



# AUGUSTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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www.augustaschools.org

James Anastasio, M.A.  
Superintendent

June 2, 2021

Katherine Grondin, CAS  
Assistant Superintendent

Dear Parents and Students:

Kathy Casparius,  
M.B.A., M.C.T.E.  
Business Manager

We need your help! Our goal is to open schools in September with all students in school five days a week. In order to do so, without major disruptions that include moving some teachers and students to a new room and for some a new school, we need to remove the required three feet of physical distancing for students. At this point, the only way to eliminate the social distancing requirement for students is through the School Department participating in School Based Pool Testing for COVID 19.

Susan Walters, CAS  
Director of Special  
Education

What is pool testing and how does it help? The Maine Department of Health and Human Services and Department of Education (DOE) have implemented a pool testing program to help identify positive COVID cases in schools before the positive individual has a major impact on others in school. If the ASD participates in the process the three foot physical distancing requirement for students is removed. The biggest obstacle for students returning five days a week will be gone.

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It is extremely important that your child participate in the pool process to reduce the potential impact of COVID on everyone in school and allow the schools to return to as close to normal as possible. **For the school department to implement pool testing, at least 30% of students and staff in each school must participate in the program.** More information regarding the testing process and associated benefits are posted on the school department and school web pages.

To get started, please fill out the consent form with your permission to perform a COVID-19 pooled test for your student. This process should take no more than 5 minutes to complete using a computer or a smartphone.

1. First, click here (<https://testcenter.concentricbyginkgo.com/minor-consent>).
2. Then, enter this access code (not case sensitive) for the school your child attends:
  - a. Cony Middle/High School: CONYRAMS
  - b. Farrington Elementary: FARRINGTON
  - c. Sylvio Gilbert Elementary: GILBERT
  - d. Lillian P Hussey Elementary: HUSSEY
  - e. Lincoln Elementary: LINCOLN
3. Finally, enter your child's information, and you're done!

Note: If you need to provide consent for more than one child, please complete the process separately for each child.

Please complete the online consent form or return the attached consent form to school prior to the end of the school year, June 11.

If you have questions, feel free to contact your school's principal or nurse.

Sincerely,

James Anastasio  
Superintendent of Schools