

From: **Communications, Internal** <[intcommunications@cps.edu](mailto:intcommunications@cps.edu)>

Date: Sun, Jan 24, 2021 at 12:39 PM

Subject: Update on CTU negotiations

To:

Dear Colleagues,

CPS and CTU officials have been meeting over the weekend with the goal of reaching an agreement that provides for a smooth expansion of in-person learning. We now [agree on far more than we disagree](#), but our discussions remain ongoing, and additional time is needed to reach a resolution. To ensure we have the time needed to resolve our discussions without risking disruption to student learning, we have agreed to a request from CTU leadership to push back the return of K-8 teachers and staff to Wednesday, Jan. 27.

Pre-k and cluster classroom staff will continue to report to work tomorrow to ensure safe, in-person instruction can continue for the students who returned to classrooms earlier this month. And remote instruction will continue without interruption for students who have been learning from home.

The scheduled return date for students in grades K-8 remains Monday, Feb. 1, and it is our goal to reach an agreement with CTU as soon as possible to ensure tens of thousands of additional students have the opportunity to safely return to our classrooms. Students in over 130 private and parochial schools and over 2,000 early learning centers across the city have been safely learning in their classrooms since the fall, and we must provide that same option to our families who, through no fault of their own, have been unable to make remote learning work for their children. We've seen grades, attendance, and enrollment drop significantly for many of our students in recent months, and the impact has been felt most by our Black and Latinx students.

We are pursuing this return because local, state and federal health officials have made it clear that schools can operate safely with proper mitigations. Working closely with our partners at the Chicago Department of Public Health, we have developed a [comprehensive health and safety plan](#) that meets and exceeds the recommended mitigations, and we have spared no expense — investing over \$100 million — to make this plan a reality. In addition to providing accommodations for all staff who have high-risk medical conditions, we are working hard to find ways to accommodate teachers with vulnerable family members at home in a way that does not jeopardize student learning.

COVID-19 has impacted all of us in profound ways, but its greatest impact has been on those in our community who were already in greatest need of assistance. We know that in-person instruction is not right for everyone and that some staff members have concerns about returning, but it is our job to create options for our families while providing staff the resources they need for a safe return.

Our discussions with CTU will continue throughout the day and into the early part of the week, if needed. We will keep you updated as discussions progress, and we thank you for your continued patience as we work to reach a resolution that is in the best interest of our entire school community.

Sincerely, Janice K. Jackson, EdD LaTanya D. McDade Chief Executive Officer Chief Education  
Officer Chicago Public Schools Chicago Public Schools