

I agree with Del. Lauren Arikian that the failure of schools to reopen is a dereliction of duty.

The state is obligated to provide an adequate education. Virtual learning is not functioning, in terms of academic achievement specifically. And the emotional toll is nothing short of atrocious.

The question then becomes, "Can schools open safely?" Yes, they can. It has been shown repeatedly, with experts from the American Academy of Pediatrics to Harvard and Boston Universities advocating opening, not to mention the real-world evidence from Europe.

And yet, we in Baltimore and Montgomery counties haven't had our children in a classroom for nearly a year. With Baltimore County Public School's phased-in approach, my 4th and 7th graders won't see a classroom until April 6, and then only twice a week.

This is simply unacceptable. We're still paying our high property taxes and not getting the services they should pay for. Since we know we won't be reimbursed for our tax payments, we should at least be able to attribute those funds to actual learning at any of the numerous schools that have chosen to put both students and science first.

Sincerely,

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