

# DRAFT

## **Subject Line: Learning Choice Form for Summer 2021 and Fall 2021**

Dear ACPS Families,

We are excited about the plans to offer a robust [Summer Learning Program](#) that will help prepare our students for a strong start to the new school year. For the **2021-22 school year**, we are offering families a choice of two instructional models that are five days a week: **in-person learning**, or virtual learning through “**Virtual Virginia**.”

**Today, we are sharing information about Summer Learning 2021 and the 2021-22 school year, and asking you to please complete the Learning Choice Form below to make two important decisions for your student(s) by May 24, 2021.** Please complete a form for each of your children who are enrolled in Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS). ACPS is planning now to ensure that schools and staff are ready to welcome students for the new school year. It is essential for developing the schedules and staffing for our schools that we know how many students will enroll in each learning model. We are excited to welcome our students back in the learning model of your choice and appreciate your help by completing this form so we can have a terrific start to the new school year!

**Please complete the Learning Choice Form below by **May 24, 2021 at 11:59 p.m.** to choose:**

**(a) whether your student will or will not participate in Summer Learning 2021; and**

**(b) which learning model you wish to enroll your student(s) in for the 2021-22 school year.**

### **Summer Learning 2021 (July 6-30): Will Your Student(s) Participate?**

Summer Learning 2021 is optional and offered to all ACPS students with the goal to engage, enrich and help prepare them in anticipation of the start of the new school year. The Summer

Learning program will be offered virtually to all students, and in-person instruction will be offered to targeted students according to a prioritization matrix. If a family does not make a choice on the form about whether or not a student will participate this summer, then the student **will not be enrolled** in Summer Learning 2021.

Families of students who are invited to participate in the **in-person** Summer Learning program, based on the prioritization matrix, will receive a separate letter. For more details, visit the [ACPS Summer Learning 2021 webpage](#).

### **School Year 2021-22: Choose In-Person or Virtual Learning for Your Students**

In August 2021, ACPS will begin school with all students enrolled in one of two learning models: 100% in-person learning in our school buildings (as health metrics and guidelines permit) or 100% virtual learning through Virtual Virginia . **Learn more about both learning models.**

**Please note that for Fall 2021, your decision is binding for the first semester (until January 2022). May 24, 2021 is the last day for families to inform ACPS of your selected learning model for 2021-22. We are strongly encouraging our families to select the in-person learning model. If a family does not choose a learning model before the deadline, the student will automatically be enrolled in in-person learning for the fall semester.**

**COMPLETE THE LEARNING CHOICE FORM NOW >**

Have questions about the Learning Choice Form or your options? Call the [multilingual ACPS Helpline](#) from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekdays. You may also contact your child's teacher or school for additional information.

Thank you to all families for completing this form by May 24, 2021. Please know that we are committed to offering in-person and virtual learning models for our students based upon best educational practices. We look forward to a wonderful summer and new school year for ACPS students!

Sincerely,  
Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Superintendent  
Dr. Terri Mozingo, Chief of Teaching, Learning and Leadership

## Descriptions for Website:

### ***Virtual Virginia through the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE):***

- For the 2021-2022 school year, ACPS will partner with Virtual Virginia to offer a virtual learning option for students in grades K–12 (five days a week).
- The Virtual Virginia program is offered through the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) and will offer ACPS students an opportunity to participate in core, online courses taught by Virginia-certified teachers aligned to the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOLs).
- The instruction provided by Virtual Virginia will incorporate daily synchronous opportunities as well as asynchronous learning experiences.
- ACPS will remain committed to providing students access to devices and the internet to fully participate in virtual learning.
- Students will have access to the availability of activities such as ACPS-sponsored extracurricular activities and athletics.
- Parents/guardians who opt into Virtual Virginia will make a commitment to remain in the program for a semester because ACPS will pay tuition for Virtual Virginia on a required semester basis. At the end of the first semester, Virtual Virginia families may choose to transition back into the in-person learning environment with ACPS. However, if parents/guardians decide to return to in-person instruction after the first semester, their student(s) will be assigned to a different teacher.
- Whether parents/guardians choose in-person or virtual instruction, if a student has a 504, IEP, or TAG Plan, the school administration and Student Support Team (SST) will meet to ensure the plan is being supported.

### ***In-Person Instruction:***

- Due to the unprecedented disruptions in learning during the 2020 and 2021 school year, we have been given the opportunity to reimagine what learning looks like at ACPS in the 2021-22 school year.
- ACPS will continue to implement safety and health mitigation measures in our schools, in accordance with guidelines from the Alexandria Health Department (AHD), the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

- Parents/guardians will have the choice to enroll their student(s) for in-person instruction, which will include face-to-face “live” instruction five days a week from an ACPS teacher.
- Instruction will be aligned to the ACPS curriculum and the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOLs).
- Students will be provided access to high-quality learning experiences, and strategies will be implemented to address social, emotional and academic learning (SEAL) needs.
- Recess will align more closely with the free-play elementary model.
- Students will still have computer devices and access to the internet to ensure unique learning experiences. However, if parents/guardians decide to transition to virtual learning, the schedule and teacher will change.
- Substitute teacher support will be provided when teachers are absent, and the length of the school day will remain the same.
- Whether parents/guardians choose in-person or virtual instruction, students will be provided frequent communication in order to ensure that the student is successful.

In addition, [the multilingual helpline](#) is open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on weekdays. ***If parents/guardians do not select a learning model before the deadline, then their student(s) will automatically be enrolled in in-person learning for the first semester which ends in January 2022.***

If you select in-person instruction for your student(s), then please indicate your need for transportation services on the “Learning Choice Form.”