

Dear Peabody and Watkins Parents and Families,

I am writing with an update on in-person programming at our school for the start of Term 3. As you know, we planned to offer in-person learning starting on Monday, February 1.

Unfortunately, due to the outcome of discussions between DC Public Schools and the Washington Teachers' Union (WTU), we must delay the start of our in-person learning classrooms until we conduct an additional walkthrough to provide an opportunity for school community representatives to re-tour the facility and review readiness measures in place.

This means all students scheduled for in-person learning will continue with virtual instruction, at home, for the start of Term 3.

I want to be clear: We know our students are ready, we know our building is ready, and we know our staff is ready to return to school. Our priority continues to be the health and safety of our students and staff, and we have been working hard over the past months to get our building ready to receive them. As highlighted during our building walkthrough and community meetings, our building has undergone extensive preparation to ensure a safe and healthy environment for students and staff – including HVAC enhancements, socially distant space arrangements and signage, and enhanced cleaning protocols.

I want to acknowledge this is disappointing news for our scholars and families, especially as we see neighboring schools continuing with their reopening plans. I appreciate your understanding and continued support in your child's learning.

If you haven't already, please review the [In-Person Learning family guide](#) for resources to help you prepare for the first day back to the classroom. It includes important forms that parents or guardians need to sign. We shared these documents previously, but they include:

- Family-School Agreement
- Daily Health Screening Tracker
- COVID-19 Testing Consent Forms (symptomatic and asymptomatic)

We are excited to welcome students back just as soon as we can. Please look out for a follow-up message with 1) details on tomorrow's schedule and 2) when we will open in-person learning classrooms for Term 3. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me via email at MScott.Berkowitz@k12.dc.gov.

In Partnership,

MScott Berkowitz
Principal, Peabody Elementary School and Watkins Elementary School