

# Public Comments for Virtual School Board Meetings #161

<b>I would like to provide: *</b>	Written Public Comments
<b>My public comments are related to:</b>	Virtual+ Plus Learning
<b>Topic *</b>	Youngest learners need in person instruction beginning in Q2
<b>Full Name *</b>	AMY FORD
<b>What is your relationship to ACPS? *</b>	Parent/Guardian of an ACPS Student
<b>Enter your comments here OR upload below:</b>	<p>Kids in ACPS deserve a clearer and thoughtful re-opening plan.</p> <p>Our kids are struggling. Mental health challenges are exacerbated. Kids specifically in K-2 desperately need person instruction – even if it's modified.</p> <p>Our family acknowledges the health risks, AND feels there are enough lessons learned from day cares, camps, and various other currently available childcare options to implement common sense measures that can enable in person learning. It may not be perfect, and there is some risk, but our 6 year old child is falling so drastically behind in a virtual environment, and most critically upsetting, is he's internalizing his struggles and feels guilt and shame for not being able to keep up with Zoom ALL day, or manage his supplies and materials effectively, or connect a positive association with school. We're expecting WAY TOO much of our kids, our families, and our caregivers.</p> <p>If other districts are figuring this out, ACPS certainly should be able to as well. As parents we are sick of surveys that don't reflect back sentiments of families (because they're not designed to do so), we're tired of verbose emails and confusing materials that take incredible amount of energy to review, we're over Zoom sessions that skirt the real questions on parents' minds. We've demonstrated extensive patience for 7 months. We need more creativity, or we WILL pull our child from ACPS in short order (as we've seen and heard many other families do, including our own Superintendent).</p> <p>Lastly, the proposed solution of lumping all kids who are identified as 'most vulnerable/with disabilities' into one school, for one quarter, with unfamiliar surroundings, kids, and teachers for only a short period of time is CLEARLY NOT informed by families with kids who need additional support. This would be hugely disruptive and ineffectual. This feels much more like 'checking the box' solution, vs. a thoughtful and integrated approach to serving the needs of kids.</p>

We need to push back on the proposed plans. Our youngest students need in person instruction, even if it's modified. Let's have honest conversation with parents around the real challenges ACPS faces vs. unclear and ineffective plans.

---