

**From:** Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** 8/12/2020 7:50:07 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]; angela durham <[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** Brad Fiscus <[REDACTED]>; Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>; Eliot Mitchell <[REDACTED]>; Gary Anderson <[REDACTED]>; Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>; Sheila Cleveland <[REDACTED]>; Candace Emerson <[REDACTED]>; Rick Wimberly <[REDACTED]>; KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>; Daniel Cash <[REDACTED]>; Jay Galbreath <[REDACTED]>;  
**Subject:** RE: Remote learning

Danielle,

Thank you for sharing your family's experience these last few days with our remote start-up. The health departments are treating this viral pandemic very differently from the flu, and it is impacting schools across the country. One significant impact is the quarantine process; when case numbers are large, quarantines increase for those exposed, and it impacts our ability to provide on-campus instruction. Our capacity to provide instruction on campus is part of what we are evaluating each day.

Jason Golden  
Superintendent  
Williamson County Schools  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 11, 2020 5:24 PM  
**To:** Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>; Angela Durham <[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** Brad Fiscus <[REDACTED]>; Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>; Eliot Mitchell <[REDACTED]>; Gary Anderson <[REDACTED]>; Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>; Sheila Cleveland <[REDACTED]>; Candace Emerson <[REDACTED]>; Rick Wimberly <[REDACTED]>; KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>; Daniel Cash <[REDACTED]>; Jay Galbreath <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Remote learning

**WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL - Do not click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Mr. Golden,  
I'm writing to you as a concerned parent of a 5th grader and two 11th graders. After 5 months of being home, my kids were so excited to go back to school. My daughter, who is 10, had a lot of questions. Do we have to wear a mask, how are we going to sit 6 ft apart, how am I going to do my job as a 5th grade helper if I can't stand next to the littles, are we going to be able to play with each other during recess? To say we had a lot of conversations is an understatement. When we told the kids that we were going to remote learn for the first two weeks they were very upset. All my kids said they wanted to go back to school, they didn't care how that looked. They wanted to see their teachers and their friends. My daughter told me she doesn't like to learn online. She likes to write with a pencil and paper. One of my sons has a 504 and was concerned that he wasn't going to be able to keep up or what he should do if he needed help. I know that there are going to be hiccups with the internet and the new learning system, that this is new to everyone (teachers and students), but I sat yesterday and today and watched my kids really struggle and one broke down crying. And that is not ok! These kids need to get back in the classroom. They need to be learning in front of their teachers and with their friends.

The kids' zoom calls are freezing up and glitching so bad they can barely hear the teacher talk. My daughter's video keeps going out and then kicking her off. And my house is one of the better ones. My neighbor's daughter came by me today because she was having so many issues. It is beyond frustrating to be on a zoom call and then have to toggle back and forth between the Schoology tabs they need to open to see their assignments, or Google classroom in the case of the younger kids. It's two days in and I already see my kids losing interest because they are beyond frustrated. My 10 year old, who absolutely loves school, wrote me a note today that said I HATE THIS. By the time they get off the computer at the end of the school day they look like zombies. 7 hours of screen time is not healthy or ok!

During the winter we don't close the schools for the flu (which more children get) unless we have 10% of the teacher student population sick. Why then are we closing the schools for less than 1% of the whole population of Williamson County? The mayor of Williamson County has mandated masks for the next few weeks, but children 12 and under are exempt. Why then are we making our children wear masks while attending school? I think this should be a parent decision. If you want your kids to wear a mask, send them with a mask. If you do not want your kids to wear a mask, send them without one. If you are not comfortable sending your kids to school, then keep them home and do the online option. But the choice should be the parents and no one else's. I am more concerned about my children getting sick with a respiratory issue from wearing a mask 7 or more hours a day than I am with sending them back to school and

getting Covid.

I know you are making a decision this week whether or not we will go back into the classroom in two weeks. I urge you to please open up the schools, because if you don't I feel like we are going to lose a lot of kids. I do not think this is a good learning environment for anyone and i don't see it getting any better.

Sincerely,

Danielle 

**From:** Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** 8/12/2020 11:41:27 AM  
**To:** Barbara Ohara <[REDACTED]>; Brad Fiscus <[REDACTED]>; Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>; Eliot Mitchell <[REDACTED]>; Gary Anderson <[REDACTED]>; Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>; Sheila Cleveland <[REDACTED]>; Candace Emerson <[REDACTED]>; Rick Wimberly <[REDACTED]>; KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>; angela durham <[REDACTED]>; Daniel Cash <[REDACTED]>; Jay Galbreath <[REDACTED]>;  
**Subject:** RE: In 1 day, Over 12 hours of screen exposure to my 11 year old child (who has a medically necessary 504 plan)

Barbara,

Thanks for your question about homework. I'll make sure we share this concern with our high school staff. Remote instruction is different from in-class in many ways, and individual students react differently. I do also want to encourage you to talk to your school leaders about your child's 504 plan. Every plan is designed to meet individual health needs, so each concern deserves a direct conversation with those who are serving your child.

Jason Golden  
Superintendent  
Williamson County Schools  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** Barbara OHara <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2020 11:34 AM  
**To:** Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>; Brad Fiscus <[REDACTED]>; Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>; Eliot Mitchell <[REDACTED]>; Gary Anderson <[REDACTED]>; Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>; Sheila Cleveland <[REDACTED]>; Candace Emerson <[REDACTED]>; Rick Wimberly <[REDACTED]>; KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>; Angela Durham <[REDACTED]>; Daniel Cash <[REDACTED]>; Jay Galbreath <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** In 1 day, Over 12 hours of screen exposure to my 11 year old child (who has a medically necessary 504 plan)

**WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL** - Do not click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

# In 1 day, Over 12 hours of screen exposure to my 11 year old child (who has a medically necessary 504 plan)

Dear Superintendent Golden and Board members,  
I am writing to tell you about our 3rd day of school experience, as I see this becoming the norm if no alternate actions are taken. I have this concern for both of my children (and all those in your district), but I believe the heightened awareness for my child with medical issues brings it to the forefront.  
My children attend the Fairview schools. We moved from Nashville to Williamson county in 2016 for the sole purpose of our children attending your schools. I myself am a child of 2 lifelong public school educators, and was raised to highly value a public school education. We greatly appreciate the Williamson county schools and the resources that honor the needs of all children. My younger son is a [REDACTED], and has had his share of medical difficulties in life. He has had [REDACTED] throughout his young life. Two of these [REDACTED] set the stage for his necessary 504 accommodations, which of course have been rewritten each year focusing on grade level specifics. Due to his history and needs, he is under the watchful eyes of not only our Pediatrician, but also a [REDACTED]. You may recognize his name [REDACTED], as he was named the Academic All Star for Fairview Elementary last year. He received this honor in part due to his hard work ethic and determination to give 110% in completing any tasks that are presented to him. Thank you for allowing me to set the stage and introduce him.  
Tuesday, the 2nd full day of school, was a marathon of screen time exposure. On a positive note, this was the first day that all of his links worked and he was able to participate in watching each class in its entirety. As kids are

expected to be on the virtual platform for each individual class, [REDACTED] exposure started at approximately 7:40 am for home room. Not unexpectedly, as the day continued, he was virtually in and out of classes, apps, and various online learning platforms. Once the school day was over, there was homework, all to be completed on the chrome book. Homework was finally completed by 8pm (12 hours after he started his virtual day of learning). He is [REDACTED] years old! I do realize that his 504 plan, which will soon be rewritten to accommodate [REDACTED] specifics, will now have to take into account the virtual and screen times aspect as well. As I indicated before, I see this issue is exacerbated in him because of the [REDACTED]. My [REDACTED] grader, who has no medical issues, and is a very driven self starter, also started the day at the same time, had the same continual screen exposure and finished his homework (all on the chrome-book) at approximately 9pm (although he had a few hours of sports activity right after school hours) - so the majority of the day, from sun up till bedtime was computer focused for a child.

I realize we are in unprecedented times, and that the groundwork for education is being laid. But to endure over 12 hours of screen time exposure (much of it continual) to a developing mind is medically harmful. As you are aware, The American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations are for no more than two hours a day of screen time exposure for children.

My younger child has had diagnosed [REDACTED] his entire life, and I am NOT fearful of him going to school in person with others. I am however VERY fearful about what the extended screen exposure is doing to his developing brain. I know the teachers and administrators are doing the best they can with this situation, and they are new to navigating this as well. I wanted to bring to your attention the realities of the virtual learning environment for my children, and my concerns about the over exposure to technology. In presenting this newly recognized problem, I realize my ideas of possible solutions are minuscule in the scope of things. However, in this unprecedented time, since almost all learning is now computer based, is homework truly necessary? Is it possible that some of the mandated 6.5 hours of virtual learning could be limited to the streaming time allotted during the school day? Could the streaming time be altered to accommodate for the time necessary to complete online tasks? Could homework based items be “old fashioned” pencil and paper tasks?

As I had mentioned before my child will work as hard he possibly can to accomplish the tasks that are presented to him. We as adults must not make unrealistic expectations or end up exposing our children to additional harms.

I appreciate all the hard work that you are doing! I was going to hold off on making any comments until after a week of experiencing this new platform, but sped up my response when I heard of your meeting scheduled for August 13th.

Thank you for your time and attention in addressing my concerns.

A very concerned parent,

Barbara [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad