

William R. Hite, Jr., Ed.D.
Superintendent

July 31, 2020

Dear School District of Philadelphia Parents and Families,

On July 30, the Board of Education approved two key action items - the District's proposed changes to its *Advancing Education Safely* reopening plan and the 2020-2021 Academic Calendar.


The upcoming school year will start on Wednesday, September 2, 2020, allowing extra time for teachers to deepen their skills to provide students with engaging digital instruction. All K-12 students will engage in digital learning five days per week and receive instruction from teachers from their enrolled school through the first marking period which ends on November 17, 2020. Students will then transition to a mix of in-person and digital learning as long as guidance from the Philadelphia Department of Public Health and other indicators support that it is safe to do so. A 100% digital learning option will be available at that time, and we will continue to explore opportunities for students to be taught by teachers from their enrolled school. PreK students in District PreK programs will also receive digital instruction five days per week through the first marking period.

The 2020-2021 Academic Calendar reflects 180 days of instruction for students between September 2, 2020 and June 11, 2021. There are 23 holidays for students and teachers. To view the calendar, please click [here](#) or visit our website at www.philasd.org and click on the calendar link at the top of the page.

In the coming weeks, we will share more details about key aspects of our planning, including: our *Healing Together* initiative to support the social-emotional needs of our students and staff; school bell and instructional schedules; Chromebook distribution and supports; internet access; meal distribution for students; facilities improvements in schools; and more.

Thank you for your engagement and partnership as we advance a reopening plan that provides the educational opportunities all of our students need and deserve while supporting everyone's health and well-being. Together, we can prepare for a safe and successful school year.

Sincerely,



William R. Hite Jr., Ed.D.
Superintendent
The School District of Philadelphia