

Miller Place Union Free School District

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July 20, 2020

RE: Remote Learning Platform - Microsoft 365 to Google Classroom

Dear Parents, Guardians and Staff,

I am writing to inform you that the District will be changing software platforms to host our distance learning program from Microsoft 365 to Google Classroom. On Thursday, July 16, 2020 the Board of Education made the decision to switch from Microsoft 365 to Google Classroom beginning with the 2020-21 school year for our K-12 instructional programs. The District is in the process of terminating our agreement regarding Microsoft 365.

After launching Microsoft 365 as the distance learning platform in March 2020, several challenges presented themselves that resulted in complications for instruction and learning. The District remains concerned regarding Microsoft's ability to rectify some of their operating problems for us to continue to use the Microsoft 365 distance learning platform. When first selecting a platform, Microsoft 365 provided assurances for Ed Law 2-D, that they would not sell student data and offered security measures regarding cloud based storage security. In addition, Microsoft 365 is well suited to transition to the college and workplace environments for our graduating students. At the time of selecting a platform, Google Classroom did not provide Ed Law 2-D assurances. Since then, Google Classroom has stated they will protect student privacy and will adhere to Ed. Law 2-d compliance.

Moving forward with Google Classroom, the District has identified the following course of actions that will be needed regarding implementation:

- a. Complete legal agreements and licenses.
- b. Designing and scheduling an August 2020 in-person staff development schedule for all faculty and administrators.
- c. Preparing and disseminating staff and laptops that are equipped with the appropriate software programs.
- d. Designing and implementing staff, student and parent training for the Google Classroom remote learning management program.

As of today, 1,900 of the 2,800 laptops ordered for students and staff have been delivered to the District and we are beginning the process of configuring them for Google Classroom instruction.

We appreciate your anticipated cooperation and patience as we continue to improve our student learning practices.

Sincerely,

Dr. Marianne F. Cartisano
Superintendent of Schools