), as the health and safety needs of our staff and students is our pressing concern.

As we await further guidance, I want to wish everyone a well-deserved, restful and safe summer! Please continue to visit our district website (www.eresc.org) for any updates regarding our plans for the upcoming school year. Thank you for all you do and be safe!

Laurie W. Newell

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