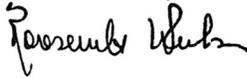




## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mayor and Council Members

**THRU:** Christopher Shorter, Assistant City Manager

**FROM:** Kimberly McNeeley, CPRP, Director, Parks and Recreation Department  
Roosevelt Weeks, Director, Library Department  

**DATE:** August 11, 2020

**SUBJECT:** **Parks and Recreation Department, Library Department and Austin Independent School District Collaboration to Support the School Reopening Plan**

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This memo serves as an update regarding Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PAR), Austin Public Library Department (APL) and Austin Independent School District's (AISD) collaborative efforts to support student learning and after-school care during COVID-19. Representatives from all three agencies have been meeting regularly to discuss opportunities to support student education. Below outlines the current situation, opportunities currently under exploration and next steps.

### Current Situation:

Changing regulations have made the school year planning very fluid. AISD is considering a combination of learning options to meet the needs of the student population, comply with State mandates and implement local health officials' best practices. The leaning options being considered include but are not limited to:

- Open AISD campus options
- Virtual options
- Alternative public space options
- Hub Model (limited AISD campus opening)
- Delay of school year
- Implementation of the "grace period"

### Exploration:

Together AISD, PAR and APL are exploring multiple opportunities to support student learning. While not all supports under exploration are specific to direct student education, the agencies

agree the City of Austin's (COA) ability to assume some non-education functions will relieve pressures on the AISD facilities. The following is under exploration:

- Identify COA public spaces that provide appropriate access to technology supports or that technology supports can be quickly/easily installed
- Analyze COA public spaces that provide sufficient space for socially distant student circulation and/or classroom set up
- Consider the relocation of voting to COA facilities may be an alternative way to support the schools
- Childcare service options
- Modified or Expanded After-school Care model
- Consider offering laptops and hotspots to students
- Identify library locations to offer tutoring service for students

#### Next Steps:

While the focus of this memo is specific to Parks and Recreation and Library operations, future discussions will include the COA Communications and Technology Management Department (CTM) and guidance will be sought from the Austin Public Health Department. The following near term actions have been planned.

- Continue weekly planning/exploration meetings; the next scheduled for 1pm to 2:30 pm August 4<sup>th</sup>
- PARD will contact CTM as it relates to public facility WiFi access and capacity
- PARD intends to explore the opportunity to engage PARD staff in para-educator training
- Roosevelt Weeks and Lucas Massie will engage with AISD to specifically discuss childcare and after-school specific standards and COVID-19 best care practices
- APL will work with VICTORY program coordinators to discuss tutoring services
- APL will work with AISD technology staff to identify technology needs for students

As the collaborative support plan develops into something more formative, additional updates will be provided. Should you have any questions related to the collaborative support efforts, please contact, Kimberly McNeeley at 512-974-6722 or [Kimberly.mcneeley@austintexas.gov](mailto:Kimberly.mcneeley@austintexas.gov) or Roosevelt Weeks at 512-974-7444 or [Roosevelt.weeks@austintexas.gov](mailto:Roosevelt.weeks@austintexas.gov)

cc: Spencer Cronk, City Manager  
Nuria Rivera-Vandermyde, Deputy City Manager  
Stephanie Hayden, Director, Austin Public Health