

WE NEED YOUR VOICE TO KEEP OUR SCHOOLS OPEN

November 19, 2020

Dear Parents and Community,

As we end another challenging week for schools across Westchester County, please know that we continue to do everything possible to keep our schools open and our students and staff safe. New York State's mandate related to yellow, orange and red zones will pose significant hurdles in regards to the testing of students and staff. Without the necessary funding to undertake such an enormous task, this will simply be impossible for most schools. Once again, we need your help.

Our regional Westchester Putnam School Board Association has put together an advocacy e-letter for our community members to easily send to NYS legislators and the NYS Department of Health, asking them to ensure that school districts are provided with the COVID-19 testing resources needed to keep school buildings open, if our community is designated a hotspot.

Please go to the link below, then click on the box that reads **Keep School Buildings Open**. Under **Compose Your Message**, you can use the text provided or revise it as you like. Enter your information and click on the **Send Message** button. It should only take a few minutes and will automatically send this important message to our representatives.

[**CLICK HERE TO SEND ADVOCACY LETTERS**](#)

Advocacy is an important part of our responsibility in making sure that our legislators know that we are paying attention and that we demand that they provide the necessary support and assistance to which we are entitled during this pandemic. The cost of testing is enormous, Westchester County is unable to provide the supposed "free testing kits" that we had been promised, and our local testing sites are overrun when we need them most. Schools are not "public health clinics" and not all families are able to access their individual insurance for testing when they do not have symptoms. In other words, testing for screening purposes is not covered. Delays in getting test results continue to be a stumbling block.

We need financial support and we need it now. Please lend your voice to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Lisa Brady, Ed.D.
Superintendent