

**Public Hearing on Continuity of Learning Plan 4.0**  
**Virtual Special Called School Board Meeting**  
**July 10, 2020**  
**Comments from Carolyn Meza**

I have three kids, two at Polk Elementary. One is a rising 1st grader and my eldest is a rising 3rd grader.

My eldest daughter has special needs and has an IEP. I'm here to advocate for a Continuity of Learning plan that specifically addresses children with special needs.

During the spring it was impossible to provide her with the support she needed to succeed. The content and materials provided were beyond her capabilities without support. She was lost and confused, and both of us were frustrated all the time.

I'm concerned that there will be a "one size fits all" approach to school in the fall. In reviewing the materials provided, it looks like it's either hybrid, or distant learning. I don't see that there are any plans being made for additional in person classes for students with disabilities, english language learners, or students with other needs, beyond what is being done for the general population.

I understand that distance learning continues to be difficult for everyone. I have a typical rising 1st grader, and while it's very hard, at least in some ways it's manageable. I know that if I take the time, and follow the guidance and instruction provided she will likely succeed. I do not feel that way with my eldest.

My husband and I both work full time. Educating my daughter with special needs, via distance learning, is proving to be impossible. She is unable to work independently, and requires constant supervision to try and keep her on task. Even then, I don't think it's working. She is falling further and further behind, and I'm unclear how to help her.

In Virginia's phasing plan, it specifically calls out the ability for schools to educate special needs students in person, in phase one.

I understand that Prince William County is allowing special needs students to attend in person 4 days a week. Loudoun County is also proposing allowing special needs students with more in person class time.

I'm asking that your plan include differentiation for our populations that would benefit the most from in person schooling.

Thanks for all you're doing.