

Around 200 teachers in the Little Rock School District did not show up for in-person classes today (Mon) after the union representing educators in the district urged them to work from home instead. As K-U-A-R's Daniel Breen reports, some could potentially lose their jobs.

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Before the start of the current school year late last month, the Little Rock Education Association had urged members not to show up for in-person classes – which schools are required to offer five days a week under the Arkansas Constitution. But union members later voted to support the Little Rock School District's plan for in-person classes, as long as the district and Superintendent Mike Poore adhered to its "Ready For Learning Plan." But in a letter to parents Sunday, Poore said the union had reversed its support and told members to only teach virtual classes and not to show up for in-class instruction. Union president Teresa Knapp Gordon said in a statement the district had not followed through on numerous protections included in the safety plan, like enhanced cleaning and mask-wearing. Speaking with reporters, Poore rejected those claims and said 69 educators will be facing discipline and possible termination for their part in the job action. *NEWS12 0:19* "...in-person learning's important." Poore said district staff and substitutes will help cover for absent teachers, and that the district is working to hire more educators should union members continue to teach online-only classes. DJB, KUAR News.

Little Rock School Superintendent Mike Poore says 69 teachers will face disciplinary action after the union representing teachers in the district called for an end to in-class instruction. The Little Rock Education Association, which previously supported the district's plan for in-person classes, called on members to teach online-only classes beginning today (Monday) until safety concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic are addressed. Speaking with reporters at the district's headquarters, Poore accused the teacher's union of intentionally keeping the job action a secret.

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"...what was going on."

According to Poore, the 69 teachers facing discipline or possible termination notified their school principals on Sunday afternoon they would no longer be teaching in-person classes. Poore said about 150 more teachers called in sick from classes Monday morning. Arkansas's Constitution requires schools to be open for in-class instruction five days a week, though students can opt to take virtual classes during the pandemic.