

A. Russell Hughes
Superintendent of Schools



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December 7, 2020

Dear Parents of Innovative Learning Digital Academy (ILDA) Students:

First, we would like to thank all of our ILDA parents and students for making this new virtual educational option a success in Walton County. We recognize that virtual education is a challenge, especially for our young students, so we appreciate the support and collaboration among the school, teachers, students, and parents.

Next, we are writing this letter to inform you of Emergency Order 2020-EO-07 which was written this week. The new order allows ILDA instruction to continue past January 8th, as the initial Emergency Order was written. Walton County as well as the entire state will be able to continue to offer the virtual model through the end of the 2020-2021 school year. Please note, students will have to come attend their brick and mortar school for all Florida State Assessments (FSAs), End of Course (EOC) exams, Advanced Placement (AP) exams, etc. Your school will reach out to you with specific dates and information closer to testing times.

In the Emergency Order, there are new requirements that the district must address. As the order explains, **“Any student who is not making adequate academic progress in the innovative learning modality must be transitioned to another learning modality.”** If your child meets this exception, please know your school will be reaching out to you soon.

All current ILDA students do have the option of moving to brick and mortar classes starting in January, and we welcome any students/families that would like to make this switch. We do want to tell you about the success of our COVID-19 protocols and procedures in our schools. We do have proper PPE supplies, we regularly clean and deep clean schools and classrooms, and masks are strongly encouraged for all. If you have any questions regarding COVID safeguards, we would be more than happy to talk with you. In order to be transparent, we do want to provide you with the most up-to-date data points regarding COVID:

“Preparing the Whole Child for a Life of Success”

Gail Smith
District 1

Kim Kirby
District 2

Bill Eddins, Jr.
District 3

Marsha Winegarner
District 4

Jason Catalano
District 5

COVID-19 Statistics	Today's Data (12/4/20)	Overall Data to Date (8/17/20 – 12/4/20)
Positive COVID-19 Cases of School District Students and/or Employees	6	176
Quarantined Due to On Campus Exposure of School District Students and/or Employees	20	309
Quarantined Due to Off Campus Exposure (Community/Family Exposure) of School District Students and/or Employees	24	191
Schools Involved in Positive Cases and/or Exposure	11	20

In order for the school district to prepare for January, we are asking all ILDA families to complete the following [survey](#) letting us know of your intentions surrounding the new Emergency Order. Do you want to continue in the ILDA format, or are you planning to come back to our brick and mortar schools? Please complete the survey by Monday, December 14th.

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to talk with your child's school and/or call our district office. We would be more than happy to assist you. Thank you again.

Sincerely,

A. Russell Hughes
Superintendent