



July 17, 2020

Dear Families,

I want to thank you for your patience and partnership while we have been working through the past four months of educating our students during the COVID-19 crisis. As you know, in March we closed The Guild School building and moved our residential students to their houses while remotely instructing our day students. Residentially, we created small cohorts of students and staff to control and limit potential COVID-19 cases. This created remote service delivery in some service provision for each student. A remote learning plan was sent to you.

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has released their guidance for both summer and fall in-person learning in the school building. The Guild has met the summer guidelines for the day students at The Guild School. As such, we resumed in-person learning for our day students on July 9, 2020. Our residential students remain at their homes within their small cohorts of staff and students. Many of you have reached out and asked, "What is next?" and "When are all of the students returning to the building?" We understand that families want their children back in the school building as it is a symbol of education. We want to see all the students in the building as well. In order for that to occur safely, steps need to be taken to ensure the building is adequately prepared.

We are required to submit a return-to-school building plan for the fall to DESE that includes three required options: remote, hybrid, and full in person. While we do this, we will simultaneously work to reduce or eliminate remote services for all students at their current locations during the summer. This is to ensure that all students have face-to-face services (with safety and health a primary goal) for service provision in their IEP regardless of location. This will broaden our smaller groups of staff cohorts working with students residentially and demonstrate the ability to sustain positive data in regards to our COVID-19



contact tracing and rate. Over the next couple of weeks, we will inform you if/when the cessation of the remote learning plan that was in place for your child occurs. For those students attending the day program, this has already occurred for your children for the services discussed at the question and answer session on July 1.

We are asking for input from families over this time period. Below is a link to a survey to be completed by July 21. We will also be surveying students and staff. You may be getting additional request for input as we get closer to the fall.

[Click here to access survey](#)

Again thank you so much for your patience during this time. We appreciate you and look forward to continuing to work together during the pandemic and beyond to educate our students.

Best,

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