Return to School Buildings and Return to Work Questions
March 17, 2021

1. **Question:** For the January 6th questions I asked the school division clarification for SOLs and portion of the response from PWCS said, “The Division will work to put out additional communication to parents and students to ensure they understand the status of SOL testing.” Did the Division send clarification or communication that addresses the concerns of High School students as it pertains to these specific high stake tests. (Jackson)

**Answer:** A Division-wide email message detailing SOL requirements, changes, and timing, was sent to all relevant families on February 16. As usual, schools will be reaching out with communications on specific SOL tests that apply to their students.

2. **Question:** Normally in school clinicians screen students for hearing and eye tests. Are they conducting these screenings for students in person? If we are not conducting these screenings have we told parents that these screenings are not being done? (Jackson)

**Answer:** The screenings are currently being conducted for SPED students, as requested for eligibility. They are also planned for students in grades K, 3, 7, and 10 in accordance with Regulation 756-1, provided students are available for screening based on the parental decision to have them attend in-person. The Office of Student Health Services is preparing letters to allow schools to notify parents of planned screening sessions and their ability to opt-out if desired.

3. **Question:** Some teachers are concerned about Regulation 561-2. Their concerns are two fold (1) creating a month worth of lessons on CANVAS (the details of which are listed in the Resolution) and (2) a mandate on feedback time for assignments. Are teachers responsible for creating a month worth of lessons for this year on top of other responsibilities? When does do the requirements listed in this Resolution start? (Jackson)

**Answer:** In response to pandemic-related challenges, the Superintendent’s Staff recently changed the regulation to enable teachers to consider their workload and exercise their best judgment in providing the amount of material/advance assignments needed to support students. In lieu of the specific requirement of covering a month, the regulation now states:

“Teachers shall create, edit, maintain, and import classroom appropriate information on their learning management system pages with ample notice of assignments to allow students to develop time management skills, and to encourage good planning practices. Information should include assignments and their corresponding due dates, documents, and a calendar with important dates.”

Administrators and teachers will be advised of this new content using standard PWCS channels for communicating changes to regulations, including the regular Regulation RoundUp.

In considering teacher workload, it is also important to note that earlier this year the Superintendent reduced the minimum number of student grades that teachers are required to record to six for each subject taken in each of the four marking periods and summer school. Exceptions were also made for music, physical education, and art, for which they must only record a minimum of four grades.