Confidentiality Notice for the use of Blackboard Collaborate and Google Meet as online platforms used by Fairfax County Public Schools for Distance Learning

Dear FCPS Parent or Guardian,

In order to best meet the needs of our students with disabilities during this school closure, our special education teachers and related service providers are using Blackboard Collaborate and/or Google Meet as online platforms to offer instruction and support.

As we transition to a Distance Learning Model, many of our special education teachers and related service providers will be using these online platforms to:

- Facilitate the creation of classes,
- Organize information for students, and
- Implement small group and/or individual learning sessions.

Although FCPS staff will maintain appropriate levels of security during online sessions, please note that when a student participates in a Blackboard Collaborate or Google Meet virtual session, their first and last names will be visible to all other students attending that session.

With live video feed, FCPS staff are also unable to control who else may be in the same room in the home as the child participating in a virtual environment.

If you are not comfortable with your child participating in a Blackboard Collaborate or Google Meet session, please reach out to your child’s special education case manager or related service provider to review other instructional options.

Fairfax County Public Schools expects that all families review and implement the following guidelines and expectations to ensure that the confidentiality rights of all students are protected when live video sessions are used.

1. Parent or Guardian shall make every effort to ensure that no one other than the student scheduled to participate can see or hear the live virtual session.

2. No recordings will be made by the parent, guardian, or student of virtual live sessions.

3. If parental or other third-party involvement in a virtual live session is necessary to enable a student to participate, the individual assisting the student shall not re-disclose any personally identifiable information about any student participating.

4. When participating in a group session, please be mindful of the educational environment and eliminate distractions that may divert the students’ attention away from learning.