



ALA Community,

I trust that this communication finds each of you enjoying your summer while remaining safe and healthy. It was my intention to send out a schoolwide communication regarding returning to school after all schools received guidance from Governor Cooper about what school will look like when we return in August. Unfortunately, Governor Cooper has delayed his announcement and we will continue to anticipate his direction about reopening in the Fall. Regardless of this, ALA's administration and Return to School committee will continue to work towards creating a Reopening plan that supports instruction while keeping the health and safety of all stakeholders as the top priority.

As many of you know, the NC Department of Public Instruction has mandated that all public schools prepare 3 plans for Reopening in the Fall. The table below outlines a basic description of these plans:

Plan	Schools Facilities/Students	Health Protocols
A: Minimal Social Distancing	All Students on campus	Enhanced Health Protocols
B: Moderate Social Distancing	50% Occupancy	6 feet on buses and in school building
C: Remote Learning	No students on campus	N/A

As ALA's Return to School committee works to prepare each of these plans we need input from all stakeholders to make informed decisions. Thank you to all of you who responded to our "Return to School" Survey over the past few weeks. This information has been valuable in this work. **With over 300 respondents, 47% of you stated that you preferred a blended model with a mixture of both remote and face to face instruction, while 35.8% preferred a traditional face to face environment and 17.2% wanted to continue instruction in a completely remote environment.** ALA's Board of Directors, Administration, and Return to School committee have reviewed this data and are working collaboratively to provide the best plan to meet the needs of all stakeholders.

Currently, we are focusing our efforts on a "blended model" (Plan B) where the number of students within the school building is reduced and ALA staff is able to enforce enhanced health protocols and social distancing standards more efficiently. For families who do not feel comfortable sending their child back to school because their child or a family member has health concerns that would be complicated by COVID-19, **ALA will provide a completely remote learning option for students regardless of what plan is allowed at the state level.**



The details of both the blended learning plan (Plan B) and the remote instruction plan (Plan C) are currently being finalized. It is our goal to communicate the logistics of these plans later this month. We appreciate your patience.

ALA's Board of Directors, has also approved a revised calendar for the 2020-21 school year. The state required the inclusion of 5 remote instruction days within our calendar due to the COVID-19 pandemic. **ALA's current projected first day of school is August 24th. Our calendar has changed slightly moving Spring Break up a week and moving the last day of school to June 8th.** Please review the revised calendar linked below.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zHyQzWKasCujH7Un5hgYXNh8K21j5WLq/view?usp=sharing>

Finally, with the addition of our new facility and growth of our High School, ALA is experiencing restructuring administratively. I will remain in my role as Managing Director and we will have building Principals who will maintain day to day operations within each school building. Dr. Jett will be our High School Principal and we have hired Jeffrey Whitt as our new Middle School Principal. Mr. Whitt comes to us with extensive experience in education and is excited to join the ALA community. More information will come later this month about Mr. Whitt and other personnel new to ALA.

Thanks and as always thank you for your support of Ascend Leadership Academy as we seek to empower students for the 21st Century!

Justin Smith
Managing Director
Ascend Leadership Academy