

# Public Comments for Virtual School Board Meetings #188

<b>I would like to provide: *</b>	Written Public Comments
<b>My public comments are related to:</b>	Virtual+ Plus Learning
<b>Topic *</b>	Returning to school
<b>Full Name *</b>	Heather Elkins
<b>What is your relationship to ACPS? *</b>	Parent/Guardian of an ACPS Student

**Enter your comments here OR  
upload below:**

Dear Dr. Hutchings and Members of the School Board,

As a parent, I am writing to ask that ACPS make a realistic and feasible plan to return to in-person school. I have a second grader and a kindergartener at Charles Barrett. Remote learning is unacceptable for my family as my husband and I both work and we cannot support our boys' learning online. Thus, we have to pay for daily tutoring that we cannot afford. Luckily, we can provide support for our kids, but my heart breaks for those who cannot make the same sacrifices for their children.

Families need a choice!

I am extremely concerned about the impact of prolonged school closure on my children. My second grader is falling behind and my kindergartener is missing out on crucial social development. My kindergartener also wants to learn how to read and write, but he can't learn how to properly hold a pencil or write through virtual learning. Both of my kids are desperate to interact with their teachers and classmates. Their questions go unanswered because they cannot raise their hands, have a conversation, or have something explained. Even with promising news about the vaccine, there is no evidence to suggest that the virus will disappear any time soon and that children will be prioritized to receive the vaccine. As such, ACPS needs a plan to get students back into the classroom regardless. We appreciate that this is an admittedly unpleasant reality, however we have to make in-person education a priority. All other aspects of life have adjusted, and education should be the first, not the last, to follow suit.

Additionally, science has become increasingly clear that children and schools are not the primary source for COVID community transmission and therefore, staff and students who want to, can and should return to school. School systems throughout the world, the country, daycares,

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and private schools in Alexandria continue to stay open and operate safely.

Families need a choice for their children. I ask that ACPS children have the same opportunity to return to school this year or they will be left behind.

Respectfully,  
Heather Lifmann Elkins

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