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ECSD NEWS RELEASE
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**Escambia County (FL) Schools Contact Many
Remote Learners Regarding Return
to Face-to-Face, On-campus Instruction**

On November 30, 2020, the Florida Department of Education Commissioner Richard Corcoran issued an Executive Order. This Executive Order required school districts to communicate with the parents or guardians of any student currently participating in innovative learning modalities (“Remote Learning” in ECSD) and is failing to make adequate academic progress. The Executive Order mandates this communication must inform parents in writing that the student is to be returned to traditional, face-to-face instruction.

Mr. Steve Marcanio, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, presented to the School Board during the December 10, 2020, Special Workshop and December 11, 2020, Regular Workshop, the district plan to fulfill the requirements delineated in the Executive Order, including the requirement to communicate with parents or guardians in writing about progress concerns.

Parents and guardians will receive the letters in the next couple of days. The letter explains the principals’ concerns regarding the student’s lack of academic progress. Criteria utilized to determine “not making adequate academic progress” includes grades, assessments, attendance, and for high school students, GPA and graduation requirements. Parents who choose not to return their students to face-to-face learning are required to sign and return the letter to the school district. In signing the letter, parents also agree to participate in a required Child Study Team meeting to discuss the academic risks associated with remaining in a remote learning model, as well as appropriate interventions available to help students.

Parents will also receive an automated call from their student’s school no later than December 14, 2020. The call will explain the school's process for returning the student to traditional, face-to-face instruction. If parents have questions, or believe their student is making adequate progress and should not have received the letter, they are encouraged to contact their student’s principal.

“Most educators agree that face-to-face instruction is the best instructional model. We want to be sure every student has the best chance for success this year,” stated Mr. Marcanio.

Current data regarding remote learners is as follows:

Level	# of Remote Learners	# Receiving letters	%
Elementary	3283	2690	82%
Middle	2641	2359	89%
High	3551	2492	70%

The goal is for remote learners, who are not making adequate academic progress, to return to traditional learning on district campuses. The traditional, remote, and virtual learning models will continue to be available. Parents are encouraged to work with their child’s school to review student data, discuss other concerns, and make the best decision for their student.

Learn more about Escambia County School District: Visit ECSD’s web page at www.escambiaschools.org. Military families might want to start here: <https://ecsd-fl.schoolloop.com/military> to find links to information needed by families transferring into Escambia County. Like ECSD on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ecsdfl. Go to Escambia Schools Public Relations on: www.facebook.com/ecsd.public to see pictures of recent events. Visit ECSD’s web page at www.escambiaschools.org

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