



**ACHIEVE  
THE POSSIBLE**

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## CABI FALL APPROACH

Dear CABI Families,

As we move closer towards the beginning of the new school year, we wanted to take this opportunity to communicate additional information as it relates to our provision of services. Our leadership continues to maintain ongoing coordination and communication with DESE, our support trade organization MAAPS, in addition to monitoring information from local, state and federal guidance as it relates to providing in-person instruction this fall. Our goal for the new school year is 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. We are also prioritizing and considering the particularly high need for in-person instruction for our students to progress adequately in their learning. With this said we have 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 plan will include evaluating this approach over a two-month period of September and October where 33% of our student body will be in-person for full time instruction. We will continue half day in person instruction for the remainder of the students whose families wish them to attend in person. Details are discussed below. If our evaluation, along with local, state and federal trends, guidance, and mandates allow, we will then look to increase our full-time in-person instruction to two thirds of our student body (66%), or 52 students total beginning November 2, 2020. We will follow the same evaluation period of two months, November and December and, again, if the evaluation tools allow, we will look toward the beginning of 2021 to return our entire student body back to full-time in-person instruction.

The overarching theme throughout this plan is to engage in a systematic and stepwise approach that considers, first and foremost, the safety of our students, staff and their respective families. This process is subject to change at any time and/or be placed on hold due to a myriad of factors related to the health and safety of all CABI stakeholders in addition to local, state and federal guidance.

CABI will continue to provide two half day instructional blocks for all students each day for either the AM (8:30am to 11:30am) or PM (12:00pm to 3:00pm) shifts. Our PM instructional block will be shifted by 30 minutes to reflect our typical school day dismissal time. For those students who will be continuing a hybrid

model of learning I would like to convey DESE's expectations that we will be providing a very robust learning day where attendance and participation will be diligently monitored. Each student within the hybrid learning model will be provided with, at minimum, one 1:1 remote instruction daily along with a multitude of academic groups, lessons, and activities related to each student's Individualized Education Program.

Students and families will also have the option to continue a full remote learning schedule. We fully understand that this option may be the choice you feel is in the best interest of your child and family and we will continue to fully support this decision without equivocation. Students who opt to remain in this format of instruction, or for those who may choose this option in the days, weeks or months ahead, we will be offering a minimum of two 1:1 direct teaching sessions daily, also in addition to a multitude of academic groups, lessons, and activities related to each student's Individualized Education Program.

Furthermore, as CABI has recently completed construction on several new classrooms we are in a unique and fortunate position to minimize the number of individuals in any given classroom across the school day and adeptly adhere to our strict social distancing protocols. As many of you may be aware, we are opening one new classroom with our teacher Anne Adams starting August 31<sup>st</sup>. By incorporating one new additional classroom and splitting two other classrooms, under the same teacher/BCBA supervision across two rooms, we can further reduce our number of staff and students assigned to specific classrooms across the building. Parents/Guardians of the students (7) transitioning to a new classroom will be notified in a separate correspondence.

Lastly our ancillary specialists (SLPs, OTs, & PTs,) will maintain in a remote learning instructional model throughout the initial reopening phase (September & October) and will be evaluated for in-person direct service for the following phase accordingly. As stated in previous correspondences this is due to the need for these positions to provide services across many students for varying lengths of times, as well as across a multitude of classrooms resulting in excessive crossover opportunities between individuals. Our specialists will continue to make every effort to schedule their direct sessions during their student's in-person instructional block with the support of CABI staff.

We appreciate your patience and collaboration as we slowly move towards a return to a "normal" educational environment. CABI will remain diligent in providing all services as delineated in each student's service delivery grid both remotely and directly and will continue to go above and beyond for all our families. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Regards,

Brian Doyle

Executive Director