

Mentors,

Please read this email in its entirety!

Late last night at the Board of Education meeting Columbus City Schools Superintendent Dr. Talisa Dixon and the Reopening Task Force released recommendations for the District's return to classes in the fall. The District states, "the reopening recommendations adhere to COVID-19 guidelines from local, state, and federal health officials while providing equitable academic opportunities to all students." Dr. Dixon indicated that CCS families should anticipate changes to the reopening plan based on updated COVID-19 information and guidance from both the state health and education departments. The District will continue to update CCS students, families, and staff throughout the summer as information becomes available.

The Task Force recommended students in grades 9-12 attend school remotely full-time for the first two quarters of this school year (Autumn semester for OSU). High school students can choose between two online formats:

1. CCS Online Curriculum

- Instruction and pacing by CCS teachers on the District's standard curriculum.
- Newly adopted curriculum with digital and print resources.
- Specific daily delivery of content by teacher using technology for engagement.
- Students responsible for participation in teacher lessons and completing assignments.
- Student's attendance tracked.

This is similar to OSU courses meeting online via Zoom at your originally scheduled course meeting time.

OR

2. CCS Digital Academy

- Self-paced online platform.
- CCS staff supervision but not teacher directed.
- Apex Learning platform.
- Incremental lessons on specific content.
- Students are responsible for participation in self-paced learning.
- Students attendance tracked.
- Register between July 13th – August 1st.

You can access the entire Reopening Task Force's recommendation and presentation to the Board of Education [here](#).

Our Response

The District's recommendations are a tough pill to swallow. Nothing will replace the face-to-face interaction with mentees that are so valuable. Rest assured; we will do everything in our power to ensure we are able to mentor during the Autumn semester. The Executive Board

will keep in constant contact with our teachers to understand how we can have an effective presence during virtual instruction. In addition, we will be meeting to discuss creative ways Empower Mentoring can engage with mentees. Please help us through this process by sharing your thoughts and ideas.

This upcoming semester is undoubtedly going to present challenges for us. However, you all have shown time and time again your unwavering support to empower students. We can and will do this together!

Sincerely,

The Empower Mentoring Executive Board