

July 15, 2020

Dear Freedom Schools parents/caregivers:

I'm writing to let you know about a situation that occurred today that affected all Freedom School sites. I want you to know what happened and the actions that we will take to respond.

Today, about 30 Freedom Schools staff members (districtwide) did not report to their sites and instead came to the district office to share a number of concerns about their experience so far in the program, now that it is in the second week of operation. (Important note: We assigned other staff to each site to ensure appropriate staff supervision.)

The concerns are primarily around dissatisfaction with health and safety measures taken within the program in response to COVID-19.

We are, in turn, concerned about the things some staff have reported to us.

**We want to provide the best experience possible for our Freedom Schools scholars, so here's what we're going to do in the short term:**

- We are going to take the next two days (Thursday and Friday) as non-school days to give us time to look deeply into the reported concerns and take appropriate action. We will work closely with Freedom Schools program leadership and bring in other relevant staff from our district's risk management/health and safety, custodial, food and nutrition, and other departments.
- We will hold a staff development day on Monday (therefore also a designated non-school day) to share our findings with staff, retrain on COVID-related health and safety practices, and to support staff development in the Freedom Schools model.

The next three days (July 16-20) will be non-school days. We look forward to Freedom Schools resuming on Tuesday, July 21.

Thank you for your support of Freedom Schools. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Rev Hillstrom at 763-391-7124.

Respectfully,



Michael Lehan  
Assistant Superintendent  
Equity and Achievement

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