



**ACHIEVE
THE POSSIBLE**

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Dear CABI Families,

With the start of the new school year beginning Monday, August 31st, we wish we could be welcoming back all our students and that times were much different. For many of our CABI families, we respect that times have been challenging since March. We honor you for supporting our students at home during these most difficult times. We are passionate about safely returning all our students back to CABI for the new 2020-2021 school year. It is our goal to provide in-person instruction in a manner that effectively follows mandated health and safety requirements and continues to go above and beyond the standard protocols. As stated in the CABI Fall Approach letter from Dr. Doyle, CABI has developed a plan to provide full-time in-person instruction for one-third (33%), or 26 students, of our student body based on the factors DESE has provided for prioritization (i.e., intensive safety needs, regression of skills, students experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity, students in foster care or congregate care, among other factors). Parents/Guardians of the identified students have been previously contacted for their respective decision as it relates to full-time in-person instruction. This systematic approach will continue to be evaluated over the next few months.

Additionally, the CABI staff have been working diligently setting up the new classrooms in preparation for the students return. Parents/Guardians of the students who are transitioning to a new classroom team were previously notified. Those students who are transitioning to Ms. Anne's classroom have received an introduction and welcome letter regarding their new classroom team beginning on Aug. 31st.

CABI's protocols and guidelines will remain the same for the start of the new school year however, refinements and updates to the previous DESE guidance, with a particular focus on protocols for responding to COVID-19 scenarios in school, on the bus, or in the community settings have been updated. These changes will be implemented to CABI's policies and procedures. The following updates include close contact to someone with COVID should be tested but must self-quarantine for 14 days after the last exposure to the person who tested positive, *regardless of the test result*. Over the summer, the

threshold for a COVID-19 related fever by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has been updated from greater than 100.4 to *greater than 100.0 degrees F*. Previously released guidance from DESE emphasized the importance of maintaining school immunization requirements and obtaining the flu vaccine as students return to in-person instruction. All CABI students will be expected to have received a flu vaccine by December 31, 2020 for the 2020-2021 influenza season, unless either a medical or religious exemption is provided. Also exempted are students completely off-campus and engaged in remote learning only. The new vaccine requirement is an important step to reduce flu-related illness and the overall impact of respiratory illness during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We will continue to update you on any changes and/or updates as we receive them. We know that as we move into the new school year that you most likely will have new questions and concerns. As always, the CABI administration is available to assist you with any questions and/or concerns.

Sincerely,

Melissa Belsito

Coordinator of Student Services