

July 6, 2020

Dear Kinship and Foster families,

As the Governor announced last week Arizona is expected to resume in-person school on August 17, 2020. With the manner in which last school year ended and the transitions to remote learning, restarting this academic year is more important than ever. For those children and youth requiring additional assistance or those working to catch up with their peers, identifying the best academic delivery model that meets their needs is hugely important.

Depending on the school district you are in, the solution for educational instruction will vary. Individual districts have flexibility to deliver learning in alternate formats and in many cases families have choices to make on which educational format they prefer. We know that a “one-size-fits-all” approach is not correct for every family and we are also sensitive to the fact that there a lot of unknowns as the first day of school rapidly approaches.

As a standard, the Department wants children returning to in-person instruction. Following discussion with public health officials and guided by the recent publication by the American Academy of Pediatrics¹, the Department fully supports children participating in the classroom as soon as they are permitted to do so. Children and youth are seeking normalcy and although the educational delivery will be different for portions of this academic year, children benefit from the engagement associated with traditional learning formats.

We know that there are some children, especially those that are immune compromised or have underlying medical conditions that may preclude them from participating in a physical classrooms to start the year. For these children, we would like the child’s primary care physician to participate in the decision making and then discuss with the DCS Specialist on an educational solution that best supports the child or youth.

For those families who have other persons living in the home who are high risk for contracting COVID-19, are quarantining their home and are considering alternative educational delivery options, please contact the Educational Liaison’s at EducationPOC@AZDCS.GOV to review the situation and find the solution that is most appropriate to start this academic year.

The Department thanks you for your continued support of children in our communities and those that you are caring for.

Mike Faust
Director

¹ <https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/>