

August 28, 2020

Dear DCS Online Academy Families,

As you know our district had originally selected Acellus as our online platform for the DCS Online Academy. In recent days, concerning reports have surfaced about some of the content delivered through Acellus lessons. Our team has been reviewing the information and reaching out to various school leaders for additional information. Although much of the content is well done, there are lessons which contain racially and culturally insensitive material. Given these findings, we cannot in good conscience move forward with Acellus as our online academy platform.

Our teachers will be connecting with Online Academy students next week to begin building individual connections and classroom community, identifying learning goals, and working on the social emotional aspects of transitioning back to learning. However, rigorous academic instruction will not begin until week 2 (Sept. 8) as our teachers regroup and prepare teacher-created lessons. Please be aware that learning expectations and time devoted to work will increase in week 2 for students.

Our district will immediately begin the process to select a new online platform that is better suited to our district's needs and standards, but this process may take several weeks to implement. In the meantime, your student will benefit from lessons that cover our district's academic standards. Our teachers are truly committed to providing each student an outstanding educational experience that reflects the ideals and values we hold in this district. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we make this transition, and we will continue to communicate our progress with you.

Sincerely,

Craig Heath
Assistant Superintendent