



Old Dominion Association of Church Schools

REOPENING ADVICE TO ODACS SCHOOLS

June 30, 2020

Updated, August 5, 2020

Based on recent communications with Virginia lawmakers, with the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and with legal counsel, ODACS has withdrawn its request for help to seek an attorney general's opinion regarding certain questions related to the reopening of private schools this fall.

Furthermore, based on all of the information we have been able to gather and to examine, ODACS offers to its member schools the following advice about reopening for the 2020-2021 school year.

1. While we appreciate the extensive and helpful information included in VDOE's booklet *Recover, Redesign, and Restart*, ODACS advises each school to use the published guidance as a resource only and not to submit reopening plans to VDOE. As an alternative, a school may choose to submit reopening plans to the Virginia Council for Private Education with a cover letter stating that the school does not recognize any legal oversight authority by the VDOE.
2. ODACS advises each school to draft its own reopening plan, taking into consideration current CDC and VDOE guidance, as well as local public health conditions, community concerns, and facility limitations. Furthermore, we encourage each school to look closely at school reopening guidance published by the American Academy of Pediatrics.¹
3. ODACS advises each school to seek the input of local health officials and/or school attorneys.
4. ODACS advises each school to publish its reopening plans to all parents who seek to enroll their children in the school.
5. ODACS advises each school to make its plan flexible, so that the school can adjust to changing COVID-19 conditions in its local area.

¹ <https://downloads.aap.org/AAP/PDF/COVID-19%20School%20Re-entry%20Interim%20Guidance%20FINAL%20062520.pdf>