

ATLANTIC CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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Barry S. Caldwell
Superintendent

August 21, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

After cautious consideration, administration of a variety of surveys, meetings with local superintendents and planning with the District's Reopening Committee, I am announcing that the Atlantic City School District plans to begin the 2020-2021 school year with fully remote instruction in order to reduce the risk of exposing our students to conditions that may place them in danger of being in contact with, spreading or contracting the Coronavirus.

The district previously planned to reopen using a hybrid model combining remote and in-person instruction. Governor Murphy's announcement last week that districts could reopen on a fully remote schedule prompted myself and the District's Reopening Committee to rethink the model for opening our schools. Due to the Coronavirus, we feel that it is necessary to enhance ventilation in our school buildings. We will be installing special filters and adjusting ventilation systems and air-flow throughout the district's buildings. It is our intention that these changes be completed in time for transition back to the originally proposed hybrid model in November, at the end of the first marking period. At the end of the first marking period, we will review available science and Coronavirus conditions as we plan to shift to the hybrid model. We have made every effort to prepare for a safe opening.

The decision to begin the year fully remote has been extremely difficult because we have been eager to bring students back to the classrooms. Understand that the health and safety of our staff and students remain the priority. The District has already ordered the necessary personal protective equipment, including distancing and directional signage, no-touch thermometers, walk-through body temperature scanners, disinfectant supplies, masks, shields, gloves and acrylic barriers for all buildings. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation throughout these challenging times.

Be safe and stay healthy.

Sincerely,

Barry S. Caldwell