

March 15, 2021

A Message from ABLE Superintendent Clem Lee

Greetings, ABLE Families.

We have been in distance learning for a full year now, a year that has been marked by distinct unpredictability and uncertainty. It is time to plan decisively for the near future and beyond.

Leading to today's announcement we have been thorough in our deliberations based on

- input from ABLE stakeholders including parents, students, employees, and board members;
- input from ABLE families regarding their preferences;
- ongoing interaction with education and health officials;
- consideration of limited state and federal resources to support distance learning, reopening with an in-person option, and learning recovery; and
- the ongoing analysis of COVID-related infection data.

We believe that the following represents the best plan for the safety of students, families, and staff as well as for the academic needs of ABLE pupils.

1. ABLE will continue with its distance learning program through the end of the current school year, and there will not be an option for in-person, on-campus instruction.*
2. ABLE will design a dynamic summer session to address learning recovery and special needs, from approximately June 28 through August 6. Attendance in the learning recovery summer school will be based on specific programmatic objectives and student need.
3. ABLE will reopen in August - instead of its traditional starting date after Labor Day – to provide students with a head start on regaining their academic bearings.

This is not perfect; no one will argue that it is. But it provides much needed and long absent clarity and certainty, and it will allow the greater ABLE community to plan and our students to excel.

Be healthy and safe. Godspeed.

s/Clem Lee

** Exceptions can and will be made as we seek to address students on campus in a very limited manner, special needs students as defined by the state: foster or homeless children, special education students, English language learners, and disengaged pupils. These narrow exceptions will be allowable only when attending staff members are fully vaccinated.*