



October 22, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

This letter is a follow-up to yesterday's announcement by Governor Cuomo designating a large portion of Chemung County as orange and yellow focus zones due to COVID-19 infection rates. As stated in our message yesterday, we had hoped to open our schools to hybrid learning next week. However, the state's new restriction overrides our intent to reopen.

Due to this state designation, six of our seven schools are required to continue remote instruction. The following schools are closed to in-person learning: Center Street, Gardner Road, Ridge Road, Intermediate School, Middle School, and High School. GST BOCES Bush Campus and special education host sites are also closed to in-person learning at this time. This includes CTE and New Visions programs for high school students at the Bush Campus. However, if BOCES programs are open in other areas of the region, students in these programs may attend with their own transportation.

Big Flats Elementary School is currently not in a state-designated orange or yellow zone. As a result, Big Flats will re-open for in-person hybrid learning on Monday, October 26. Big Flats parents and guardians will receive more information from the school before Monday.

At this time, we do not know when our six schools may reopen to in-person learning. We are solely under the direction of the Governor and NYS Department of Health in terms of any transitioning of zones or reopening of schools affected by the Governor's directives. Governor Cuomo indicated that he would revisit the data 14 days from the date of closing. Future directives from the state could change color zones for any of our schools at any time. We will follow these directives as we receive them and will communicate any changes accordingly. For more information on the state designations, please go to this link: <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-details-covid-19-micro-cluster-metrics>.

During this closure to in-person learning, our Food Service and Transportation departments will continue to provide meals for those who would like to participate. For more information, please call (607) 739-5601, x3671 or email dobrian@gstboces.org. Our Transportation Department, by law, will be transporting hybrid learning students to Big Flats, private schools, and BOCES programs in our region that are allowed to be open or continue to have students in-person under the Governor's directives.

Again, we had hoped to reopen our schools to hybrid learning, but we are under the direction of the state. We thank you for your cooperation and understanding, and we ask that you contact your school's main office if you have questions or concerns about your child's education, including technology and social emotional support. Technology questions can also be sent using [this form](#) or by leaving a message at (607) 481-2850.

Sincerely,

Dr. Thomas J. Douglas, Superintendent of Schools

More Information:

[District Plan](#)

[itslearning](#)

[Social Emotional Support](#)

[Technology](#)