



Tolland Public Schools  
Superintendent Willett's Weekly Brief

Where Excellence Is Achieved Through Each Individual's Success

UPDATE FOR March 2, 2021

CLICK BELOW for the individual BACKPACK for each school:

- [BG](#)
- [TIS](#)
- [TMS](#)
- [THS](#)

Here for you: 860-335-2455

[Also see the Tolland Pandemic Continuity of Learning website](#)

COVID REPORTING LINK & NUMBER: ->  
[WHAT SHOULD I DO TO LET THE SCHOOL KNOW – CLICK HERE](#)

Please [complete the TPS COVID form](#)

And/or call 1-860-969-9597

**PLEASE SEE THE PANDEMIC EDUCATION OPTIONS STARTING MARCH 29<sup>TH</sup>**

**THE TOLLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS WILL BE GOING TO**

**5 DAY IN PERSON LEARNING**

**Please see the details [here](#):**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1eI0pKgx2pvKIAAxK-Libw1WALKTp82aC/view?usp=sharing>

### SUPERINTENDENT VIRTUAL OPEN FORUM / OFFICE HOURS

- Virtual Coffee / Open Office / Open Forum with the Superintendent
- Monthly on the first Wednesday of the month

**10:00 am**

**Ask questions, express concerns, and talk about the school's pandemic status, budget, or needs.**

March 3, 2021  
April 7, 2021  
May 5, 2021  
June 2, 2021

Topic: Superintendent Virtual Open Forum / Office Hours

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87375511973?pwd=eTZGUEZzNDlaYkl6N3lxdnA3U1prZz09>

Meeting ID: 873 7551 1973

Passcode: 5sC9ud

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,87375511973#,,,,,0#,,496017# US (Chicago)

+19294362866,,87375511973#,,,,,0#,,496017# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 873 7551 1973

Passcode: 496017

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87375511973?pwd=eTZGUEZzNDlaYkl6N3lxdnA3U1prZz09>

**the SCERTS (Social Communication, Emotional Regulation, Transactional Support) framework Presentation**

***WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3rd WORKSHOP OPPORTUNITY! - ZOOM MEETING***

***7:00 PM***

***REGISTER BELOW***

The Tolland Public Schools is offering this brief workshop to introduce the **SCERTS (Social Communication, Emotional Regulation, Transactional Support) framework**, its components, and guiding principles. The SCERTS Model is a comprehensive, multidisciplinary educational approach designed for autistic individuals. This model is not exclusive of other treatment approaches and educational methodologies, but rather provides a framework for implementing a comprehensive educational plan that is based on our knowledge of the core developmental challenges faced by children with ASD, family-centered care, and our knowledge of the recommended tenets of educational programming. Emphasis will be placed upon discussing the Emotional / Energy Regulation component of the model, as this is a critical foundation for active participation in home and school. Factors influencing and means of supporting emotional regulation are explored from both a first-person autistic perspective, as well as developmental perspective.

Autism Level UP! is a collaboration between two developmental psychologists- one neurotypical and the other neurodivergent. Our philosophy is that through education, accessible resources, practical strategies and a commitment to consistently incorporating the experiences

and perspectives of autistic people, we can support the leveling up of society when it comes to autism and neurodiversity.

- Dr. Amy Laurent is a co-author of the SCERTS Model and frequently lectures around the globe. She is passionate about neurodiversity and helping others to honor and understand the implications of "different ways of being" in relation to navigating the physical and social world.
- 
- Dr. Jacquelyn Fede is an Assistant Research Professor at the University of Rhode Island and an autistic self advocate. She uses her experience to mentor other autistics and to help educate others about autism through lecturing, blogging and consulting on evaluation projects.

**[REGISTER BY CLICKING HERE:](#)**

**[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScEXIdnvVL3qI3OEbRAEshUR-2\\_7NdOunRL-jrA7F7BP\\_84NA/viewform?usp=sf link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScEXIdnvVL3qI3OEbRAEshUR-2_7NdOunRL-jrA7F7BP_84NA/viewform?usp=sf_link)**

QUESTIONS:

Please contact Superintendent Willett @ 860-870-6850 extension 1.

### **Inclement Weather Remote Learning Days**

As announced on or around December 14, 2020 the Tolland Public Schools were to have *three* traditional "snow days" for inclement weather with no schoolwork expected. We have had three to this point.

Subsequent inclement weather days (beyond the three) during the 2020-2021 year will be considered **inclement weather remote learning days**. Due to the unique characteristics of each "weather related" day (power outages and other possible challenges) teachers will do their best to post lessons in advance, and the day will follow the same structure as an asynchronous learning day. Lessons will contain content that can be completed under inclement weather conditions. **The schedule will follow the typical asynchronous learning day (Wednesday) schedule.** Please contact your child's teacher with any specific questions about the "snow day" or inclement weather remote learning day lessons specific to their class(es).

Any PPTs and 504 meetings will be rescheduled if they fall on Inclement Weather Remote Learning days.

Speech and Language, OT/PT, and other such appointments will be rescheduled if they fall on Inclement Weather Remote Learning days.

**Vaccinations**

**The Governor provided a press release:**

<https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/News/Press-Releases/2021/02-2021/Governor-Lamont-Announces-Connecticut-Will-Continue-Age-Based-Approach-To-COVID-Vaccine>

Public Educators will have vaccines available as of March 1<sup>st</sup> (as will those aged 55 and older)

**Parents/Guardians:**

Please see this important information regarding YOU TUBE:

[https://tolland.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/it/EawXo4H6JYRHmjkIS-7G5oMBvpS\\_20DDTEoVD2vKNJZzhA?e=es1MOR](https://tolland.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/it/EawXo4H6JYRHmjkIS-7G5oMBvpS_20DDTEoVD2vKNJZzhA?e=es1MOR)

**COVID – 19 Testing Centers – [Click Here](#)**

**2021-2022 Incoming Kindergarten Registration**

Welcome to Tolland Public Schools where Excellence is Achieved Through Each Individual’s Success and welcome to Birch Grove Primary School, located at 247 Rhodes Road in Tolland, CT.

Birch Grove Primary School will host the 2021-2022 Kindergarten online parent information meeting on March 3, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. This virtual informational meeting is for parents and guardians of students entering Kindergarten in the fall of 2021.

Please do not try to register before March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

WHEN REGISTERING, IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU BE SURE TO REGISTER ON THE 2021-2022 LINK AND NOT THE 2020-2021 LINK. REGISTRATIONS CANNOT BE MOVED FROM YEAR TO YEAR.

Please visit <http://www.bgp.tolland.k12.ct.us/> for presentation on March 3 at 7:00 pm.

**Approved 2021 – 2022 School Calendar – [Click Here](#)**

**Notes from the Director of Nursing @ TPS:**

If your child exhibited symptoms of COVID, or was identified as a close contact for COVID, or had tested positive for COVID during the break and/or remote learning period [please make sure to submit that information into the TPS COVID form](#), and keep the school nurse at your child’s school up to date with any changes to their health status. Please do not send your student back to school if they are ill, if they have had recent contact with a known

positive COVID individual or if they have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 10 days. Your student may return with authorization from the school as long as they have not shown any of these symptoms within the past **ten (10) days**: cough, shortness of breath, chills, fever, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue or body aches, or loss of sense of taste/smell.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping keep all safe, and school in session.

#### 10 Day Quarantine Information from the Nurse

We are now over a year since the first COVID cases began in the United States. Everyone is fatigued and we continue to learn each day how to adapt to measures that had never been in place prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In Tolland our students have been amazing throughout the 2020-21 school year in maintaining great practices of mitigation against virus spread. Our students wear their masks, remain distanced from their friends and practice daily effective hand hygiene while at school. These same measures must be practiced outside of school as well. We know parents are doing the best they can in what can only be described as challenging times.

Very little has changed about what we know of the transmission of COVID-19 (respiratory droplet) and the time of infectious period (10 days) and the time of quarantine period (best practice is 14 days).

What has changed is the CDC guidance, adopted by CT DPH, and EHHD to allow for a shortened time of quarantine at home. The shortened time at home is based on lower incidence of symptoms developing on days 11, 12, 13, & 14.

Because of this guidance we will be decreasing the time at home for close contacts of known positive cases. The time frame begins the **next day** after LAST DAY OF CONTACT with the positive person.

What you will now be able to do when your student has been identified as a close contact is send your student back to school after making a daily report on days 11, 12, 13 & 14. You will be provided with a link to a form to do this each day.

Some reminders:

**Isolation** is for the person who is COVID positive. This person MUST isolate from others for 10 days while infectious. (Day 1 is first day AFTER symptoms began or AFTER a positive COVID test). Sometimes it is not possible for a person to isolate from others.

**Quarantine** is for the healthy person who was exposed to the COVID positive person. This quarantine period is 14 days for potential infection to develop. (Now will be reduced to 10 at home and 4 at school with reporting of no symptoms) Quarantine the **next day** after LAST DAY OF CONTACT with the positive person.

Should you have any questions, please reach out to your school nurse or myself. Paula Feyerharm, MA, RN, Nurse Coordinator 860.870.6891 or pfeyerharm@tolland.k12.ct.us

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/COVID-19/Addendum-5-Interim-Guidance-for-Responding-to-COVID-19-Scenarios-in-CT-School-Districts.pdf>

Birch Grove Primary School Pre-School Registration Information-

[Click Here](#)

Tolland Family Resource Center Preschool & Childcare Fair –

[Click Here](#)

Please see the [TPS Pandemic Continuity of Learning Plan Site](#) for information and resources.

### **News from the Nutrition Department**

Remote meals and distribution are available this Wednesday, January 27th even though school is not in session.

School meals are available during remote learning days and on weekends. These meals are made available through USDA funding and are no charge to you. By participating in this meal program, you are supporting the school district and our community in many ways. Please see the attached flyer for more information.

**To watch video on Free Meals**

[Click Here](#)

Information on Free Meals-[Click Here](#)

**COVID Testing - For your convenience, and in partnership toward keeping our schools open and safe**

Please note the COVID testing made available through our Tolland and EHHD partnership:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UcGQYf7FhQcDYxWpIVCuET9bpIT6m9\\_q/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UcGQYf7FhQcDYxWpIVCuET9bpIT6m9_q/view?usp=sharing)

### COVID REPORTING

In order to provide a more efficient and streamlined process for reporting illness that presents with COVID 19-like symptoms, and to preserve confidentiality, we ask that you use the COVID symptom reporting form: [Please click here.](#)

The symptoms of fever, feeling feverish or chills, developing a new cough, having difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, and loss of taste or smell should immediately be reported using the form and any afflicted person with these symptoms should call in a sick day (please see below) and report using the COVID form. Having a COVID test is highly recommended when these symptoms are present. Other symptoms you should report on the COVID form are illnesses with multiple symptoms of any kind, and close contacts that are COVID-positive or ill. A person with multiple symptoms should also receive a COVID test to rule out this virus.

If you know that you or a family member has an alternative diagnosis for the presenting symptoms you do not need to fill out the COVID form. If you or a family member has multiple symptoms but has already received an alternative diagnosis (a doctor informed you or the afflicted the issue was something other than COVID), please share the alternative diagnosis and provide documentation upon return to school.

If you are provided information or become aware of a person or student with COVID symptoms or a positive test, **do not forward that information to an education team, staff member, or any other person. Please inform a school nurse, or complete the TPS COVID form.** This is for privacy considerations and therefore is the professional expectation of all staff members.

### List of COVID testing sites

The complete list of testing sites across the state can be found at <https://www.211ct.org/covidtesting>. Note that users can filter to show locations that offer pediatric testing as well. Additionally, the state has contracts with some testing partners; part of the contract is a requirement for *lab turnaround times not to exceed 48 hours from receipt of sample to test result*. This contractual obligation applies to any testing event held by these partners that is open to the community (therefore, for example, the contractual obligation applies to community events open to the public for free testing but does not apply to pre-procedure testing). We hope that this information is helpful.

### MESSAGE FROM THE TPS DIRECTOR OF NURSING

To all parents/ guardians, although many of you report directly to your student's teacher for any absence of your student, **instead please make direct calls to the absence reporting line** at your child's respective school **or speak with the school nurse directly.**

This would be for normal illness or doctor's appointments that may have students out for a partial or full day, and to report any COVID-like symptoms.

**If your student is experiencing any one of these symptoms:**

- difficulty breathing,
- fever 100 F or greater
- feeling feverish or having chills
- uncontrolled cough, or
- loss of sense of smell or taste

This would be an concern for COVID, **please call the school nurse** and [complete the COVID response form](#). Your student will need a negative COVID test result, an alternative diagnosis, or isolation from school for 10 days. Any one of these symptoms and the school nurse will contact you for immediate pick up from school should they develop at school.

If your student has two or more of the following symptoms: fatigue, muscle aches, headache, congestion/runny nose, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting or sore throat you should report those to your student's school nurse and plan for COVID testing or 10-day isolation.

### **NURSE CONTACTS**

Report a potential COVID-19 exposure or illness-[Click Here](#)

THS: 860.870.6838 Cindy Davidson RN or Karen Lewis RN

TMS: 860.870.6868 Laura Dolcelli RN or Janet Sullivan LPN

TIS:860.870.6891 Paula Feyerharm RN or Susan Trimble LPN

BGP 860.870.6755 Kelly Maurice RN or Angie Bolduc LPN

Report a potential COVID-19 exposure or illness-[Click Here](#)

### Attendance Lines

BGP 860-870-6755 Extension 1

TIS 860-870-6891 Extension 1

TMS 860-870-6868 Extension 1

THS 860-870-6838 Extension 1

### **SNOW and INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES**

[Please see the INCLEMENT WEATHER REMOTE LEARNING DAY procedure as well](#)

### Inclement Weather Remote Learning Day

*As announced on or around December 14, 2020 the Tolland Public Schools were to have three traditional "snow days" for inclement weather with no schoolwork expected.*

*Subsequent inclement weather days (beyond the three) during the 2020-2021 year will be considered **inclement weather remote learning days**. Due to the unique characteristics of each "weather related" day (power outages and other possible challenges) teachers will do their best to post lessons in advance, and the day will follow the same structure as an asynchronous learning day. Lessons will contain content that can be completed under inclement weather conditions. **The schedule will follow the typical asynchronous learning day (Wednesday) schedule.** Please contact your child's teacher with any specific questions about the "snow day" or inclement weather remote learning day lessons specific to their class(es).*

### Other information:

Dear Parent or Guardian:



I want to take this opportunity to inform you of the District's procedures regarding school closings, delays, and early dismissals.

The decision to change school schedules is made after careful review of information collected from the local police, highway, school maintenance departments, and a local weather service. Road conditions, sidewalk status, precipitation, temperatures, and forecasts are considered when making a determination to delay or close schools. In some circumstances, a delay may be upgraded to a school closing. Information related to delayed openings and school closures is broadcasted on television and radio stations typically by approximately 5:45 a.m. The safety of our children is the priority factor in all decision making.

#### **BLACKBOARD CONNECT 5**

The *Blackboard Connect 5* communication system is a telephone messaging service that the district uses that enables us to personally communicate with parents and staff regarding emergency situations, school closings and delays, school events and other important issues impacting you and your children. It is imperative that you keep a current emergency telephone number listed at your child's school building. In the event of an early dismissal or delay, a Blackboard message will be broadcast to all families by 5:45 a.m. During an emergency or weather-related incident, calls will be made through the emergency mode to all student numbers in the Blackboard system.

#### **DELAYED OPENINGS**

- This year we will utilize a two (2) hour delay. The message you receive will inform you as to the length of the delay.
- In the event of a two (2) hour delay, am preschool classes will be cancelled.
- Buses will arrive at stops approximately 90 minutes (1 ½ hours) or two (2) hours later than the usual time.

#### **EARLY DISMISSAL**

- An announcement will be made on the radio and television stations, generally prior to 11:00 a.m.
- The high school is usually released at approximately 10:45 a.m. Tolland Middle School is released at 11:45 pm and Tolland Intermediate and Birch Grove Primary School are released at 12:45 pm. (Please note that unusual circumstances may dictate an early dismissal before those given times)
- There are no p.m. pre-school classes on early dismissal days.

In the event of school closings or early dismissals, all sporting events and student activities will be cancelled.

#### **TRANSPORTATION REGULATIONS**

Students in grades PreK-5 will be returned to school in the event an adult is not present at the bus stop to meet them unless you have signed the bus stop release form.

#### **ALL STORM ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Announcements will be made on the following TV Stations:

WTNH  
WFSB  
WVIT  
WTIC

It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to monitor weather related delays, closings, and early dismissals and to cooperate with school personnel as we work to ensure student safety.

#### **TOLLAND FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER'S INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES**

**If the Tolland Public Schools is closed due to inclement weather, then the Tolland Family Resource Center is closed.**

#### **Weather delays and early closings**

#### **School Age Care**

The Before School Program will follow the School System for delays:

\* 90 minutes delay the FRC opens at 8:30 a.m.

\* 2 hour delay the FRC opens at 9:00 a.m. for children registered in the before school program for that day. (This is to allow enough time for the parking lot and sidewalks to be treated)

**Early Dismissal**

When there is an early dismissal due to inclement weather, the FRC will close at 3:45 p.m. However, if Birch Grove and Tolland Intermediate School close before 1:20 p.m. then FRC will close 2 hours after the end of school; example if Birch Gove closes at 11:00 a.m. then FRC will close at 1:00 p.m.

Late fees pick up fees apply on early dismissals.

**Preschool**

If Tolland Schools have a delayed opening due to weather, the three-year-old preschool will be cancelled. Four-Year-Old afternoon Preschool will start at 12:00 p.m. as usual.

If Tolland Schools have an early dismissal, the afternoon Four-Year-Old Preschool will be cancelled.

**Play groups** are cancelled on delays or early closings.

Please remember to call if your child will not be attending.

My primary consideration is always the safety of our children. If parents feel conditions are unsafe, they should use their discretion and keep their children at home. Here is hoping for warm and uneventful winter!

Sincerely,

Walter Willett, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

**Please see the Tolland Public School Pandemic Continuity of Learning Website:**

[Updates to the Tolland Public School Pandemic Continuity of Learning Site \(click here\)](#)

- **Confidential Covid-19 contact and illness reporting**
- Family and Student Technology Resources
- Technical Support
- Request a district Chromebook
- The Virtual Health Room
- School Meal Programs during the Pandemic
- The Tolland Public School Pandemic Continuity of Learning Plan
- Registration links for remote learning options

Can also be accessed by going to:

[http://www.tolland.k12.ct.us/DistrictOffices/superintendent/superintendent\\_willett\\_s\\_page](http://www.tolland.k12.ct.us/DistrictOffices/superintendent/superintendent_willett_s_page)  
And selecting TPS PCLP Website

**PLEASE REVIEW IF YOU ARE TRAVELING OUT OF STATE**

For TPS in adherence to the State of Connecticut requirements (please see below) - [if traveling to a state on the CT advisory list](#) for more than 24 hours your child (“any person”) will need to be tested and provide written documentation of your negative antigen or PCR test in order to return to school. No rapid test results will be accepted. If you should develop symptoms after travel, you will need to report those symptoms [using the COVID self reporting form](#). An additional quarantine can be added for positive symptoms or positive COVID test results. For any questions, please feel free to contact [pfeyerharm@tolland.k12.ct.us](mailto:pfeyerharm@tolland.k12.ct.us).

Please review the CT travel advisory before travel so you know what to expect upon return to CT.

<https://portal.ct.gov/coronavirus/travel>

- 1. How long is the self-quarantine?** The advisory requires visitors to Connecticut from Affected States or Affected Countries to self-quarantine for a period of fourteen ~~(14) days~~ (10) days from the time they were last in the Affected State or the Affected Country. If you board a plane in an Affected State or an Affected Country today, and land in Connecticut today, your ~~fourteen (14)~~ (10) days begins today. If you are in Connecticut for a period less than (10) days ~~fourteen (14) days~~, you should plan to be in self-quarantine throughout your visit. If you left an Affected State or an Affected Country and spent time in non-Affected States or non-Affected Countries prior to arriving in Connecticut, you start counting your ~~fourteen (14) day~~ (10) day period from the time you left the Affected State or Affected Country. Consequently, if only five (5) of those days are spent in Connecticut, you will need to self-quarantine in Connecticut for those five (5) days.
- 2. Can travelers be tested for COVID-19 instead of self-quarantine?** Yes, an Affected Traveler is exempt from the self-quarantine requirement if the Affected Traveler (1) has had a test for COVID-19 in the seventy-two (72) hours prior to arrival in Connecticut or at any time following arrival in Connecticut, (2) the result of such COVID-19 test is negative, and (3) he or she has provided written proof of such negative test result to the Commissioner via email to: [DPH.COVID-Travel@ct.gov](mailto:DPH.COVID-Travel@ct.gov) or via facsimile to: (860) 326-0529. If a test was obtained in the seventy-two (72) hours prior to arrival in Connecticut, or following arrival in Connecticut, and such Affected Traveler has not yet received his or her test results, such traveler shall remain in self-quarantine in Connecticut until a negative test result is submitted to the Commissioner. If the test result is positive and the traveler is asymptomatic, he or she shall self-isolate for ten (10) days from the date of the test; if symptomatic, he or she should seek medical assistance. Travelers who test positive for COVID-19 prior to traveling to Connecticut should delay such travel and consult with a medical professional. All Affected Travelers are required to complete the Travel Health Form.
- 3. What tests are acceptable for the testing option?** Nucleic acid tests such as reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) tests are the only acceptable testing option. Neither rapid antigen tests nor antibody tests for COVID-19 satisfy the testing requirement for the testing exemption.

Reminder-Mask Requirement reminder, **no gaiters, no bandanas,**

**3-ply masks required**



**HELP WANTED**

Food & Nutrition Services has openings for substitutes for this school year with the potential to move into a permanent part-time position. Join our team in serving nutritious healthy meals to our students and work only while your children are in school!

If interested, please contact Kim at [kmecteau@tolland.k12.ct.us](mailto:kmecteau@tolland.k12.ct.us) or 860-870-6854, Ext 1.



*[Check out the Superintendent's BLOG – with updates almost every day!](#)*

**NOTICE TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS REGARDING RULES AND GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION IN LIVE REMOTE INSTRUCTION**

[Please click here](#)



**[CONTACT THE SUPERINTENDENT:](#)**

**[\\* ask questions – set up a meeting - address other concerns](#)**