

To whom It may concern:

I have 3 kids at home struggling with Distance learning. My now 5th grader has been struggling since last year when the schools closed. She has very little interest in attending class via computer and does the bare minimum for the class. Her reading, English and math skills have greatly suffered and she's now more than a grade behind where she should be. I hear on a daily basis how much she hates being on computer and zoom class. It's not the same as in person learning, there is no human interaction with her peers, lack a of desire to participate and signs of depression and withdrawal.

My second child is in 7th grade and in an SRC sped class. He's minimally participating but requires full support in order to do any of his zoom class or work. Which we have to provide for him to be able to attend anything. Every day we hire a personal support worker to guide him through his day and keep him on task as my husband and I aren't able to. He does his best to attend the zoom and follow but it's a struggle not being in his class where he knows what he's supposed to do and has a guided routine daily.

My 3rd child is an intellectually disabled 9th grader at ACE, sped behavioral center. He is expected to attend an am and pm 30 min zoom class with a 30 min added APE class once a week. He's suffering the most as he has no interest in computer screen, doesn't have the capacity to attend or even cooperate when needed. His routine is greatly disturbed and he's been confused and requiring more care than ever at home which we also have to provide for him and hire extra support.

We need our kids back in school now. Keeping the schools closed is hurting our kids intellectually, mentally and physically.

Thank for your time,
Kimie Knox