



Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

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Jeffrey C. Riley
Commissioner

October 19, 2020

Ms. Sarah Wolf
Chair, Manchester Essex Regional School District School Committee
36 Lincoln Street
Manchester-by-the-Sea, MA 01944

Dear Ms. Wolf,

Thank you for your response to my letter on September 18, 2020, requesting additional information about your fall reopening plan for schools. I appreciate your efforts to expedite access to in-person instruction for students in the Manchester-Essex Regional School District.

Your response stated that on October 6, 2020, the School Committee would meet to discuss the potential hybrid start date of mid-October, for Manchester-Essex students learning in a hybrid learning model. In a follow-up conversation with your district on October 8, 2020, the dates were updated to:

- October 19, 2020, for Kindergarten through Second grade students;
- October 26, 2020, for Third through Fifth grade students; and,
- And, a yet undetermined return for 6th – 12th grade students.

In light of these adjustments, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will not be conducting an audit of your district at this time. As you move forward with your hybrid plan, I would like to remind you that Manchester-Essex must provide a robust learning experience both when students are learning remotely and in-person in accordance with DESE's regulations.

I understand that some districts have expressed concerns about the ability to operationalize in-person learning due to fiscal constraints. As you know, the Commonwealth has provided significant financial support to districts. To that end, please find below a summary of the Chapter 70 education aid together with DESE-issued federal COVID-related funding for Manchester-Essex Regional School District. As a reminder, the state is currently accepting applications for Coronavirus Relief Fund Round 2 funding, which can also be used for school reopening costs.

| FY20 C.70 | FY21 C.70 Baseline Increase | ESSER | CvRF School Reopening | Total FY21 C.70 + Direct New Support Dist. by Formula | Increase over FY20 |
|--------------|--------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| \$ 3,048,668 | - | \$ 54,198 | \$303,300 | \$ 3,451,416 | \$ 402,748 |

As I stated in my previous letter to you, I look forward to working together to ensure as many students as possible can benefit from safe, in-person instruction this school year.

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of our students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey C. Riley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Jeffrey C. Riley
Commissioner, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

C: Pamela A. Beaudoin, Superintendent, Manchester Essex Regional School District
Pam Ciccone, Board of Health, Manchester-by-the Sea