



Dear Prince George Students and Families,

I am writing to clarify some concerns around scheduling at Prince George High School. Please let me begin by sharing that Prince George County Public Schools is now and will remain a “student first” organization. This means that the needs of our children will always come first.

Prince George County Public Schools’ priority has always been to provide choice for our students and families on the type of instruction, either virtual or remote, that each family believes is necessary to meet the needs of their children. These choices included virtual teachers for those who chose virtual instruction and in-person instruction for those who chose to attend school in-person.

Once the number of virtual classes and in-person needed to meet the needs of the children were determined, teachers were asked for their preference, and when possible, it was accommodated.

In preparation for the second semester, principals were asked to evaluate the instructional selections of the students in their schools and adjust the number of virtual and in-person teachers to meet the needs of the students who selected virtual and in-person instruction. This analysis and planning were to be completed in December. It is important to note that in-person students were always expected to be provided with in-person teachers. The expectation for principals was to inform staff of the needs of the children and make any necessary adjustments by early January to provide staff with notification of any changes and give them the opportunity to plan for the upcoming semester. Each school was asked to confirm that this work had been completed and the necessary adjustments had been made.

At the beginning of the second semester, I began to receive reports from parents and teachers at Prince George High School that in-person students were struggling with their virtual classes and that teachers were also experiencing difficulty balancing their own responsibilities with losing their planning time to be physically present in the in-person classrooms taught by virtual teachers.

Upon further investigation, I learned that Prince George High School created a schedule that has 76 class periods with in-person students being taught by virtual teachers weekly. Further, approximately 50 teachers who are teaching their own in-person class periods are being asked to use their planning time to be physically present in the classrooms as teachers have been permitted to teach virtually from an offsite location. This has created a situation that required correction as it was not fair and equitable to the children who attend in-person to receive instruction from a virtual teacher. Nor is this fair or equitable to the teachers who are asked to teach their classes in-person and then give up their own planning time to be physically present in the room with students while the virtual teacher provides virtual instruction to in-person students. When this situation came to light, it required corrective action to provide our in-person students with in-person instruction and to allow our teachers to have their planning time to meet the responsibilities of their own classes.

All of our teachers and staff are extremely important to us and to our mission to serve our children. We value every employee and will work with each one individually to meet their needs. Family Medical Leave has been and remains available for those who have significant health conditions.

We genuinely care about the health and safety of our entire school community and providing the highest quality instruction for our children.

Thank you,

Lisa Pennycuff, Ed.D.
Superintendent

