



‘Return to Learn’ Information for Families of Elementary Students

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Prince George County Public Schools seeks to bring as many of our students back to school as soon as we can and as safely as we can while following mandates and Phase Guidance from the Commonwealth.

This document details how instruction for our Elementary students will look during the 2020-2021 School Year as we prepare to welcome students back to campus and provide remote/virtual instruction to our families who are not yet comfortable having their child(ren) return to the school building.

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Overview

Students will be provided new instruction at the start of the 2020-2021 school year, regardless of the reopening phase of the state. That instruction will be provided in-person for as many days as feasibly and safely as possible or remotely/virtually. All assignments will be graded to ensure accountability in preparing students for higher grades, higher learning, and future careers.

Virginia’s Phase Guidance for Schools

Phases will be determined by monitoring public health data, healthcare capacity, testing capacity, and other relevant factors.

Phase 1: Most students would participate in 100% remote/virtual learning. Students with disabilities may attend in-person in class sizes up to 10 students with physical distancing requirements if the Individualized Education Program (IEP) team agrees it is appropriate.

Phase 2: Schools may offer limited in-person instruction to preschool-third grade and English Learner students. Special education services offered in Phase 1 may continue to operate. Operational requirements include physical distancing and other mitigation strategies.

Phase 3: In-person instruction can be offered to all students. Operational requirements include physical distancing and other mitigation strategies.

Beyond Phase 3: School divisions will return to a “new normal” for instructional and extracurricular operations in consultation with public health officials. Additional guidance will be forthcoming as public health data, safety precautions, and guidance evolve.

Options for 2020-2021 School Year

Option 1: In-Person Learning

Parents can select in-person learning for their child. This model will consist of students in grades PreK-5 attending classes, in-person, up to 5 days a week based on the needs of our families.

Parents will also have the option of virtual learning for students.

Option 2: Virtual Learning

Parents can select virtual learning for their child for the first semester of the 2020-2021 school year. If parents select this option, it will be for the entire first semester of school. The division recognizes and supports parents who are selecting the best option for their family during this unprecedented time.

Regardless of the reopening phase the Commonwealth may be in, the following virtual learning standards will be used during Phases I, II, and III:

- Google Classroom
- Daily Morning Meeting
- Daily Zoom for Math (recorded)
- Daily Zoom for Language Arts (recorded)
- Daily Zoom Small Group/Individual instruction
- Assignments will be graded using PGCPSS Grading Scale
- Weekly communication to parents
- Daily attendance
- Daily office hours
- Principals will be added to Google Classroom to view lessons

Instruction During Phase I

All students will have a specific schedule to follow throughout the day, which will include online meetings with teachers and classmates. Students will have opportunities for small group instruction and remediation as needed. Teachers will utilize Google Classroom and Zoom to organize online meetings to deliver instruction.

All students will participate in new instruction based on the Virginia Standards of Learning for specific grade levels.

Instruction During Phase II

In-person learning will occur on a rotating basis based on the resources of the division for students in grades PreK-third, students with disabilities, and English Learners. Schedules will be based on the needs of students and transportation.

All other students will have virtual learning with the same requirements in Phase 1.

Instruction During Phase III

In-person learning will occur for students in grades PreK-Fifth for up to five days a week depending on the resources of the division. Virtual Learning will also be an option for all students with the same requirements as Phase 1 and II. The instructional focus will be on the core content areas of reading and math with lessons to also include science and social studies. Schools will create schedules to serve all students with remediation times for students to receive extra academic support.

Charts for Phases of School Operations for Elementary Schools

Grade Level	Phase I	Phase II	Phase III
PreK-3rd	5 days a week distance learning (Programs may be offered to students with disabilities.)	Up to 5 days a week in-person learning (Programs may be offered to students with disabilities and English learners.)	Up to 5 days a week in-person learning
4th-5th	5 days a week distance learning	5 days a week distance learning	Up to 5 days a week in-person learning

PreK-5 Virtual Academy Sample (Draft) Student Schedule

Time	Subject/Activity
8:30-9:00	Teacher planning
9:00-9:15	Morning Meeting
9:15-11:15	Reading with Integrated History lessons -Whole Group and Small Group Instruction
11:15-12:15	Math with Integrated Science lessons -Whole Group and Small Group Instruction
12:15-1:00	Lunch and Recess
1:00-1:45	Small Group/One on one remediation
1:45-2:30	Specials or Activities (Art, Music, PE, Library, Guidance)
2:30-3:45	Teacher planning and Office hours

** Special Services will be available during small group instruction and office hours*

Grading

All grading and assessment requirements will follow the regular grading policy outlined by Prince George County schools for both in-person and virtual learning. All grades will be entered into Tyler SIS for parents to view in the Parent Portal. The grading scale and requirements can be found in the Student Handbook for Prince George County Public Schools.

Social Emotional Learning

All elementary schools will implement Morning Meetings for students for in-person and virtual learning. School counselors will conduct monthly sessions with all classrooms in grades K-5 to promote social emotional learning. School counselors will also conduct small group sessions with students as needed. To encourage social and emotional learning, teachers will promote outdoor instruction and breaks throughout the school day.

Remediation/Recovery Learning & Enrichment Activities

Every student in grades 2-5th will be assessed on the fourth quarter objectives from the 2019-2020 school year that were taught during the COVID-19 school closure (March 13-June 12, 2020) to determine areas of strength and areas for improvement with an assessment from PowerSchool. Additional assessment will include STAR Reading, STAR Math, Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Assessments, and district wide assessments.

Students in grades K-first grade will be screened using PALS, Star Early Literature, teacher created assessments, Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Assessment, and district assessments to determine areas of strength and areas for remediation.

All teachers will use the data from formal and summative assessments to create remediation and recovery plans for all students.

When planning fall reopening, the district will make every effort to ensure students with disabilities receive services as appropriate in the recommended setting in accordance with their individualized educational plans. Given the limitations of physical distancing and other health and safety requirements, instruction will be adapted to meet the unique student needs.

Gifted students will receive enrichment opportunities by the Gifted Resource teacher using push-in instruction for in-person learning and a virtual option for students distance learning.

Students in need of academic support will receive assistance from reading interventionists, PALS, Title I, and math interventionists using push-in instruction. Small group intervention will be available for distance learning students who need additional instruction.

English Language Learners will receive support using push-in instruction. Small group intervention will be available for distance learning as well.

Professional Development

All staff will receive training on a variety of topics to include:

- COVID-19 health and safety procedures
- Google Classroom
- Guided Reading
- Online Resource such as Reading Eggs, IXL, and BrainPop
- Social Emotional Learning
- Morning Meetings
- PBIS

More Information

More information about Prince George County Public Schools' Return to Learn Plan can be found online at the school district's website, <http://pgs.k12.va.us/ReturnToLearn>. From there, you can view our health mitigation plan, recent presentations to the Prince George School Board and other information.

Additionally, our frequently asked questions page recently launched and will be updated with responses to questions from our families and community.