

REOPEN OUR SCHOOLS NOW!

Essential places for our children.

Att: School administrators,

While we've been following the letter of the law with all social distancing and safety precautions, it's time to categorize our children as essential, still in the first phase of the city's reopening. Our school buildings must open ASAP, restoring normalcy and allowing us to go to work and take care of our families! The chaos our children face may take years of social work to undo and we won't put up with the senseless decisions of our elected officials that have done too little, too late.

When we first faced this epidemic, we supported the closing of our school buildings. Now, when the government has found it safe to open essential businesses, we are demanding that schools reopen, although it comes in defiance to the local ruling. We are not doing this as an act of rebellion, but as an act of moral and parental obligation.

Our children don't have the luxury of virtual classrooms, because our faith is about purity and doesn't allow the use of technology or screen time. Close to three months with no prayer groups, no religious studies, and no education is 3 months too many! As the parent body supporting and funding your schools, we take full responsibility for our sensible undertaking. We will work alongside your faculty to follow the rules of safe, germ-free schooling.

We are parents, so we wouldn't do anything that would put our children or their teachers at risk. With no new hospitalized cases in our community and an accepted medical statement that children are not a COVID risk, nor a factor in spreading this virus, there is no reason to punish our children and deny them their basic rights.

As educators, you worked hard to organize telephone learning, but as parents the situation is catastrophic. Large families, cramped housing, and working parents mean 'school is essential', as we work to get the children off the streets and into their classrooms.

Closing summer school is a direct form of discrimination, affecting our children during the months of June, July and August, while public schools end in June. We're grateful that you've been lobbying on our behalf, but it seems our government is doing nothing to ease the crisis we face today. While airlines are filled to capacity, our children are denied a classroom setting. While big box stores are deemed essential, our school buildings are barred shut, even when they carry the least risk and the most impact.

As parents, we have a voice. We MUST reopen our schools for the sake of our children AND WE MUST DO SO NOW!

Respectfully yours,

COVID- parents