



EAST LYME PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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July 30, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

At a Special Meeting this past Tuesday evening, the Board of Education unanimously approved a revised version of the [2020-2021 District Academic Calendar](#). The changes for 2020-2021 school year are as follows:

The student start date for the 2020-2021 school year will now be **Monday, August 31** rather than Wednesday, August 26. This allows for additional professional development time for teachers and staff prior to students arriving to prepare for the new school year.

Students will have 180 days of school rather than the previously approved 181. The new state mandate for 2020-2021 school year is 177 days. Three days have been provided so districts can focus on professional development for teachers and staff at the start of the school year. Although we are gaining the additional professional development days for staff, we feel it is important to not further reduce the total student school day count below 180.

February 12 and March 12, 2021 were originally planned for professional development days for staff (no school for students). These dates have been changed and are now both full student days.

The last scheduled day of school remains the same (June 17, 2021).

We will continue to keep you apprised of further updates and changes through our weekly notifications going out on Wednesday afternoons. If you checked the ELPS Parent Q&A yesterday afternoon, we referenced holding a Zoom informational call for parents which is scheduled for next Wednesday, August 5, at 5:00 p.m. with Central Office Administration to provide an overview of the Reopening Plan in its current state. The Zoom link can be found in the [ELPS Parent Q&A Update](#).

Sincerely,

Jeffrey R. Newton

Superintendent of Schools