

	Tolland Public Schools Superintendent Willett's Weekly Brief <i>Where Excellence Is Achieved Through Each Individual's Success</i> UPDATE FOR January 4, 2021
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CLICK BELOW for the individual BACKPACK for each school: BG TIS TMS THS	Here for you: 860-335-2455 Also see the Tolland Pandemic Continuity of Learning website
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COVID REPORTING LINK & NUMBER: ->	Please complete the TPS COVID form And/or call 1-860-969-9597
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SUPERINTENDENT BUDGET WORKSHOPS – Q and A's

Please see this notice regarding the Superintendent Budget Workshops

January 4, 2021 postponed until January 11, 2021 workshop

On January 11th at 7 PM there be a follow up to the 12-7-2020 Superintendent Budget workshop. The January 11, 2021 workshop will start with a presentation followed by breakout budget Q and A sessions: [the public can register for the budget Q and A sessions through this form \(please click here\)](#), selecting up to three "budget break out rooms" to go to for three rotations of about ten to fifteen minutes each. Breakout budget sessions facilitators are school and program administrators (e.g., High School, Middle School, Intermediate School, Birch Grove Primary School, Special Education, Facilities, Educational Technology, Curriculum). The evening will close with a summary activity as well.

January 11, 2021 Superintendent Budget Workshop Zoom Link

ZOOM: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87375511973?pwd=eTZGUEZzNDlaYkl6N3lxdnA3U1prZz09>

Meeting ID: 873 7551 1973

Passcode: 5sC9ud

Dial by your location

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 873 7551 1973

Passcode: 496017

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87375511973?pwd=eTZGUEZzNDIaYkl6N3lxdnA3UlpZz09>

SUPERINTENDENT VIRTUAL OPEN FORUM / OFFICE HOURS

- Virtual Coffee / Open Office / Open Forum with the Superintendent
- Monthly on the first Wednesday of the month

10:00 am

Ask questions, express concerns, and talk about the school reopening!

January 6, 2021
February 3, 2021
March 3, 2021
April 7, 2021
May 5, 2021
June 2, 2021

Topic: Superintendent Virtual Open Forum / Office Hours

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87375511973?pwd=eTZGUEZzNDIaYkl6N3lxdnA3UlpZz09>

Meeting ID: 873 7551 1973

Passcode: 5sC9ud

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,87375511973#,,,,,0#,,496017# US (Chicago)

+19294362866,,87375511973#,,,,,0#,,496017# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 873 7551 1973

Passcode: 496017

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87375511973?pwd=eTZGUEZzNDIaYkl6N3lxdnA3UlpZz09>

Tolland Family Resource Center Message:

Superintendent Willett announced on December 14th that Tolland Public Schools will engage in 12 days of remote learning, beginning December 21st. The FRC will provide full day remote learning care during this time period.

Location: Tolland Intermediate School, room 227A

Dates: 12/21-12/23 & 1/4-1/15

Hours: 7:00am-6:00pm (closing at 4:00pm on 12/23)

Fee: \$50 per day

Completed registration forms can be emailed to Carol Hiller, FRC Coordinator at chiller@tolland.k12.ct.us

Download registration form:
[Remote learning days registration .pdf](#)

Pandemic Continuity of Learning Program Site

[Click Here](#)

School meals are available during remote learning days and on weekends. These meals are made available through USDA funding and are no charge to you. By participating in this meal program, you are supporting the school district and our community in many ways. Please see the attached flyer for more information.

To watch video on Free Meals

[Click Here](#)

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

FOR ALL CHILDREN

UP TO AGE 18

through June 30, 2021



REASONS TO GET SCHOOL MEALS

***Supports our school district and keeps staff working* Saves you time & money*Includes fresh fruits, vegetables, milk and whole grains*Is prepared by Food Service professionals trained in food safety*Extends your household food budget* Great tasting, nutritious, kid-friendly choices**

REMOTE MEAL ORDERING

INFORMATION

THERE ARE TWO DIFFERENT ORDER FORMS:

Remote meal menu available on each form

Note that this menu is different than the in-school menus

**For Tolland Public School Students
and their siblings [click here](#)**

You must have an account set up in "myschoolaccount"

**For all other children in the
community [click here](#)**

This is a google form

**ALL PREORDERED MEALS MUST BE PICKED
UP DAILY AT TOLLAND HIGH SCHOOL
BETWEEN 11:30 – 12:30**

How will my children get their free meals?

In School:

K-5 students will come through the service line. All food will be placed on trays by the kitchen staff; students will touch only their own tray.

6-12 students will sign-up in the morning for a grab & go meal to pick up on their way out of the building at the end of the day.

Breakfast is now be offered at all schools each morning.

Remote Meals:

Available with a preorder.

NEW - Weekend meals now available – Must order by Monday for Wednesday pick-up.

Daily Breakfast & lunch orders may be placed by a parent or guardian the day before or up until 7am the day of pick-up.

Please see Ordering Information



Questions?

Food Service Office

860-870-6854

aharmed@tolland.k12.ct.us

kmecteau@tolland.k12.ct.us

We are here to help!

COVID Testing - For your convenience, and in partnership toward keeping our schools open and safe

Please note the COVID testing made available through our Tolland and EHHD partnership:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UcGQYf7FhQcDYxWpIVCuET9bpIT6m9_q/view?usp=sharing

Parent/Guardians – PLEASE REVIEW

–Thank you for your help and support – please help us continue to help the community by adhering to the education options selected for each pandemic period and reporting any COVID concerns.

As per the [Tolland Public School Pandemic Continuity of Learning Plan](#) there are eight “periods” the Tolland Public Schools uses for providing education options this year. Based on local and county data, as well as school trends, education options are provided for parent/guardians to choose for their children, or under extreme hardships, [exceptions can be requested](#).

By working together, we can make sure that in-person schooling continues! You can help by clicking here to report any illness or COVID related or COVID like illnesses occur within your home, or the groups with which you interact. Letting us know as soon as possible, helps us reach out to all needed parties to keep schools open, and everyone healthy. Data is not provided to the Health Districts as rapidly as your direct contact – so by working together we can make a big difference. Waiting can result in a school or district going remote (impacting thousands) vs. a much smaller group (ten, twenty, a class or a grade).

Another way you can help is by adherence to the designation provided, currently In-person 4 day, or remote learning. If for matters of illness a student needs to go “remote” please do so, and [notify the nurse and the COVID line as soon as you can by click on the REPORT link of this site](#). This should be reserved for medical or health needs, however, and not for matters of convenience (for instance a vacation). Doing the latter can overwhelm our system and teachers. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your support in this.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not [hesitate to reach out to me](#).

REQUESTING EXCEPTIONS / EDUCATION OPTIONS

Once a registration period closes, parent/guardians can find information, and apply for hardship exceptions, by going to:

http://www.tolland.k12.ct.us/DistrictOffices/superintendent/superintendent_willett_s_page

and choosing TPS PCLP Website from the left menu, and the “exceptions” link within that page.

You can also see the entire Pandemic Continuity of Learning plan by accessing the TPS Continuity of Learning Plan 2020-2021 in the left menu as well.

Questions? Please do not hesitate to reach out:

http://www.tolland.k12.ct.us/DistrictOffices/superintendent/superintendent_willett_s_page/c o n t a c t m e

COVID REPORTING

In order to provide a more efficient and streamlined process for reporting illness that presents with COVID 19-like symptoms, and to preserve confidentiality, we ask that you use the COVID symptom reporting form: [Please click here.](#)

The symptoms of fever, feeling feverish or chills, developing a new cough, having difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, and loss of taste or smell should immediately be reported using the form and any afflicted person with these symptoms should call in a sick day (please see below) and report using the COVID form. Having a COVID test is highly recommended when these symptoms are present. Other symptoms you should report on the COVID form are illnesses with multiple symptoms of any kind, and close contacts that are COVID-positive or ill. A person with multiple symptoms should also receive a COVID test to rule out this virus.

If you know that you or a family member has an alternative diagnosis for the presenting symptoms you do not need to fill out the COVID form. If you or a family member has multiple symptoms but has already received an alternative diagnosis (a doctor informed you or the afflicted the issue was something other than COVID), please share the alternative diagnosis and provide documentation upon return to school.

If you are provided information or become aware of a person or student with COVID symptoms or a positive test, **do not forward that information to an education team, staff member, or any other person. Please inform a school nurse, or [complete the TPS COVID form](#).** This is for privacy considerations and therefore is the professional expectation of all staff members.

List of COVID testing sites

The complete list of testing sites across the state can be found at <https://www.211ct.org/covidtesting>. Note that users can filter to show locations that offer pediatric testing as well. Additionally, the state has contracts with the following testing partners; part of the contract is a requirement for *lab turnaround times not to exceed 48 hours from receipt of sample to test result*. This contractual obligation applies to any testing event held by these partners that is open to the community (therefore, for example, the contractual obligation applies to community events open to the public for free testing but does not apply to pre-procedure testing). We hope that this information is helpful.

Popup and adjacent events

Charter Oak Health Center
 Community Health and Wellness Center
 Community Health Center of Bristol
 Community Health Center of Danbury
 Community Health Center of Meriden
 Community Health Center of Middletown
 Community Health Center of New Britain
 Community Health Center of New London
 Community Health Center of Norwalk at Day Street
 Community Health Center of Stamford at Fifth Street
 Community Health Center of Waterbury
 Connecticut Institute for Communities, Inc.
 Connecticut Pediatrics @ CHC
 Fair Haven Community Health Clinic
 Family Centers Inc.
 First Choice Health Center Inc.
 Food share at Rentschler Field
 Generations Family Health Center

Intercommunity
Optimus Health Care - Bridgeport
Optimus Health Care - Stamford
Southwest Community Health Center
Staywell Health
UCFS Healthcare
Wheeler Family Health & Wellness Center

Popup events only

Hartford HealthCare
Yale New Haven Health
Sema4
Genesys
Griffen

MESSAGE FROM THE TPS DIRECTOR OF NURSING

To all parents/ guardians, although many of you report directly to your student's teacher for any absence of your student, **instead please make direct calls to the absence reporting line** at your child's respective school **or speak with the school nurse directly.**

This would be for normal illness or doctor's appointments that may have students out for a partial or full day, and to report any COVID-like symptoms.

If your student is experiencing any one of these symptoms:

- difficulty breathing,
- fever 100 F or greater
- feeling feverish or having chills
- uncontrolled cough, or
- loss of sense of smell or taste

This would be an concern for COVID, **please call the school nurse** and [complete the COVID response form](#). Your student will need a negative COVID test result, an alternative diagnosis, or isolation from school for 10 days. Any one of these symptoms and the school nurse will contact you for immediate pick up from school should they develop at school.

If your student has two or more of the following symptoms: fatigue, muscle aches, headache, congestion/runny nose, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting or sore throat you should report those to your student's school nurse and plan for COVID testing or 10-day isolation.

NURSE CONTACTS

Report a potential COVID-19 exposure or illness-[Click Here](#)

THS: 860.870.6838 Cindy Davidson RN or Karen Lewis RN

TMS: 860.870.6868 Laura Dolcelli RN or Janet Sullivan LPN

TIS:860.870.6891 Paula Feyerharm RN or Susan Trimble LPN

BGP 860.870.6755 Kelly Maurice RN or Angie Bolduc LPN

Report a potential COVID-19 exposure or illness-[Click Here](#)

Attendance Lines

BGP 860-870-6755 Extension 1
TIS 860-870-6891 Extension 1
TMS 860-870-6868 Extension 1
THS 860-870-6838 Extension 1

SNOW and INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES

Dear Parent or Guardian:

I want to take this opportunity to inform you of the District's procedures regarding school closings, delays, and early dismissals.

The decision to change school schedules is made after careful review of information collected from the local police, highway, school maintenance departments, and a local weather service. Road conditions, sidewalk status, precipitation, temperatures, and forecasts are considered when making a determination to delay or close schools. In some circumstances, a delay may be upgraded to a school closing. Information related to delayed openings and school closures is broadcasted on television and radio stations typically by approximately 5:45 a.m. The safety of our children is the priority factor in all decision making.

BLACKBOARD CONNECT 5

The *Blackboard Connect 5* communication system is a telephone messaging service that the district uses that enables us to personally communicate with parents and staff regarding emergency situations, school closings and delays, school events and other important issues impacting you and your children. It is imperative that you keep a current emergency telephone number listed at your child's school building. In the event of an early dismissal or delay, a Blackboard message will be broadcast to all families by 5:45 a.m. During an emergency or weather-related incident, calls will be made through the emergency mode to all student numbers in the Blackboard system.

DELAYED OPENINGS

- This year we will utilize a two (2) hour delay. The message you receive will inform you as to the length of the delay.
- In the event of a two (2) hour delay, am preschool classes will be cancelled.
- Buses will arrive at stops approximately 90 minutes (1 ½ hours) or two (2) hours later than the usual time.

EARLY DISMISSAL

- An announcement will be made on the radio and television stations, generally prior to 11:00 a.m.
- The high school is usually released at approximately 10:45 a.m. Tolland Middle School is released at 11:45 pm and Tolland Intermediate and Birch Grove Primary School are released at 12:45 pm. (Please note that unusual circumstances may dictate an early dismissal before those given times)
- There are no p.m. pre-school classes on early dismissal days.

In the event of school closings or early dismissals, all sporting events and student activities will be cancelled.

TRANSPORTATION REGULATIONS

Students in grades PreK-5 will be returned to school in the event an adult is not present at the bus stop to meet them unless you have signed the bus stop release form.

ALL STORM ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements will be made on the following TV Stations:

WTNH
WFSB
WVIT
WTIC

It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to monitor weather related delays, closings, and early dismissals and to cooperate with school personnel as we work to ensure student safety.

TOLLAND FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER'S INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES

If the Tolland Public Schools is closed due to inclement weather, then the Tolland Family Resource Center is closed.

Weather delays and early closings

School Age Care

The Before School Program will follow the School System for delays:

* 90 minutes delay the FRC opens at 8:30 a.m.

* 2 hour delay the FRC opens at 9:00 a.m. for children registered in the before school program for that day. (This is to allow enough time for the parking lot and sidewalks to be treated)

Early Dismissal

When there is an early dismissal due to inclement weather, the FRC will close at 3:45 p.m. However, if Birch Grove and Tolland Intermediate School close before 1:20 p.m. then FRC will close 2 hours after the end of school; example if Birch Gove closes at 11:00 a.m. then FRC will close at 1:00 p.m.

Late fees pick up fees apply on early dismissals.

Preschool

If Tolland Schools have a delayed opening due to weather, the three-year-old preschool will be cancelled. Four-Year-Old afternoon Preschool will start at 12:00 p.m. as usual.

If Tolland Schools have an early dismissal, the afternoon Four-Year-Old Preschool will be cancelled.

Play groups are cancelled on delays or early closings.

Please remember to call if your child will not be attending.

My primary consideration is always the safety of our children. If parents feel conditions are unsafe, they should use their discretion and keep their children at home. Here is hoping for warm and uneventful winter!

Sincerely,

Walter Willett, Ph.D.

Superintendent of Schools

March 3, 2021 Community Workshop

7:00 pm

Location-TBD

This brief workshop will introduce the SCERTS (Social Communication, Emotional Regulation, Transactional Support) framework, its components, and guiding principles. The SCERTS Model is a comprehensive, multidisciplinary educational approach designed for autistic individuals. This model is not exclusive of other treatment approaches and educational methodologies, but rather provides a framework for implementing a comprehensive educational plan that is based on our knowledge of the core developmental challenges faced by children with ASD, family-centered care, and our knowledge of the recommended tenets of educational programming. Emphasis will be placed upon discussing the Emotional / Energy Regulation component of the model, as this is a critical foundation for active participation in home and school. Factors influencing and means of supporting emotional regulation are explored from both a first-person autistic perspective, as well as developmental perspective.

Autism Level UP! is a collaboration between two developmental psychologists- one neurotypical and the other neurodivergent. Our philosophy is that through education, accessible resources, practical strategies, and a commitment to consistently

incorporating the experiences and perspectives of autistic people, we can support the leveling up of society when it comes to autism and neurodiversity.

- Dr. Amy Laurent is a co-author of the SCERTS Model and frequently lectures around the globe. She is passionate about neurodiversity and helping others to honor and understand the implications of "different ways of being" in relation to navigating the physical and social world.
- Dr. Jacquelyn Fede is an Assistant Research Professor at the University of Rhode Island and an autistic self-advocate. She uses her experience to mentor other autistics and to help educate others about autism through lecturing, blogging, and consulting on evaluation projects.

Please see the Tolland Public School Pandemic Continuity of Learning Website:

[Updates to the Tolland Public School Pandemic Continuity of Learning Site \(click here\)](#)

- **Confidential Covid-19 contact and illness reporting**
- Family and Student Technology Resources
- Technical Support
- Request a district Chromebook
- The Virtual Health Room
- School Meal Programs during the Pandemic
- The Tolland Public School Pandemic Continuity of Learning Plan
- Registration links for remote learning options

Can also be accessed by going to:

http://www.tolland.k12.ct.us/DistrictOffices/superintendent/superintendent_willett_s_page

And selecting [TPS PCLP Website](#)

PLEASE REVIEW IF YOU ARE TRAVELING OUT OF STATE

For TPS in adherence to the State of Connecticut requirements (please see below) - [if traveling to a state on the CT advisory list](#) for more than 24 hours your child ("any person") will need to be tested and provide written documentation of your negative antigen or PCR test in order to return to school. No rapid test results will be accepted. If you should develop symptoms after travel, you will need to report those symptoms [using the COVID self reporting form](#). An additional quarantine can be added for positive symptoms or positive COVID test results. For any questions, please feel free to contact pfeyerharm@tolland.k12.ct.us.

Please review the CT travel advisory before travel so you know what to expect upon return to CT.

<https://portal.ct.gov/coronavirus/travel>

- 1. How long is the self-quarantine?** The advisory requires visitors to Connecticut from Affected States or Affected Countries to self-quarantine for a period of fourteen ~~(14) days~~ (10) days from the time they were last in the Affected State or the Affected Country. If you board a plane in an Affected State or an Affected Country today, and land in Connecticut today, your ~~fourteen (14)~~ (10) days begins today. If you are in Connecticut for a period less than (10) days ~~fourteen (14) days~~, you should plan to be in self-quarantine throughout your visit. If you left an Affected State or an Affected Country and spent time in non-Affected States or non-Affected Countries prior to arriving in Connecticut, you start counting your ~~fourteen (14) day~~ (10) day period from the time you left the Affected State or Affected Country. Consequently, if only five (5) of those days are spent in Connecticut, you will need to self-quarantine in Connecticut for those five (5) days.
- 2. Can travelers be tested for COVID-19 instead of self-quarantine?** Yes, an Affected Traveler is exempt from the self-quarantine requirement if the Affected Traveler (1) has had a test for COVID-19 in the seventy-two (72) hours prior to arrival in Connecticut or at any time following arrival in Connecticut, (2) the result of such COVID-19 test is negative,

and (3) he or she has provided written proof of such negative test result to the Commissioner via email to: DPH.COVID-Travel@ct.gov or via facsimile to: (860) 326-0529. If a test was obtained in the seventy-two (72) hours prior to arrival in Connecticut, or following arrival in Connecticut, and such Affected Traveler has not yet received his or her test results, such traveler shall remain in self-quarantine in Connecticut until a negative test result is submitted to the Commissioner. If the test result is positive and the traveler is asymptomatic, he or she shall self-isolate for ten (10) days from the date of the test; if symptomatic, he or she should seek medical assistance. Travelers who test positive for COVID-19 prior to traveling to Connecticut should delay such travel and consult with a medical professional. All Affected Travelers are required to complete the Travel Health Form.

- 3. What tests are acceptable for the testing option?** Nucleic acid tests such as reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) tests are the only acceptable testing option. Neither rapid antigen tests nor antibody tests for COVID-19 satisfy the testing requirement for the testing exemption.

Reminder-Mask Requirement reminder, no gaiters, no bandanas,

3-ply masks required



HELP WANTED

Food & Nutrition Services has openings for substitutes for this school year with the potential to move into a permanent part-time position. Join our team in serving nutritious healthy meals to our students and work only while your children are in school!

If interested, please contact Kim at kmecteau@tolland.k12.ct.us or 860-870-6854, Ext 1.



[Check out the Superintendent's BLOG – with updates almost every day!](#)

NOTICE TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS REGARDING RULES AND GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION IN LIVE REMOTE INSTRUCTION

[Please click here](#)



[CONTACT THE SUPERINTENDENT:](#)

[* ask questions – set up a meeting - address other concerns](#)