



‘Return to Learn’ Information for Families of Secondary 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 Secondary 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: Remote/Virtual Learning

Prince George County Public Schools supports families who are selecting the best option for their student(s) during this unprecedented time. Parents can select remote/virtual learning for their student(s). Students will receive approximately 5 ½ hours of instruction daily. If parents select this option, it will be for the entire first semester of the 2020-2021 school year.

Option 2: In-Person Learning

This model will consist of students attending classes, in-person. The number of days of in-person instruction per week will be determined by the Phase Guidance for Virginia Schools.

Processes and Systems for Option 1: Remote/Virtual Instruction

Our goal for remote learning is to keep students engaged by providing the best academic experience possible while staying connected. Meaningful virtual lessons will be created to enhance student learning and growth.

To help accomplish this goal, the following expectations have been established for teaching and learning:

- Google Classroom will be used as the primary learning platform.
- Teachers will communicate weekly with students and use platforms such as Google Meet or Zoom to meet with students.
- Each class will follow a syllabus shared with students at the start of the course.

- Online and digital instructional resources (ie. Study Island, IXL, APEX, Virtual Virginia, Flocabulary, etc.) that are currently used as tools to extend and enrich learning will continue to be used.
- Students should put forth their best effort, attend classes regularly, and exhibit respectful online class behavior.

Grades 6-12 Virtual Academy Sample (Draft) Student Schedule

Time	Subject/Activity
7:20-8:00	Teacher Planning
8:00-9:15	BLOCK 1/2 (Whole group/small group sessions)
9:15-10:30	BLOCK 3/4 (Whole group/small group sessions)
10:30-11:45	BLOCK 5
11:45-12:15	Lunch
12:15-1:30	BLOCK 6/7 (Whole group/small group sessions)
1:30-2:30	Teacher Planning and Office Hours

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

Processes and Systems for Option 2: In-Person Instruction

Our goal for in-person learning is to provide students with deeper learning experiences in course content while engaging in the 5 C’s (Communication, Collaboration, Creativity, Critical Thinking, and Citizenship) in the safest environment possible.

To help accomplish this goal, the following expectations have been established for teaching and learning:

- Physical distancing and other measures will remain important prevention strategies. Additional operational requirements will include measures such as gathering limits

(consistent with any existing Executive Order) and other mitigation strategies. Schools will follow guidance from the CDC to the greatest extent possible.

- Staggering the use of communal spaces (Cafeteria, Gymnasiums, etc.)
- Learning Environments: Although students will attend school in a traditional in-person setting, some instructional strategies and approaches will need to be modified in order to practice health mitigation strategies.
- Attendance: Students will attend school according to the division calendar.
- New Instruction: All students will participate in new instruction aligned with the requirements and standards provided by the state.

Technology

All students in grades 6-12 will have access to a Prince George County Public Schools Chromebook or laptop. Additional hotspots will be available to support students in need of internet connectivity.

Grading

All grading and assessment requirements will follow the grading policy as outlined in the Student Handbook for Prince George County Public Schools for both virtual and in-person learning. Grades will be entered into Tyler SIS for parents to view in the Parent Portal.

Identification of Instructional Gaps & Student Needs

Teachers will use diagnostic formative pre-assessments in all academic subject areas at the beginning of the school year to determine individual needs and potential gaps in learning. Teachers will use the data from the diagnostic formative assessments to measure mastery to inform instruction, remediation, and enrichment. Differentiated instruction will be designed and pacing will be adjusted, based on the needs of students.

The following assessments will be used to identify learning needs and potential gaps:

- 6-7
 - STAR Reading
 - Teacher created diagnostic assessments for Math, Science, English, and Social Studies
 - ARDT for Algebra Readiness students
- 8-9
 - Teacher created diagnostic assessments for all academic subject areas.
 - Student growth assessments (SGAs) for content areas
- 10-12
 - Teacher created diagnostic assessments for all academic subject areas.

Supporting Our Vulnerable & Special Populations

In response to flexible learning options for students with disabilities, IEP teams may reconvene to determine and document appropriate services based upon the needs of the students. Any considerations regarding alternate scheduling will be made through the IEP teams. Special education services will be provided within the least restrictive environment possible while maintaining the safety of students and staff. Ongoing support and collaboration with families will continue through the IEP team meeting process. When planning for 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 (IEPs). Given the limitations of physical distancing and other health and safety requirements, instruction will be adapted to meet the unique students' needs on a case by case basis.

English Language Learner (ELL) tutors and general education teachers will embed language accessibility and supports in their learning lessons and activities for in person or virtual instructional delivery. ELL tutors and general education teachers will collaborate to support students accessing the general education curriculum.

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 who choose remote learning.

Professional Development

Teachers and Staff will receive training on the following topics:

- COVID-19 health and safety procedures
- Google Classroom
- Project Based Learning for remote and in-person learning environments
- Online Communication Platforms – NearPod, Zoom
- Online Resources such as: IXL, Study Island, APEX, Virtual Virginia, Flocabulary
- Social Emotional Learning and Mindfulness
- Classroom management for remote and in-person instruction

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.