



Washington County Schools

Commanding Excellence for All

Return to School Guide

Questions are grouped into four topic areas. Scroll down and look for these icons to help navigate this document:



Staying Healthy



Instruction



Building
Management



Transportation



Staying Healthy: Questions/Answers

Q1: Will all students be REQUIRED to wear masks?

A1: Yes. Per the Healthy at School Guidelines provided by the Department of Public Health, students who are enrolled in first grade and above as well as all staff will be required to wear a cloth face covering, unless medical reasons exist to prevent wearing a mask. Masks can be lowered during class time if all students and staff are seated 6 feet apart. All masks must meet the guidelines of the school dress code. Students who do not have their own mask will be provided with one upon entering the bus or school building (the district will only provide 1 mask per child if needed).

Q2: If I provide the masks for my child(ren) to wear at school, are there any specifications?

A2: Masks can be cloth, made of disposable fabric, or surgical face masks. Masks should cover the nose and mouth in order to effectively prevent the spread of respiratory droplets. Masks can be any color or fabric as long as they do not include any text/graphics that would violate your school's dress code guidelines.

Q3: How frequently should I wash my child's cloth mask?

A3: Cloth masks should be washed daily. We recommend that you have at least two masks for your child.

Q4: What happens if my child comes to school with a FEVER greater than 100.4?



Washington County Schools

Commanding Excellence for All

A4: Per the Healthy at Schools guidance document, schools will have a designated area for isolation of sick students with an ability to maintain adult supervision until the child is picked up by parent, guardian or designee. Students in isolation should wear a face covering while waiting for transport if there is no medical reason to prevent this.

Q5: If one classroom has a positive case of COVID-19, would only that classroom be moved to NTI? What procedures would be in place for reporting cases to families/staff?

A5: Our local health department alongside the State Department of Public Health has emphasized the importance of keeping students in the same groups as much as possible in order to assist with contact tracing in instances where a positive case of COVID-19 occurs. This practice will assist in decisions made on whether a class of students will be moved to Non-Traditional Instruction (NTI), a grade level or a school. These decisions will be made in consultation with our Department of Public Health. Currently, communication procedures for reporting cases to families/ staff are handled by our local Health Department and their contagious disease staff. These same guidelines would also apply to extracurricular groups (sports teams, band, clubs, etc).

Q6: As a working parent, will I need to prepare for possible intermittent school closures?

A6: Yes. Based on guidance from the Kentucky Department of Education, families should prepare for intermittent school closures or periods of NTI throughout the school year. Please plan accordingly to have childcare arrangements for your child should these closures occur. See Color Tier System document for information on how these decisions will be made.

Q7: Will water bottles be provided to students?

A7: The district will not provide water bottles for students. However, they will be allowed to bring their own to use individually.

Q8: Will students be permitted to play outside for wellness time? Will playground equipment be cleaned?

A8: Schools will develop schedules to provide wellness time for students to be on the playground/outdoors. Playground equipment will be cleaned frequently.



Washington County Schools

Commanding Excellence for All

Q9: Will my child's temperature be screened daily at school?

A9: Yes, all students and staff will have daily temperature screenings. We also ask that parents please check your child's temperature DAILY before your child boards the bus, walks to school, or is dropped off at the school.

Q10: Who will make decisions regarding quarantining students and staff?

A10: The Lincoln Trail Health Department will make all decisions regarding quarantine.



Instruction: Questions/Answers

Q1: What are the expectations for individualizing use of hands-on manipulatives? Will any sharing of materials be allowed? (i.e. Chromebooks, iPads, school supplies)

A1: Materials (i.e. math manipulatives, science equipment, etc.) can only be shared if they are used individually and then cleaned before being used by another student. Students will not be allowed to share common classroom materials (i.e. scissors, pencils, chromebooks, etc); therefore, schools will be very specific about the materials that you will need to provide for your student in the student supply list.

Q2: If my family chooses Remote Learning, will we need to have our own reliable Internet?

A2: Yes. Families choosing Remote Learning should have a high-quality internet connection.

Q3: If my family chooses Remote Learning, will we need to have our own device?

A3: No, the district will provide a student device (Chromebook) upon parent request.

Q4: Will a parent have a choice of remote instruction instead of traditional in-person instruction for their child(ren)?

A4: Yes, parents do have the option; however, we want to reinforce that students have the greatest success when instruction is delivered in person. Please note that if your child was not successful during NTI in the spring, the Remote Learning Program may not be the best option for your child. Please see Parent Choice Model document for further information.



Washington County Schools

Commanding Excellence for All

Q5: Can students receiving Remote Learning be eligible for extra-curricular activities?

A5: Yes. Students must be enrolled in a Washington County School (includes the Remote Learning Program) and meet eligibility criteria in order to participate. Participation will adhere to KHSAA guidelines.

Q6: Will students be able to be pulled out for resource services (GT/SPED/EL)? If not, how will it be accommodated?

A6: Special education, English learners, and gifted/talented students can be pulled for resource services as long as the social distance and PPE guidelines can be met.

Q7: If we start late August, when will preschool start?

A7: Preschool will start approximately one to two weeks after the first day of school for grades K-12 regardless of the start date. If you have applied for preschool, you will receive additional guidance and updates directly from the Preschool Department.

Q8: Will students in the Remote Learning Program be taught by an instructor or be taught through an online system?

A8: The Remote Learning Program will implement an online learning system supported by supplemental lessons and online interactions with Washington County teachers.

Q9: Will students in the Remote Learning Program be required to participate in scheduled classes and lessons or will they be able to access lessons at any time during the day?

A9: As long as students are meeting academic progress goals during Remote Learning instruction, the students will work at their own pace and at their chosen time. If students are not making progress or are having difficulty with lessons, they will be required to participate in academic support sessions that are scheduled with a Washington County educator.

Q10: Will the students in the Remote Learning Program follow the same curriculum as in person classes to accommodate for those moving back and forth as much as possible?

A10: Yes, it will be critical for our Remote Learning Program students to be exposed to all of the grade level content with rigorous instruction. All Washington County Schools will follow the district-level curriculum maps and pacing guides to provide smooth transitions between in-person and Remote Learning.

Q11: With both types of instruction taking place (In Person/Remote Learning) will students be held to the same expectations/grading?



Washington County Schools

Commanding Excellence for All

A11: Yes, Remote Learning expectations/grading will align with the same expectations for students receiving traditional instruction.

Q12: If students choose the Remote Learning Program, will they be required to take state assessments (K-PREP) or ACT?

A12: Yes, students will not be exempt from these assessments if they choose Remote Learning. At this time, these assessments are scheduled to be given on campus.

Q13: Will schools provide instruction of the content that was not taught during the spring due to COVID closure?

A13: Washington County teachers have modified their curriculum pacing plans for 20-21 in order to incorporate missed learning targets from the spring of 19-20 into the 20-21 curriculum where the content is most appropriate.

Q14: Will school counselors continue to work with students from their own school who have moved to the Remote Learning Program?

A14: Yes, counselors at each individual school will be responsible for working with the students that choose Remote Learning. A district teacher/counselor may be assigned.

Q15: Can my child start at the Remote Learning Program and then switch to in-person instruction? Will students be able to transition between in-person and the Remote Learning Program?

A15: A continuous and consistent learning environment is best for student success. However, we understand that parents and students might have compelling reasons to seek a transition from one option to another, so we will provide opportunities to do so when available. For the sake of continuity, transfers from one learning option to another would be allowed after the completion of a grading period. Unique circumstances will be handled on a case-by-case basis in partnership with the assigned school.

Q16: Will students take a diagnostic assessment (such as CERT or i-Ready) in order to determine their current skill level upon returning to school?

A16: Yes, the diagnostic assessments will be administered at designated grade levels once school starts to help guide instruction for students. However, the focus for the first several weeks of school will be on developing relationships with students, practicing safety measures, and reteaching critical processes for all school procedures.

Q17: Will schools continue to hold Admissions and Release Committee (ARC) meetings and other parent conferences through Remote meeting platforms?

A17: Yes, ARC and parent meetings can continue to be held through Google Meet, Skype, Zoom or other electronic meeting forum.



Washington County Schools

Commanding Excellence for All

Q18: Would a cell phone be a reliable device for the Remote Learning Program?

A18: No, cell phones will not meet the requirement of allowing students to complete high-quality work.

Q19: If shelter-in-place orders occur again this year, what type of instruction will be provided?

A19: During shelter-in-place extended closures, students who have been receiving in-person instruction will utilize non-traditional instruction (NTI). The NTI instructional plan may include lessons from the Remote Learning Program since both are aligned to the same curriculum pacing guide.

Q20: What is the deadline to make a decision regarding In-Person and Remote Learning Programs?

A20: Parents/guardians will be asked to make a decision for the first nine weeks of instruction by July 22.

Q21: How do I change the learning program decision for my child at the end of a nine-week period?

A21: Parents/guardians who wish to change instructional placement at the end of a nine-week grading period will need to contact the child's school to place a request.

Q22: Will my child receive exceptional child services (e.g., GT, EL, Special Ed) and related services (e.g., OT, PT, Speech, counseling) if we select Remote Learning?

A22: Yes. Each school will make arrangements with families to provide additional services as needed.

Q23: Will my child's school have an open house and school supply list?

A23: Yes. Please watch for upcoming information from your school as the opening date (Aug 27) gets closer.



Building Management: Questions/Answers

Q1: Will the Childcare program be available when school resumes?

A1: Yes, Childcare will be available for families that have completed the application process. If you are interested in after school childcare for your preschool or elementary



Washington County Schools

Commanding Excellence for All

child(ren), please see the link for Childcare under the Departments tab on our district webpage.

Q2: What safety measures will be in place in common areas of the schools (offices, hallways, restrooms, library, cafeteria, etc)?

A2: Schools may use stickers or tape on the floors in non-instructional areas such as hallways (near bathrooms, water fountains, lunchroom, library checkout, etc.) which will mark 6-foot spacing for social distancing. Hand sanitizer stations are available throughout the school including common areas like the office, library, gym, etc. Signage in restrooms will provide instruction on proper hand-washing techniques. Restroom breaks will be staggered throughout the day limiting the number of students in the restrooms at any given time. Guidelines for safety from the Healthy at Schools guidance document will be followed.

Q3: Will visitors/volunteers be allowed in the school buildings?

A3: Until further notice, parents, visitors and volunteers will need to make appointments prior to coming to campus. Please contact the office of your school to schedule your visit or volunteer work. Lobby/office areas will have limited access. These activities may be limited or suspended based on need.

Q4: Will students enrolled in the Remote Learning Program be provided lunch?

A4: If desired, families will have the opportunity to pick up weekly meals at designated locations and times. Washington County Schools will NOT be delivering lunches to homes or having mobile lunch stops throughout the county.

Q5: Where will students be eating breakfast and lunch?

A5: Students will be eating lunch in their classrooms, cafeteria, or alternate locations. Schools will create schedules to allow groups of students to socially distance and eat in the school cafeteria. Other classes will eat in their classrooms.

Q6: Will meals be free for all students again this year?

A6: Yes. Washington County Schools will participate in the CEP (free meal) program again this year for all students.



Transportation: Questions/Answers

Q1: What steps will be taken to limit exposure on school buses?



Washington County Schools

Commanding Excellence for All

A1: Students in grades 1-12 will be required to wear masks while on the bus, unless medical reasons exist to prevent wearing a mask. Drivers and monitors will be required to wear approved face coverings. Seating charts will be implemented. Students will be asked to sit with members of their own household. Buses will be cleaned between runs.

Q2: Will Washington County Schools implement staggered start/end times for schools with large numbers of students?

A2: No major changes will be made to start and end times. School administrators will work to ensure social distancing guidelines at start and end times are followed as closely as possible.

Q3: Will Washington County Schools implement alternating day schedules (A/B schedule)?

A3: No, an A/B schedule is not being considered at this time. Students will attend school five days a week.

Q4: Will my child be required to use hand sanitizer upon entering the bus?

A4: All students will be required to apply hand sanitizer when entering a Washington County School bus each morning and afternoon. The hand sanitizer will include at least 60% alcohol and be provided by the district.

Q5: Students who are enrolled at the Tel Center, MCATC or ECTC travel between their home high school and the Learning centers. Will transportation continue for these students?

A5: Yes, transportation will still be provided. Students will follow the expectations for wearing a mask while on the bus since they cannot practice social distancing. Students will be assigned seats for contact tracing purposes.

Information in this document is subject to change. Please know additional specific information will be shared as the back-to-school plan is finalized. If you have questions that were not addressed in this document, please contact your building-level principal.



Washington County Schools

Commanding Excellence for All

Watch our district social media sites and website for updates.

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