



For Immediate Release
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The Arlington Education Association Executive Board believes re-opening Arlington Public Schools this fall puts students, educators, and staff, at an exponential risk of COVID-19 that can lead to illnesses and death. We believe, this fall, all learning should continue online from home. This is the only way to keep all educators and students safe and healthy.

According to the recommended guidelines from the CDC and plans chosen by Arlington Public Schools the plans will not protect the health and safety of all students and staff. While the plans sound good, they and have not been proven safe and there are too many unknowns.

AEA further urges APS to look at professional development for all educators, to provide a consistent platform for virtual teaching and learning. Professional development is needed immediately, and instructional assistants must be included as it will be their responsibility to reinforce lessons and skills taught by teachers.

AEA strongly suggests a decision from the Arlington School Board and Superintendent Duran be made swiftly. The mental health and wellbeing of our educators is greatly exacerbated by waiting. Locals have an opportunity to do what's best for everyone right now, Arlington should be leading the way. Trauma is real. Returning to school too soon and attempting to teach under stress causes increased trauma with lasting effects which may take years to manage.

Arlington Educators and Staff love their jobs! They want to get back to doing what they love most, teaching, but it is not safe to return! There are no guarantees that people will not contract COVID-19. Cases all over Virginia are on the rise and there is a great deal of concern regarding people returning from summer vacations in hotspot states exposing everyone with whom they come in contact. AEA does not want students or employees be exposed unnecessarily as science experiments while APS fulfills obligations to hold in school instruction.

SAVE LIVES

IT IS NOT PRUDENT TO RE-OPEN SCHOOLS



Teaching. Learning. Leading.