



United Teachers of New Orleans

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New Orleans Moves to Virtual Learning After Outcry from Teachers and Parents

Today, New Orleans Public Schools announced that all schools should move to virtual-only learning by Thursday of this week.

This is an important policy change that will help protect the health and safety of students, teachers, and all New Orleans residents who interact with those in our schools. Less than a week ago, the district had decided to insist upon in-person learning, but this caused an outcry from concerned educators, parents and students. The United Teachers of New Orleans published an [Open Letter to the Superintendent and School Board](#) outlining these concerns on January 1st, and in the subsequent days, several individual schools determined that they could not safely resume in-person learning at this time and decided to transition once again to virtual learning.

“Online schooling is not the ideal option for students or teachers, and we all long for the day when in-person education can resume safely, but unfortunately the latest COVID-19 surge makes this impossible” said Wanda Richard, UTNO President. “As we outlined in our previous letter, there are a number of steps that the district can take to increase safety, and we look forward to working with officials to keep every student and school employee safe, whether they’re at home or at school.”

We thank the Orleans Parish School Board for hearing the concerns of our members, their students, and their families on this issue. Unfortunately, too many educators and community members have felt shut out of the conversation as our district grapples with education and safety during COVID-19. We hope that as the district considers how to move forward, they will include the voices of teachers, parents, and students in their decision making process.