

MEMORANDUM

To: All APS Families

From: Dr. Lisa Herring, Superintendent

Date: March 5, 2021

Subject: Intent-to-Return Declarations, Cluster Conversations Series, Health Services App, Volunteers for Vaccinations, Spectators for Spring Sports, and Other Updates

This month, Atlanta Public Schools (APS) celebrates National Reading Month. The month kicked off Monday with Read Across America Day, which is designed to encourage children of all ages to read **every day**. APS is doing just that and more with our Race2Read campaign.

We have partnered with the Urban League of Greater Atlanta to help develop a city that reads. Collectively, APS students, staff and community stakeholders are challenged to read more than 10 million minutes.

Literacy is the most vital of educational skills, so this month is really aimed at giving students a chance to improve their reading skills. Additionally, if we encourage our students to read every single day this month, by the end of the month, reading should become a daily habit. You can join our Race2Read campaign at Race2Read.org!

Intent to Return

In preparation for the final nine weeks of the school year, families have until Monday, March 8, to update their Intent-to-Return declarations. If a parent does not complete the form by March 8, the student will remain in their current instructional learning model, whether it be site-based virtual learning, face-to-face instruction, or Atlanta Virtual Academy.

Because more students may be returning to schools, schools with 60% or more of their current enrollment selecting to return to in-person learning will have the flexibility to implement a hybrid model of instruction. Schools that will transition to a hybrid model must notify parents of the new school schedule by Friday, March 12th.

This schedule and process help us safely mitigate for health and safety.

Cluster Conversations

Next week, I will start a series of virtual Cluster Conversations in partnership with members of the Atlanta Board of Education. We will go from cluster to cluster to share our strategic vision for Atlanta Public Schools and engage in a dialogue with students, families, and staff about reimagining the future for education in Atlanta.

The conversations will be held from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., according to the following schedule.

DATE	CLUSTER
March 8, 2021	Carver
March 9, 2021	Mays
March 10, 2021	Douglass
March 15, 2021	Jackson
March 16, 2021	Washington
March 17, 2021	North Atlanta
March 22, 2021	Grady
March 23, 2021	South Atlanta
March 24, 2021	Therrell

We have spent much of the school year working toward preparations for virtual teaching and learning and the eventual reopening of our schools and buildings. Now I want to turn the focus on our future and doing the next steps toward ensuring that EVERY student graduates ready for college, career, and life. Keep engaged to learn when we have our conversation with YOUR cluster. You can register and find additional information here:

www.atlantapublicschools.us/2021ClusterConversations

Health Services App

We are excited about a new partnership with Stratum Health Solutions that includes HealthCheck, an online tool that allows the parents of in-person students to submit daily health screening information to schools.

Daily health screenings and temperature assessments have been the norm since in-person instruction resumed this semester. The HealthCheck screener simplifies the process and allows parents to respond to the four required daily health screening questions quickly and easily before their student reports to school.

Look for additional information about HealthCheck to come from your school by Monday, March 8. On Tuesday, March 9, parents who declared that their student would return to learn in-

person for the third quarter will receive user account and activation emails from HealthCheck. Once you receive those emails, follow the directions to activate your account. Starting Monday, March 22, we are asking all parents of in-person students to use HealthCheck to screen students each morning.

Parents, we can't do this without you; your partnership in this effort will help to ensure that our APS schools and community remain healthy and safe.

Volunteers for COVID-19 Vaccinations

We have worked closely with the Fulton County Board of Health to support vaccination events for all APS teachers. Through our partnership, more than 8,000 allocations have been requested to ensure that all staff who want the vaccine can get them. Plans are underway for an APS Vaccination Event to be held in mid-to-late March.

In the meantime, we need volunteers! If you wish to volunteer to help at the vaccination events that are being planned, please check www.signupgenius.com/go/GetVaccinatedAPS for updates.

Spectators for Spring Sports

Finally, I want to share that APS now allows a limited number of spectators for athletic events this spring.

Masks will be required for all spectators at any APS-sponsored event, whether it be on each individual campus or at one of the shared APS facilities at Crim, Lakewood, and Grady. All fans will be required to participate in normal screening protocols, including the answering of screening questions and temperature checks, prior to entering spectator areas.

Stadiums at Lakewood and Grady can accommodate about 30% capacity this spring, and crowds at school sites are limited to about 200-250 fans, depending on the venue.

Fans will be expected to socially distance themselves at all times during spring athletic contests. Schools will be able to have concessions at their events. However, they are only to use pre-packaged food. No open grilling or cooking will be allowed at this time on any school campuses for spring sporting events.

Stay safe as you root for your favorite teams!

Thanks as always for your engagement and support! Please stay healthy and be well.

Yours in Service,

Dr. Lisa Herring