



AVON GROVE CHARTER SCHOOL

INSPIRE PASSION FOR LIFELONG LEARNING ONE STUDENT AT A TIME

February 26, 2021

Dear AGCS Community,

On February 12th and February 16th, we held board meetings to discuss potential changes to our instructional model and the changes to the Chester County Health Department Guidance. We are diligently planning for our students to return to school full time. Thank you to everyone who filled out their learning intention form. This information is essential for planning an effective transition. The learning intention form is still active in the Parent Portal. Please fill out that form if you have not already done so. If we do not receive your form by next week, we will assume that your child is staying in their current learning model.

The CCHD will permit more in-person learning after three consecutive weeks of a high, moderate, or low county community transmission rate and in conjunction with continued layered mitigation measures. According to the guidance, this week would be week #1 for us as numbers indicate we are currently in the high transmission rate category. Since the school's planning depends upon transmission rates remaining at a low enough threshold for three consecutive weeks, we will share our color chart again. The school's COVID-19 Data Dashboard information will allow you to follow a timeline for transition.

We know there are many questions about how we will phase students back to in-person instruction. As we continue to work through the logistics with our staff, we will communicate with parents. We are confident that we can deliver a safe, in-person instructional model under these new guidelines pending Board approval. I appreciate your patience and support as we navigate this next course together.

We will discuss this with the Board during the next Special Board meeting. We will present our plan and recommend a change to our Health and Safety Plan.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to talk about the recent news in our community about fair funding in education. If you're following Governor Wolf's educational funding proposal, you will see that he recommends changing charter school funding. You have seen that AGCS has made many attempts to educate the community on this topic. We appreciate your outpouring of support when asked to participate in our letter-writing campaigns. It takes everyone to advocate for our right to our choice in education for our children. What you need to understand:

1. It is difficult to single out Avon Grove Charter School when discussing fair funding in all of PA. If you came to our fair funding town hall, you would see that most charter schools reside in cities like Philadelphia and represent various needs.
2. Avon Grove Charter School educates students from several local school districts with vastly different academic achievement levels. As you know, AGCS is succeeding when you compare our students' achievement levels with their home school district peers.
3. It's disappointing to see Anti-Charter organizations trying to pin Avon Grove Charter School against our local school district. When schools should be working together to overcome a global pandemic and support every student, attempts to divide our community and perpetuate the unhealthy competition between school districts and public charter schools will not be tolerated. Unlike most charters and their authorizing districts,



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we have a strong relationship with the Avon Grove School District, and our entire community benefits from our mutual respect.

4. The tuition amounts that flow from school districts to public charter schools, like Avon Grove Charter School, are not the school district's property. These are funds allocated to the district from the state and local taxpayers to educate students; the money belongs to the students. If a child chooses to leave a school district for a charter school, that district has no right to keep their funding. The bottom line, we should all be accountable for the taxpayer money we use to educate the children we serve.

Forward Together,

Kristen Bishop



AGCS COVID-19 Tentative Re-Open Plan

| | Community Transmission | Incidence Rate Per 100,000 | And/Or | PCR Test Positivity |
|---|------------------------|----------------------------|--------|---------------------|
| 😊 | Low | <10 | And | <5% |
| 🙂 | Moderate | ≥10 and <49 | And | ≥5% and <7.9% |
| 😞 | High | ≥50 and <99 | Or | ≥8% and <9.9% |
| 😡 | Very High | ≥100 | Or | ≥10% |

Chester County COVID numbers

County transmission rates must be below 100 per 100,000 for three weeks before schools should consider changing instructional models.

The weekly transmission rate for Chester County was...

| Week (1) February 26th | Week (-) March 5th | Week (-) March 12th |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 93 (Per 100,000) | - (Per 100,000) | - (Per 100,000) |

At last week's AGCS School Board Meeting, the board approved the administration to begin to plan for the potential return of students to a full week learning option given that specific recommendations from the CCHD can be met.

Special Board meetings will be scheduled as we work through the planning to return to school full time.