

## MEMORANDUM

To: All APS Families

From: Dr. Lisa Herring, Superintendent

Date: October 2, 2020

Subject: Preparing for our Phase II Reopening: Return+Learn

I want to continue to keep you fully informed as we move closer toward our Atlanta Public Schools (APS) Phase II reopening on October 26. We will be discussing the reopening plan at the Atlanta Board of Education meeting on Monday, October 5, beginning at 2:30 p.m. and at our community town hall on Thursday, October 8 at 6 p.m. I invite you to join us for those discussions.

### Upcoming Board Meeting and Virtual Town Hall

You can watch the Board meeting live or on-demand on the Board's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/apsboard>. Our town hall will be streamed live and be available on-demand on the district's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/AtlantaPublicSchools>. Remember, a Facebook account is not required to view our meetings and town halls.

### Visit our Reopen Webpage for Information

I also encourage you to stay in the know by visiting our reopening webpage at <https://www.atlantapublicschools.us/reopen>. There you will find lots of information related to our reopening plans, including our instructional models, safety and cleaning protocols, nutrition, transportation, and other details.

### Families Can Choose from Three Instructional Models

It's important to me to acknowledge that we recognize there are different opinions across the community about our reopening plan. I want you to know that we are focused on providing our families with the ability to choose what approach works best for them and their needs.

Some families wish to stay virtual. That option is available in our plan. We also recognize that there are families who have the capacity to consider face-to-face instruction. They can choose that option as well. We are ready to receive individuals regardless of what option they select.

As we move into Phase II and later stages of Return+Learn, we are providing students and families with three instructional model options.



Designed for families who don't feel comfortable sending their children back to school but ultimately plan to rejoin their enrolled school in the future.

Based on the number of parents who choose this option, the local school will work to provide a virtual option for students.

First, we have the Virtual Instructional Model, which is currently in place and is designed for families who don't feel comfortable sending their children back to school but plan to remain with their current school for the rest of the school year.

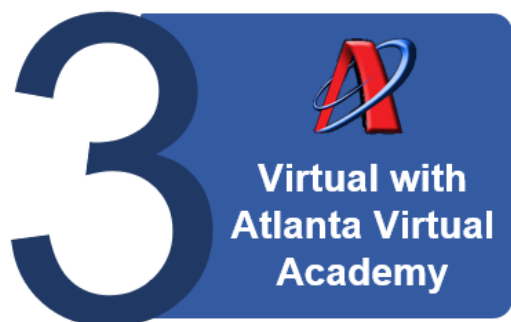
Second, we have in-person instruction in our schools, which is designed for our families who feel comfortable with returning their students to a face-to-face, in-school environment.

Third, we offer virtual instruction through Atlanta Virtual Academy and Atlanta Virtual Academy Jr., which is designed for our families who wish for their students to remain in a virtual environment regardless of how we shift delivery models at our local schools.



Designed for families who feel comfortable with returning their students to a face-to-face, in-school environment.

It provides the opportunity for students to return to campus and interact directly – but safely – with their teachers and classmates.



Designed for families who wish to remain in the virtual environment regardless of shifts in delivery models at the local school.

Based on current COVID-19 health data for the APS community and because of safety measures and protocols we have in

place, I am encouraged that we can start allowing some students to return for in-person learning beginning October 26. These student groups include:

- Students with disabilities attending low incidence programs including our regional, self-contained classes, and
- Some of our elementary students in traditional APS schools.

At this time, we plan to allow students whose families are comfortable with face-to-face teaching and learning to come for four days of in-person instruction each week. All other students would remain in virtual instruction either in their home school or Atlanta Virtual Academy.

Of course, all of these proposed models and timelines remain contingent upon health data and stakeholder feedback. If public health data trends unfavorably, a return to a full virtual model may be warranted at any time.

### **Complete the Intent to Return Declaration Form By October 12**

We need to know which instructional models each of our families want for their students for the rest of the school semester. This week, we sent an Intent to Return Declaration form to every family. You can also access it at <https://dig.apsgraphs.com/ITR/>. We need all of our families to complete the form so that we have accurate numbers about students planning a return to in-person instruction as their primary option. This data is critical in creating schedules, assigning students, and developing plans for the rest of the school semester.

The form defaults to virtual instruction; therefore, if a parent declines to fill out the form before the October 12 deadline, the form will indicate that your student will remain in the virtual instructional model they are currently in, whether it is with their school or with Atlanta Virtual Academy.

I look forward to your continued engagement and I want to hear from you, especially during our community virtual town hall on October 8 at 6 p.m. Thank you for your patience during this pandemic, and, as always, please be well.

Yours in Service,

Dr. Lisa Herring