

January 28, 2021

An open letter to our community

From the Chancellor

This post is an email sent by Chancellor Ferebee to the DCPS community on January 28, 2021.

Esta carta está disponible en español a continuación.

ይህ ደብዳቤ ከስፔን ቦታች ይገኛል ።

Dear DCPS Community,

When I joined DC Public Schools two years ago, I made a commitment to the students and families of the district to ensure every student receives a quality education while also meeting our shared commitments of equity and transparency. While the COVID-19 pandemic required adjustments to how DCPS delivers academic instruction at our 117 schools for 50,000 students, we never strayed from our mission to provide rigorous and joyful learning experiences for every student, every day.

Together, with educators and families, we made a concentrated effort over the past 10 months to maximize learning opportunities for students both at home and in school. Throughout all of this we had a clear goal in mind: to safely reopen school buildings and welcome students and staff back to the classroom.

We know that despite the work done to strengthen the student experience in this new learning environment and support our talented educators who show incredible innovation in the virtual classroom, opportunity gaps persist. Too many of our **students are in a COVID-19 learning slide, and a key solution to accelerate learning recovery is to provide students who learn best in the physical classroom the opportunity to do so.**

That is where we are now. **On Monday, after months of planning and millions of dollars, DCPS will safely reopen all schools with tailored in-person learning opportunities across every grade level.** We got here guided by the feedback and advice from educators, school leaders, students, and community members across the District. We followed the guidance from public health officials, consulted with air quality specialists, and met with child health and wellness experts.

We know our students are ready, we know our buildings are ready, we know our staff is ready, and we cannot wait to see you in the classroom on Monday.

It's not an exaggeration to say schools worked overtime to prepare for every building to reopen for Term 3 on February 1, and we want to make sure you know all that was accomplished. **I am so grateful to our educators, administrative staff, custodians, and other members of our #ReopenStrong staff for your dedication to students.**

It was always our commitment to prioritize safety by putting in place robust health and safety protocols for staff and students in order to reopen. Please take a moment to [find your school on this page \(https://dcpsreopenstrong.com/school-plans/\)](https://dcpsreopenstrong.com/school-plans/) to learn more about its reopening building readiness plans. On each page, you can download an operational reopening plan for that school, review the school readiness checklist, and find other health and safety resources for the school community around reopening. Elementary schools are also sharing [special videos](#)

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WGqo3cyovFg&list=PL7RNGOzfvHE0HwBedXlu1KHWYUoRQEFmq>) that highlight health and safety measures in place, while secondary schools are completing building walkthroughs (<https://twitter.com/sharonabean/status/1352463721004740609>) with community members.

Schools are leading this work with a determined charge. They organized supply drives and technology distributions to support learning at home, worked closely with community partners to help families in need, and placed students' needs above their own. We recognize sacrifices were made and extraordinary asks were requested of staff, and with that you have our immense gratitude.

We acknowledge that positive cases are reported in our school buildings and our response protocol is built around keeping you informed on public health notices. Additionally, our health and safety commitments exist to ensure that any chance of community transmission is reduced to the smallest probability. Just this week, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provided evidence that confirms **with the proper mitigation efforts and health and safety measures in place, like those deployed by DCPS, there is minimal risk to the transmission of COVID-19 at school.** These findings echo previous guidance from the American Academy of Pediatrics on school safety amid the pandemic.

We would be remiss to not address that the COVID-19 pandemic has touched each and every one of us. We had colleagues fall ill and have family members we still grieve. **For our families considering whether to have their student return to school or not, we recognize it's a personal choice that is situated to their unique circumstances.** That is why in-person learning is not our sole strategy; DCPS will continue to invest and enhance our virtual learning opportunities. We look forward to sharing more around these developments while still staying true to our commitment to safely reopen schools for Term 3.

In partnership,

Lewis D. Ferebee, Ed.D.
Chancellor

Estimada comunidad de las DCPS:

Cuando comencé en las Escuelas Públicas del Distrito de Columbia hace dos años, hice un compromiso con los estudiantes y las familias del distrito para asegurar que cada estudiante recibiese educación de calidad a la vez que se cumplieren nuestros compromisos comunes de equidad y transparencia. Si bien la pandemia del COVID-19 precisó que se realizasen ajustes al modo de impartir los estudios académicos en nuestras 117 escuelas para los 50.000 estudiantes, nunca nos desviamos de nuestra misión que es brindar experiencias académicas rigurosas y alegres para todos los estudiantes, todos los días.

Juntos, con los educadores y las familias, hicimos un gran esfuerzo en los últimos 10 meses para maximizar las oportunidades académicas de los estudiantes tanto en el hogar como en la escuela. A lo largo de todo esto, tuvimos un objetivo claro en mente: reabrir los planteles escolares de forma segura y darles la bienvenida a los estudiantes y a las familias de vuelta a los salones de clases.

Sabemos que a pesar del trabajo hecho para fortalecer la experiencia de los estudiantes en este nuevo entorno de aprendizaje y apoyar a nuestros educadores talentosos, quienes han mostrado una innovación increíble en el salón de clases virtual, persisten las brechas de oportunidades. Muchos de nuestros **estudiantes están enfrentando un retraso pedagógico debido al COVID-19, y la solución para iniciar la recuperación pedagógica es brindarles a aquellos estudiantes que aprenden mejor en el salón físico la oportunidad de hacerlo.**

Es allí donde nos encontramos en este momento. **El lunes, después de meses de planificación y millones de dólares invertidos, las DCPS reabrirán de forma segura todas las escuelas con opciones de clases presenciales personalizadas para cada grado escolar.** Llegamos aquí gracias a la orientación recibida a través de las impresiones y sugerencias de educadores, personal directivo escolar, estudiantes y miembros de la comunidad en todo el Distrito. Seguimos los lineamientos de los funcionarios de salud pública, consultamos con especialistas en calidad del aire y nos reunimos con expertos en salud y bienestar infantil.

Sabemos que nuestros estudiantes están listos, sabemos que nuestros planteles están listos, sabemos que nuestro personal está listo y no vemos la hora de verlos en el salón de clases el lunes.

No es una exageración decir que las escuelas trabajaron horas extras para preparar la reapertura de cada plantel para el 3er trimestre, este 1° de febrero, y queremos asegurarnos de que sepa todo lo que se logró. **Estoy muy agradecido con nuestros educadores, personal administrativo, vigilantes y demás miembros de nuestro personal de la #ReaperturaConPieFirme por su dedicación para con nuestros estudiantes.**

Nuestro compromiso siempre ha sido darle prioridad a la seguridad mediante la implementación de protocolos sólidos de salud y seguridad para el personal y los estudiantes para poder reabrir. Tómese un momento para buscar a su escuela en esta página (<https://t.e2ma.net/click/h4s7wg/txjdumd/py5vgoc>) para saber más sobre sus planes de preparación para la reapertura del plantel. En cada página, puede descargar el plan operativo de reapertura de esa escuela, revisar la lista de control de preparación de la escuela y hallar otros recursos de salud

y seguridad para la comunidad escolar en torno a la reapertura. Las escuelas primarias también están transmitiendo [videos especiales](https://t.e2ma.net/click/h4s7wg/txjdumd/5q6vgqc) (<https://t.e2ma.net/click/h4s7wg/txjdumd/5q6vgqc>) que resaltan las medidas de salud y seguridad puestas en práctica, mientras que las escuelas secundarias están [haciendo recorridos en los planteles](https://t.e2ma.net/click/h4s7wg/txjdumd/lj7vgqc) (<https://t.e2ma.net/click/h4s7wg/txjdumd/lj7vgqc>) con miembros de la comunidad.

Las escuelas están dirigiendo este trabajo con una carga específica. Organizaron campañas de distribución de insumos y equipos tecnológicos para apoyar las clases a distancia; trabajaron de cerca con aliados de la comunidad para ayudar a las familias necesitadas; y colocaron las necesidades de los estudiantes por encima de las suyas. Reconocemos que se hicieron sacrificios y se le pidió al personal que hiciera cosas extraordinarias, y por eso, cuentan con nuestra gratitud infinita.

Sabemos que se han reportado casos positivos en nuestros planteles escolares y [nuestro protocolo de respuesta](https://t.e2ma.net/click/h4s7wg/txjdumd/1b8vgqc) (<https://t.e2ma.net/click/h4s7wg/txjdumd/1b8vgqc>) se creó para mantenerlo informado acerca de las notificaciones de salud pública. Además, nuestros [compromisos de salud y seguridad](https://t.e2ma.net/click/h4s7wg/txjdumd/h48vgqc) (<https://t.e2ma.net/click/h4s7wg/txjdumd/h48vgqc>) existen para garantizar que se reduzca cualquier posibilidad de transmisión a la más mínima expresión. Esta misma semana, los Centros para el Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades (CDC, por sus siglas en inglés) [suministraron evidencia que confirma](https://t.e2ma.net/click/h4s7wg/txjdumd/xw9vgqc) (<https://t.e2ma.net/click/h4s7wg/txjdumd/xw9vgqc>) **que mediante los esfuerzos de mitigación adecuados y la puesta en práctica de medidas de salud y seguridad, como los que desplegó las DCPS, el riesgo de transmisión del COVID-19 en la escuela es mínimo.** Estos hallazgos hacen eco de los lineamientos emitidos previamente por la [Academia Estadounidense de Pediatría](https://t.e2ma.net/click/h4s7wg/txjdumd/dpawgqc) (<https://t.e2ma.net/click/h4s7wg/txjdumd/dpawgqc>) sobre la seguridad escolar en medio de la pandemia.

Sería negligente no admitir que la pandemia del COVID-19 nos ha afectado a todos y cada uno de nosotros. Hemos tenido colegas que se han enfermado y familiares por los cuales aún lloramos. **Para aquellas familias que estén pensando si enviar o no a su hijo de vuelta a la escuela, les decimos que reconocemos que es una decisión personal que se sitúa en las circunstancias particulares de cada uno.** Es por eso que las clases presenciales no son nuestra única estrategia; las DCPS seguirán invirtiendo y mejorando las opciones de clases virtuales para los estudiantes. Esperamos transmitirle más información sobre lo que está en desarrollo, sin dejar de ser fieles a nuestro compromiso de reabrir las escuelas de forma segura para el 3er trimestre.

En estrecha alianza,

Dr. Lewis D. Ferebee,
Canciller

ውድ የDCPS ማህበረሰብ፣

ከሁለት ዓመታት በፊት የዲሲ የሕዝብ ትምህርት ቤቶችን ስቀለቀል፣ በእኩልነት እና በግልጽነት ያለንን የጋራ ቁርጠኝነት በስራ ላይ እንዲውል እያደረግን፤ ለእያንዳንዱ ተማሪ ጥራት ያለው ትምህርት ማግኘቱን ለማረጋገጥ፤ ለዲስትሪክቱ ተማሪዎች እና ቤተሰቦች ቃል ገግቼአለሁ። የCOVID-19 ወረርሽኝ፤ በDCPS ውስጥ በ117 ትምህርት ቤቶች ውስጥ፤ ለ50,000 ተማሪዎች፤ የቀለም ትምህርት አሰጣጥን እንዴት ማከናወን እንዳለብን፤ ማስተካከያዎችን እንድናደርግ ያስገደደን ጊዜ ውስጥ ብንሆንም፤ በየቀኑ ጠንካራ እና አስደሳች የመማር ተሞክሮዎችን ለእያንዳንዱ ተማሪ እንዲደርስ ካለን አላማችን እንድንበዝን ፈጽሞ አላደረግንም።

በአንድነት ሆነን፤ ከትምህርት ሰጪዎች እና ቤተሰቦች ጋር በመሆን፤ ባለፉት 10 ወራት ውስጥ፤ በመኖሪያ ቤትም ሆነ በትምህርት ቤት ውስጥ ለተማሪዎች የሚሰጡ የመማር ዕድሎችን በማሳደግ ላይ፤ ከፍተኛ ትኩረት የተሰጠው ጥረት አድርገናል። በዚህ ጊዜ ውስጥ፤ በአዕምሮአችን ውስጥ ግልጽ የሆነ ግብን አስቀምጠናል፡ የትምህርት ቤት ህንፃዎችን ደህንነቱን በጠበቀ ሁኔታ እንደገና መክፈት እና ተማሪዎችንና ሠራተኞችን ወደየ-ክፍሎቻቸው እንደገና በመልካም ሁኔታ እንዲመለሱ የማድረግ ግብ ነበረን።

የተማሪዎችን ተሞክሮን በዚህ አዲስ በሆነ የመማር አካባቢ ውስጥ ለማጠናከር እና በርቀት ምናባዊ (virtual) ክፍለጊዜዎች ውስጥ ድንቅ የሆነ የፈጠራ ችሎታቸውን ያሳዩ ትምህርት ሰጪዎቻችን ያሳዩትን ጠንካራ ስራ የምናውቅ ቢሆንም፤ የዕድሎች ክፍተቶችም ተከስተዋል። **በርካታ ተማሪዎቻችን፤ በCOVID-19 የመማሪያ ስላይድ (slide) ውስጥ የሚገኙ፤ እና በአካል በክፍል ውስጥ ተገኝቶ የመማር ዕድልን በተመራጭ ሁኔታ ለሚጠቅማቸው ተማሪዎች እንዲያገኙ መፍትሄ ለመስጠት፤ የመማር መልሶ ማነሳሻዎች ይቀርባሉ።**

አሁን ያለንበት ቦታ ይህ ነው። **ከብዙ ወራት ዕቅድ ማውጣት እና በሚሊዮን የሚቆጠር ዶላር በኋላ፤ ሰኞ ዕለት DCPS በሁሉም የክፍል ደረጃ ዙሪያ፤ ከተስተካከለ በአካል ተገኝቶ (in-person) መማር ዕድሎች ጋር፤ ሁሉንም ትምህርት ቤቶች ደህንነቱ በተጠበቀ ሁኔታ እንደገና ይገፍታል።** እዚህ ላይ የደረስነው፤ የዲስትሪክቱ ዙሪያ ከሚገኙ፤ ከትምህርት ሰጪዎች፤ የትምህርት ቤት መሪዎች፤ ተማሪዎች እና ከማህበረሰብ አባላቶች ባገኘነው አስተያየቶች እና ምክሮች በመመራት ነው። ከሕዝብ ጤና ባለሞያዎች፤ ከአየር ጥራት ባለሞያዎች ጋር በመመካከር እና ከልጅ ጤና እና ጤንነት ጥበቃ አዋቂዎች ጋር በመነጋገር፤ የተሰጡን መመሪያዎች ተከትለናል።

ተማሪዎቻችን ዝግጁ እንደሆኑ እናውቃለን፤ ህንፃዎቻችን ዝግጁ እንደሆኑ እናውቃለን፤ ሠራተኞቻችን ዝግጁ እንደሆኑ እናውቃለን፤ እና ሰኞ ወደትምህርት ክፍሎቻችሁ ውስጥ ገብታችሁ እስከምናያችሁ ትኩረናል።

ትምህርት ቤቶቻችን፤ ሁሉም ህንፃዎችን ለተርም (Term) 3፣ ፌብሩዋሪ (February) 1 እንደገና እንዲከፈቱ ለማዘጋጀት፤ ከተወሰነው ሰዓት ውጪ መስራታቸውን መናገር ማግኘት አይደለም፤ ስለሆነም፤ ይህ ሁሉ በተገቢው ሁኔታ መጠናቀቁን ማወቃችሁን ማረጋገጥ እንፈልጋለን። **የ#ReopenStrong ሠራተኞች የሆኑትን፤ ትምህርት ሰጪዎቻችን፤ የአስተዳደር ሠራተኞችን፤ ጠባቂዎቻችን (custodians)፤ እና ሌሎች አባላቶቻችን፤ ለተማሪዎች ላደረጋችሁት ትጋት ምስጋናዬን አቀርባለሁ።**

እንደገና ለመክፈት እንድንችል፤ ጠንካራ የሆነ የጤና እና የደህንነት ፕሮቶኮሎችን ለሠራተኞች እና ተማሪዎች በቦታው ማስቀመጥ፤ ምንጊዜም ቢሆን በቂርጠኝነት ቅድሚያ የምንሰጠው ነው። እባክዎን፤ ጊዜ ወስደው፤ [ትምህርት ቤትዎን በዚህ ገጽ ላይ በመፈለግ](https://t.e2ma.net/click/h4s7wg/txjdumd/thbwgqc) (<https://t.e2ma.net/click/h4s7wg/txjdumd/thbwgqc>) ስለህንፃው እንደገና መክፈት ዝግጁነት ዕቅዶቹ የበለጠ ይወቁ። በእያንዳንዱ ገጽ፤ ለዚያ ትምህርት ቤት የሚሆን እንደገና መክፈት ዕቅድ ክንዋኔን፤ የትምህርት ቤቱን ዝግጁነት ምልክታት ማድረጊያ ዝርዝርን መመልከት፤

እና እንደገና በመክፈት ላይ ለትምህርት ቤት ማህበረሰብ የሚጠቅም ሌላ የጤና እና የደህንነት የመረጃ ምንጮችን፤ ዳውንሎድ (download) ማድረግ ይችላሉ። የመጀመሪያ ደረጃ (Elementary) ትምህርት ቤቶችም [ፊደሮዎችን](https://t.e2ma.net/click/h4s7wg/txjdumd/99bwgqoc) (https://t.e2ma.net/click/h4s7wg/txjdumd/99bwgqoc) የታቀደ የጤና እና የደህንነት ጥበቃ እርምጃዎችን በማጉላት ያጋራሉ፤ እንዲሁም ሁለተኛ ደረጃ (secondary) ትምህርት ቤቶች [የህንፃ ጉብኝቶችን](https://t.e2ma.net/click/h4s7wg/txjdumd/p2cwqgoc) (walkthroughs) [ያጠናቅቃሉ](https://t.e2ma.net/click/h4s7wg/txjdumd/p2cwqgoc) (https://t.e2ma.net/click/h4s7wg/txjdumd/p2cwqgoc) ከማህበረሰብ አባላቶች ጋር በመሆን ያቀርባሉ።

ትምህርት ቤቶች፣ ደህንነ ስራ የሚመሩት፣ በተወሰነ ክፍያን ለመክፈል ነው። በመኖሪያ ቤት መማርን የሚያግዙ፣ የሚያስፈልጉ ቁሳቁሶችን እና የቴክኖሎጂ ማከፋፈያዎችን ያቀናጃሉ፤ እርዳታ የሚያስፈልጋቸውን ቤተሰቦች ለመርዳት ከማህበረሰብ አጋሮች ጋር በቅርበት ይሰራሉ፤ እና የተማሪዎችን ፍላጎቶች ከራሳቸው በላይ ያስቀምጣሉ። ብዙ መስዋዕትነት እንደተከፈለ እና ሠራተኞቻችን ከተለመዱ-ነገሮች ውጪ ስንጠይቃቸው እንደነበረ እንገነዘባለን፤ እና ለዚህም፣ እጅግ በጣም ከፍተኛ ምስጋና አለን።

በትምህርት ቤት ህንፃዎቻችን ውስጥ የበሽታው መኖር (positive) ሆነው ስለተገኙ ሪፖርት ማድረጋችንን እውቅና እንሰጣለን፤ እንዲሁም [ምላሽ መስጫ ፕሮቶኮላችን](https://t.e2ma.net/click/h4s7wg/txjdumd/5udwgqoc) (https://t.e2ma.net/click/h4s7wg/txjdumd/5udwgqoc) በሕዝብ ጤና ላይ የሚኖሩ ማስታወቂያዎችን ለእናንተ ማስታወቃችንን በመቀጠል ዙሪያ የተመሠረተ ነው። በተጨማሪም፣ [የጤና እና የደህንነት](https://t.e2ma.net/click/h4s7wg/txjdumd/lnewgqoc) (https://t.e2ma.net/click/h4s7wg/txjdumd/lnewgqoc) ጥበቃ ቁርጠኝነታችንን ማንኛውም የማህበረሰብ የማስተላለፍ እድል በጣም አነስተኛ ወደሆነው ደረጃ መቀነሱን በማረጋገጥ ላይ የተመሠረተ ነው።

በዚህ ሣምንት ብቻ፣ የበሽታ ቁጥጥር እና መከላከያ ማዕከል (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [አረጋጋጭ](https://t.e2ma.net/click/h4s7wg/txjdumd/1ffwgqoc) ሆነው፣ ምስክር የሆኑትን (https://t.e2ma.net/click/h4s7wg/txjdumd/1ffwgqoc) **ትክክለኛ የሆነውን የመግታት ጥረቶችን እና የጤና እና የደህንነት ጥበቃ እርምጃዎችን በትክክለኛ ሁኔታ ከተከተልን፣ አሁን በDCPS ውስጥ እንደሚደረገው፤ በትምህርት ቤት ውስጥ የCOVID-19 የመተላለፍ ሁኔታ አነስተኛ የሆነ ስጋት ይኖረዋል።** እነዚህ ግኝቶች፣ ከዚህ ቀደም [ከአሜሪካ የእፃናት ህክምና አካዳሚ](https://t.e2ma.net/click/h4s7wg/txjdumd/h8fwgqoc) (American Academy of Pediatrics) (https://t.e2ma.net/click/h4s7wg/txjdumd/h8fwgqoc) ትምህርት ቤቶች፣ ከወረርሽኝ የሚድኑበትን መመሪያ የሚያስተጋባ ይሆናል።

የCOVID-19 ወረርሽኝ፣ ሁላችንንም እና እያንዳንዳችንን የነካ መሆኑን ሳንገልጽ ቸል ብለን የምናልፈው ነገር አይደለም። **በሕመም ላይ የነበሩ የሥራ ባለደረቦች ነበሩን፤ እና አሁንም በሃዘን ላይ የሚገኙ የቤተሰብ አባላቶችም አሉን። ለቤተሰቦቻችን፣ ልጆቻቸውን ወደ ትምህርት ቤት መልሰው ማስገባት ወይም አለማስገባት ከግምት ውስጥ ማስገባት፣ በራሳቸው ልዩ በሆኑ ሁኔታዎች ላይ በመሠረት ባደረገ መልኩ በግል የሚያደርጉት ምርጫ እንደሆነ እንገነዘባለን።** በዚህም ምክንያት፣ በአካል ተገኝቶ (in-person) መማር፣ ብቸኛ የሆነ ዘዴያችን አይደለም፤ DPCS በርቀት በምናባዊ (virtual) የመማር ዕድሎችን፣ ለተማሪዎች በማቅረብ ላይ የሚያስፈልገውን ሁሉ እንሸከት ማድረጉን እና ማሳደጉን ይቀጥላል። ደህንነቱን በጠበቀ ሁኔታ በተርም (Term) 3 ትምህርት ቤቶችን እንደገና ለመክፈት ለገባነው ቃል በእውነተኛነት እየቀጠልን፣ በእነዚህ እድገቶች ዙሪያ ያሉ ተጨማሪ ነገሮችን ለማጋራት በጉጉት እንጠባበቃለን።

በጋራ ትብብራችን፣


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