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June 8, 2020

Dear Families,

After careful consideration, our IEA Reopening Task Force has decided to continue the Distance Learning model for the duration of our Extended School Year (ESY) program. ESY in a Distance Learning format will reconvene from July 6, 2020 to August 6, 2020, Monday through Thursday, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The factors informing our decision were the complex nature of maintaining a safe and educationally sound on-site environment, the complications of a hybrid model implementation given the time limitations of ESY, the market availability of personal protective equipment and sanitizing products, and the implementation of the Governor's Reopen Connecticut Task Force Draft Recommendations.

Thank you to all of you who completed our reopening survey. The response from staff and families was impressive and guided us in this decision and allowed our families to have a significant voice in the ESY program for their child. The results were quite clear: 44% of our staff preferred Distance Learning, 27% preferred a Hybrid Model, 17% preferred returning On-Site, and 12% had no preference. For parents, 43% preferred Distance Learning, 20% preferred a Hybrid Model, 31% preferred returning On-Site, and 6% had no preference.

We will now have the summer to fully prepare the facility as well as the educational program in order to provide a safe, hybrid/phase-in model in the fall.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to wholeheartedly thank our families, staff and the entire IEA community for their patience and cooperation as we have navigated educating our IEA students since March. Distance learning requires a substantial investment from both staff and families, and we are so grateful that everyone has embraced this model so whole-heartedly. We could not be nearly as successful without your tremendous support during these uncertain times. Thank you.

We are very anxious to see everyone back, face to face, sometime this fall.

Stay well,

Jeff Forman
Executive Director

Michelle Andrews
Director of Education

Tracy Barbour
Assistant Director of Education

Intensive Education Academy, Inc.

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