



**Lansingburgh Central School District**

District Office

55 New Turnpike Rd • Troy, NY 12182

**Dr. Antonio W. Abitabile, Ed. D.**

Superintendent

(518)233-6850

August 27, 2020

Lansingburgh School Community:

The mission of every public school district in this country is charged with providing the best educational experience possible for all students, balanced with utilizing whatever resources that we are afforded. Due to circumstances beyond our control, I am writing to all of you today with some extremely unfortunate news that makes this district's mission much more difficult to achieve than others. We were notified late last week that all schools in NYS, regardless of need, are receiving a 20% reduction in state aid funding. This reduction is expected to last at least for this school year or until we receive federal funding to replace this shortage of aid.

The inequity of this 20% flat cut cannot be understated. This leaves districts across the state, like Lansingburgh in financial despair, compared to our wealthier, suburban school districts. These school districts are much less reliant on state aid, while 65% of our overall funding is derived from these same revenue sources. This cut is equivalent to 12% of our overall budget or \$6.5 million out of our \$52 million overall operating budget.

This financial burden, combined with around 40% of students opting for remote learning and staff members still conflicted about returning safely to school, makes it impossible for the district to open all of our schools for in-person instruction on September 8th. To accommodate our most critical learners, fortunately, we are still able to open Turnpike Elementary School. In addition to Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grades, UPK and EPK will also still open as previously scheduled, with only a slight reduction to 1 section of EPK. Additionally, each of our Special Education Multiply Disabled 12:1:2 classes will also be moved to Turnpike. All self contained special education classes will operate in-person from 8:30-11:30 and remotely beginning at 12:30. This means that all other students in grades 3-12 will now begin the school year learning remotely until we are able to return to our original reopening plan. Only staff assigned to these students will physically report to Turnpike every day, while staff from our other buildings will be working remotely.

There has also been a change in our school calendar that everyone needs to be made aware of. Tuesday, September 8th has been shifted to a superintendent conference day and Wednesday, September 9th will now become the first day of school for students in grades 3-12. Our phased-in reopening at Turnpike has now been shifted forward one day. Mr. Knox will send out the new reopening timeline with Turnpike families in the very near future.

I understand that this leaves families with even more questions than you had previously and we will do our best to answer them in a timely manner. However, the time sensitive nature of this news is of greater importance than waiting to get into the finer details. We will be hosting another live Q&A session on Monday, August 31st from 4:30-6pm and will post the link to the video feed soon. Please continue to submit your questions to [COVIDInfo@lansingburgh.org](mailto:COVIDInfo@lansingburgh.org) and we will incorporate them into the presentation.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Al Abitabile'.

Dr. Antonio W. Abitabile, Ed. D.  
Superintendent of Schools