

RTA Resolution To Keep Our Students Safe

Adopted by the RTA Representative Assembly
November 2, 2020

WHEREAS, the health and safety of our students and their educators are paramount to us during the current COVID-19 pandemic, literally a matter of life and death, and

WHEREAS, schools can become centers for spreading COVID-19 infection to our students, educators, families and communities during a period complicated by the flu season and the already-rising rate of transmission, and

WHEREAS, the majority of parents of our students and the overwhelming majority of educators remain opposed to resuming at-school and in-person instruction for their children during the most dangerous phase of the pandemic, and

WHEREAS, our school district mostly heeded the collective wisdom of parents and educators and determined to continue remote teaching and learning and to postpone at-school and in-person instruction until no earlier than the end of the first semester of the 2020-2021 school year, and

WHEREAS, the District also plans to transition on January 4, 2021, to at-school and in-person instruction for certain specialized programs (NYSAA, ASD and GEM) in Special Education, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that we support the District's decision to remain remote until at least the end of the first semester of the current school year, and be it further

RESOLVED, that, in regards to the District's plan to return some students and RTA bargaining unit members, to resume at-school and in-person instruction of some specialized programs in Special Education as of January 4, 2021, the RTA negotiate with the District the terms and conditions including, but not limited to, staffing and accommodation of RTA bargaining unit members, or their family members, with underlying health conditions, and be it further

RESOLVED, that we urge the District to put in additional protection measures for our NYSAA, ASD and GEM students with underlying health concerns, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the RTA secure independent and expert inspection of all facilities to be used for in-person instruction including, but not limited to, ventilation, cleanliness and the availability of Personal Protective Equipment, and be it finally

RESOLVED, that we support any transition to at-school and in-person instruction in our District only when it is safe to do so without jeopardizing the health and lives of our students and their educators.

