



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | Mark Johnson, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*

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July 28, 2020

Greeting Parents, Students, and Staff:

I am writing to advise you that due to the recent data collected by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), with over 100,000 cases of COVID-19 in NC including 13,000 in congregate living facilities; 30,000 in the counties in which our students reside; and over 10,000 cases in Wake County where the Governor Morehead School is located, we have carefully reviewed our plans for reopening school. In addition to reviewing the latest data, we have also carefully considered parental feedback based on a recent survey regarding the three options for reopening that have been outlined by Governor Roy Cooper and DHHS. The results are as follows:

- 35% are in favor of Plan A/Minimal Social Distancing
- 25% are in favor of Plan B/Moderate Social Distancing
- 23% are in favor of Plan C/Remote Learning Only
- 5% are in favor of either Plan A, B, or C
- 5% of the families are unsure
- 7% did not reply

Based on the COVID-19 data, the parent survey, and the Governor's announcement on July 14, 2020 that only Plan B and C should be considered, we have decided to begin the 2020-2021 school year on August 17, 2020, with Plan C/Remote Learning Only. We realize Remote Learning Only is challenging for our children and families and that face-to-face instruction is the most ideal learning environment. However, it seems to be a risk to bring students together from over 15 counties into one location with three shifts of staff coming in-and-out daily. This is especially concerning because we serve those children who are medically complex and may be at an increased risk for severe illness from compared to other children.

We will continue to watch the COVID-19 data and trends and will update you on possible changes to our continued implementation of Plan C/Remote Learning Only on or before mid-September. We appreciate your support and understanding. Please remember to forward Registration Packets by August 10, 2020 to ensure we have the most up-to-date information to start the school year. Families will be contacted in preparation for Remote Learning including process, equipment, and student schedules. You will receive additional information from the Principal Matt Mescall and on how we will improve remote learning challenges identified in the spring and summer programs.

We appreciate all you are doing to ensure our children continue to make progress on IEP goals and academics. Please stay safe and contact me by phone at 919-733-6382 or by sending an e-mail to Barbria.Bacon@esdb.dpi.nc.gov.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbria Bacon".

Barbria Bacon
Director, Governor Morehead School

c: Matthew Mescall, Principal

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Barbria Bacon, *Superintendent* | barbria.bacon@esdb.dpi.nc.gov
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