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Fall data identifies students needing academic help

Learning Losses During Virtual Learning

The learning losses and gaps developed or expanded during virtual learning are of great concern to parents and teachers. The percentage of Henrico students failing two or more courses nearly doubled from Fall 2019 (5.7%) to Fall 2020 (11.5%), according to data released by HCPS. The most considerable increase in failing grades occurred with elementary students. Fall growth assessments, [such as PALS](#), and adaptive software further identify which Henrico students require intervention and remediation. These data for Henrico and across the state demonstrate what we already know—many students need in-person learning to succeed.

Last November, 36% of Henrico families indicated their intent to return to in-person learning, while 64% chose to continue virtual learning for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year. In-person learning is currently available for special education, English language learning, Career and Technical Education, and select students in grades PreK-3. In January and February, HCPS is expanding in-person learning to students who are not making grade-level progress, with transportation to and from school provided. School principals will reach out directly to families whose children may be eligible.

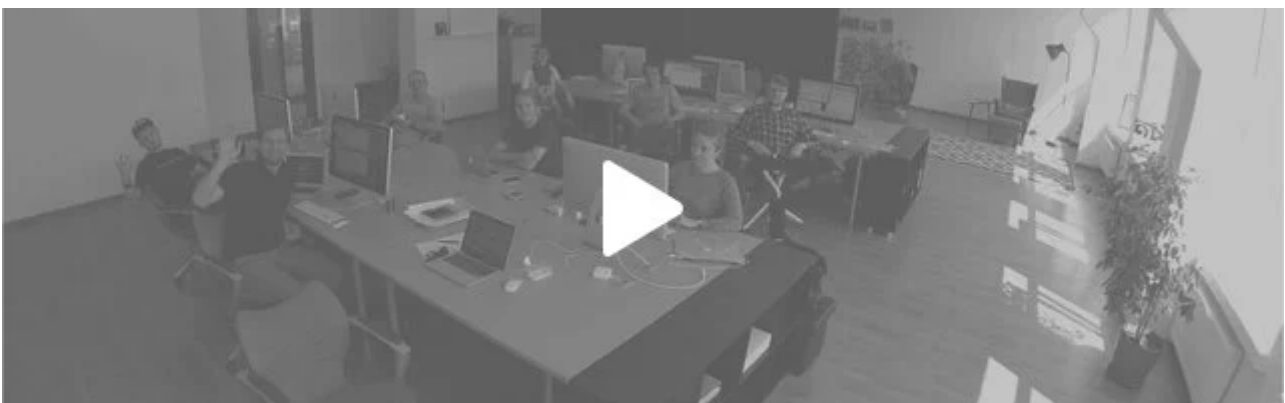
To address the learning gaps and ensure students are ready for the next grade level, HCPS is considering and seeking input on:

- a summer academy for students in the lowest quartile of reading or math achievement in grades K-5;
- mandatory summer academy for middle school students who are not meeting expectations;
- summer academy opportunities for high school students, from remediation to accelerated options;
- an earlier start to the 2021-22 school year; and,
- longer school days during the 21-22 school year.

HCC PTA will be working with HCPS to ensure parent and teacher engagement in the discussions and development of strategies that help all students meet their full potential.

First Quarter Comparison Grades for 2019 & 2020

	HENRICO 2019			CHESTERFIELD 2019			HENRICO 2020			CHESTERFIELD 2020		
	# of students			# of students failing			# of students failing			# of students		
Elementary	Fall Membership	failing 2+ courses	%	# of Students	2+ courses	%	Fall Membership	2+ courses	%	# of Students	failing 2+ courses	%
	22,516	284	1.3%	26,644	370	1.4%	21169	699	3.3%	25082	394	1.6%
Middle	12,064	863	7.2%	15,012	714	4.8%	11768	1916	16.3%	14589	1754	12.0%
High	15,826	1701	10.7%	19,395	1774	9.1%	16045	2845	17.7%	19357	3337	17.2%
Division	50,406	2,848	5.7%	61,051	2,858	4.7%	48982	5460	11.1%	59028	5485	9.3%



Return to School Plans

On January 28, the Health Committee reported that all HCPS staff requesting a vaccine should have their first shot by February 5 and second dose by March 5, based on projected vaccine availability. Understanding the vaccine distribution's fluid nature, the committee suggested two options as starting points for the School Board's discussion:

Scenario 1: Return students after the first dose of the vaccine.

- First doses should be completed on February 5, allowing for a return to in-person learning in mid-February.
- This option could cause sporadic staff attendance issues throughout the return process.
 - The Health Committee raised concerns about staffing impacts, potential future pauses to in-person learning, and the possible switch to asynchronous instructional time between mid-February and early March to facilitate the second-dose logistics as well as time for staff to deal with potential side effects that could make them fail the health screening required to return to work.

Scenario 2: Return students after the second dose of the vaccine.

- The second dose should be completed on March 5, allowing for a return to in-person learning in mid-March. This is dependent on the vaccine availability and could shift.
- This option delays access to in-person instruction for the 36% of families seeking that option and provides greater continuity of learning for all students.

School Board member Kristi Kinsella stated a preference to wait until after the second dose to prioritize the health and safety of everyone and provide continuity during a time when students are learning new protocols (and perhaps changing teachers and class rosters). She continued to support the expansion of limited in-person learning for those students whom virtual learning has proven the most challenging. School Board member Marcie Shea clarified that returning to in-person learning is considered safe by the Health Committee under the current mitigation strategies. The first dose of the vaccine adds additional mitigation but is not required to open safely.

The Health committee recommended that any remaining HCPS staff working from home without accommodations return to work at the school building as soon as February 8 to begin practicing the mitigations strategies they will have to employ while in HCPS buildings. Teachers will make students planning to return in-person aware of the mitigation strategies while still virtual. Some schools have started in-person orientations to acclimate students to the new school environment.

Next Steps: The School Board will meet on **February 4 @ 1:00 PM** to set a timeline for return to in-person learning.

Upcoming Events



Building a Bridge to Better Communication

Feb 9 @ 4 PM in Spanish, 5 PM

in Arabic: This session will focus on the latest important information for HCPS families, translated for families that speak Spanish and Arabic. Details will be made available closer to the workshop date.

Presenter: Sarah Modrak, HCPS Welcome Center

Access Link:

[Tinyurl.com/bridgebuildersacademy](https://tinyurl.com/bridgebuildersacademy)



The Ins and Outs of Section 504 Plans

Feb 15 @ 6 PM: The month of February is often associated with hearts, flowers and happy relationships — but it's also an appropriate time to talk about the reality of teen dating violence. This workshop will focus on awareness and prevention of teen dating violence, including warning signs, communication tips, and recognizing red flags in an unhealthy relationship.

Presenter: Tammie Mobley, Flawless Imperfections, LLC

Access Link:

[Tinyurl.com/bridgebuildersacademy](https://tinyurl.com/bridgebuildersacademy)



Let's Talk About It: Teen Dating Violence

Feb 23 @ 6 PM:

The month of February is often associated with hearts, flowers and happy relationships — but it's also an appropriate time to talk about the reality of teen dating violence. This workshop will focus on awareness and



VA PTA General Assembly Wrap-Up and Bringing Advocacy Home

Feb 25 @ 7:00 - 8:00 PM: Get an update on what happened in this General Assembly Session, how you can maintain a relationship with your legislator and ways that you can bring

prevention of teen dating violence, including warning signs, communication tips, and recognizing red flags in an unhealthy relationship.

Presenter: *Tammie Mobley, Flawless Imperfections, LLC*

Access Link:

[Tinyurl.com/bridgebuildersacademy](https://tinyurl.com/bridgebuildersacademy)

new legislation and ideas back to your community to enact change through your local school board. [REGISTER HERE](#)



Register by Feb 4 for Virtual Hill Day

PTA LegCon 2021

[Register now](#) for the 2021 National PTA Virtual Legislative Conference (LegCon) **March 9-11, 2021**. Network with fellow PTA advocates, virtually meet with your members of Congress, hear PTA advocacy success stories and learn how to shape public policy on Capitol Hill and at home. This year, the cost is reduced to \$50!



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We are on the lookout for the next

TUCKAHOE AREA REPRESENTATIVE

Position supports area PTAs with information, is a liaison on advocacy issues, and shares successes with other PTAs

Contact president@hccpta.com

Be a liaison on advocacy issues

Seeking a Tuckahoe Area Rep

HCC PTA is looking for a PTA member that lives in the Tuckahoe district to be its next Tuckahoe Area Representative. This position supports area PTAs with information, is a liaison on advocacy issues, and serves on the HCC PTA Executive Board. Read our [standing rules](#).

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