

Superintendent Meloche, President Saidel,
Vice-President Neary, and
Members of the Cherry Hill Board of Education

Cherry Hill Public Schools
Malberg Administration Building
45 Ranoldo Terrace
Cherry Hill, NJ, 08034

Over the last six months, the world has been turned upside down. These are abnormal times, and as such, we should not expect a normal return to school. Our district has one opportunity to reopen safely in order to protect *all* the members of our community. Therefore, we are asking for more time to prepare for this “new normal”.

The two days of inservice scheduled for September 3rd and 4th are not enough time to prepare all teachers and staff for a return to school. Rather than welcoming students back on September 8th, we are requesting that the inservice days scheduled for November 13th and February 12th be moved to the beginning of the school year. This way, all teachers and staff have more time to adjust, learn the new procedures and routines, and have time to preempt any problems that may arise.

Additionally, classes should begin remotely. If students were to learn from home during the week of September 14th, classes would have time to initiate communication with parents and students, develop online norms, establish rules and routines, fix technology problems, provide social and emotional support, and create a warm and welcoming environment. By delaying the return to school on a hybrid schedule, we provide the time we need to truly return safely, provide clear expectations, and reduce anxiety.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter as we seek to navigate reopening in this difficult time. We look forward to your reply.

CHEA Members of Kingston Elementary School