

Welcome to the 2021 School Year!

Dear Virtual Learning Program Families,

We are so excited for virtual classes to start tomorrow. You are our partners in this endeavor, and we want you to know what to expect the first few days.

The first week of school always has unique challenges, and our virtual learning program will be no different:

1. **Your child may be taught by a long-term substitute.** Teacher shortages are a challenge throughout the state and Austin ISD. Finding qualified teachers who can accept this unconventional role has been harder than we anticipated. Rest assured, we're only putting teachers, including subs, in front of classrooms if they're ready.
2. **There will be connectivity or log-in issues.** It's the first day. On campus, that means kids may have trouble finding their classroom. When it's virtual, some of our students may have trouble finding the right program or logging in. Teachers are still getting rosters or access to BLEND. We know this is frustrating, and we'll work through it together.
3. **Virtual classrooms may have larger class sizes than on-campus classes.** In physical classrooms, limits to class size are dictated by the state. In virtual classrooms, these do not apply. Teachers are aware of this, and because of staffing challenges, we are working to make sure that all students receive quality instruction regardless of the number of virtual learners in the virtual room.
4. **We're building support for special education, dyslexia and 504.** We are working tirelessly to make sure that all students' needs are met, and it may take some time to ensure these systems work in this new model. If there appears to be a service not working as you'd expect, please let us know. Reach out to your child's teacher or their principal to be sure that IEPs and 504 plans are followed.
5. If students currently in the virtual learning program want to return to their home campus because of these challenges, we welcome them on campus.

Our AISD community is strong, supportive and ready to help make this important option work for our students. Thank you for your patience and your understanding as we get the 2021 school year off to a great start!

Mr. Joshua Jeon
Executive Director, [Virtual Learning Program](#)

