

Administration

LOUIS H. TAYLOR  
Superintendent of Schools

C. DWAYNE ABT, Ed.D.  
Chief Safety & Human Relations  
Officer

DENISE R. SHORTS  
Chief Academic Officer, Gr. PK-8

VINCENT E. TOLBERT, CPA  
Chief Financial Officer

ANNETTE E. WALLACE, Ed.D.  
Chief Operating & Academic Officer,  
Gr. 9-12



**The Board of Education of Worcester County**  
6270 Worcester Highway | Newark, Maryland 21841  
Telephone: (410) 632-5000 | Fax: (410) 632-0364  
[www.worcesterk12.org](http://www.worcesterk12.org)

Board Members

ERIC W. CROPPER, SR.  
President

SARA D. THOMPSON  
Vice-President

BARRY Q. BRITTINGHAM, SR.

WILLIAM E. BUCHANAN

TODD A. FERRANTE

WILLIAM L. GORDY

ELENA J. MCCOMAS

October 26, 2020

Dear Parent and/or Guardian,

I recently announced to our school system community our next steps as a part of our *Responsible Return* model. As we are set to welcome our next waves of students back to the classroom through November, we are taking steps to ensure that our schools are able to accommodate every student that wishes to return to in-person learning.

Our schools have been meticulously designing our instructional spaces to accommodate our students while continuing to adhere to the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) physical distancing guidelines. However, we are at a critical point in our planning, which requires our school system to finalize the number of students that will remain in our distance learning format.

You are receiving this correspondence because earlier this year, you made the decision to have your child remain in distance learning. We understand your concern, and we fully support all families making this choice, and at this time, we are asking all families that wish to remain in distance learning for the remainder of the school year to formalize this decision by completing an electronic *Opt Out of In-Person Learning Form*.

Before directing you to the form, I want to make you aware of a few items of note. First, this opt-out will remain in effect for the duration of the 2020-2021 school year. Second, as the majority of our students return to the classroom, distance learning may further evolve, which could result in some scheduling and/or instructional format changes for your child. However, any changes will be communicated to your family in advance, so you have time to prepare and adapt accordingly. Lastly, I want to reassure you that your child will also retain all the rights and privileges of any enrolled WCPS student, meaning he or she can participate in extracurricular activities, such as clubs and athletics, and will retain eligibility for scholastic, character, and other awards.

We are asking all families wishing to continue with distance learning for the remainder of the school year to complete the form as soon as possible. To do so, please scan the QR code to the right with your smartphone and complete the form. The form is also available on our website: you can be directed to it by entering the following link into your browser: <https://tinyurl.com/WCPSOptOut>.



Again, thank you for taking the time to support us in our *Responsible Return* planning efforts by promptly completing the opt out form. Your assistance is very much appreciated. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact your child's school.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Louis H. Taylor'.

Louis H. Taylor  
Superintendent of Schools