

FULTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Return to Learn FAQ

Daily Routines

Will FPS send out building specific procedures for Return to Learn?

Yes, building specific plans will be released soon.

Will I still be able to park and pick up my child every day?

Parents will not be able to go inside the building. We ask that parents stay within their vehicle and line-up in the drop-off/pick-up line until their child is dismissed. Building-specific procedures will be released soon.

Will Before and After Care (Bac Pac) be offered during the 2020-2021 school year?

Yes. Bac Pac will be available before and after school. To sign-up your child(ren) please go [here](#).

Will students share school supplies?

No. The practice of students sharing supplies such as scissors, crayons, markers, pencils, etc. will be discontinued.

Please label all supplies using a permanent marker or sticker label.

Will the students stay in one room with the same kids all day?

This will depend on the layout of each school and the level of instruction. Each school will have specialized plans to reduce student interactions. Whenever possible, our schools will use a cohort model. Secondary schools will adjust their schedules this year to reduce the number of passing times.

Will elementary school students have recess?

Students will have recess in their daily schedule. Recess times will be staggered to minimize contact between students.

The plan refers to the possibility of students eating in classrooms, in common areas, or the cafeteria. When will my students know what lunch time will look like for them?

Building specific plans will be released soon.

Where will students eat meals at school?

Modifications to meals will be made as needed (for example, some students may eat meals in the classroom, some students may eat meals in other common areas to limit the number of students in the cafeteria). If eating meals in the cafeteria, the number of students will be limited and students will be seated with fellow students from their small groups to minimize exposure.

What does “small groups” mean?

The plan is to keep kids in “cohorts” meaning, their 3rd grade class, for example. Daily schedules, including lunch and recess, will be staggered to avoid students crossing paths as much as possible. More information will be shared in the individual building plans.

How will lunch and hallways look in the high school?

Additional lunch shifts will be added to reduce the number of students in the cafeteria at one time. Schedules have been adjusted to reduce the number of passing times each day.

Will middle and high school students still pass to other classes or will they be in one room for the day?

Yes, students will still pass to other classes throughout the day. The middle and high school have adjusted their schedules to reduce the number of passing times each day.

Can you expand on how small groups will be used in the high school?

Small groups will be used to the extent possible based on available sections of scheduled courses. Seating charts will be used in each class to assist contact tracing efforts should it become necessary.

Will students be able to attend Hart Career Center?

At this point, the Career Center is unsure of their plans. It is to be determined on behalf of both Mexico and Fulton. As soon as we know, we will pass along the information.

Will designated times for hand hygiene be scheduled throughout the day?

Yes. Hand washing stations with soap and/or hand sanitizer will be available in classrooms, commonly used areas, and at the entrances and exits of all buildings. Students and staff will have scheduled times throughout the day to wash/sanitize hands and supplies.

Will field trips be allowed?

No. Field trips are not being planned at this time.

Will bus transportation be available to students for the 2020-2021 school year?

Yes, bus routes will be in operation this school year. Assigned seats will be used when riding the bus and busses will be sanitized on a daily basis.

Will there be social distancing on the school buses?

Seats will be assigned and students will be strongly encouraged to wear a face covering while using District transportation.

Will there be a new process for bringing in medication?

Yes, these guidelines will be the same for anything a parent is dropping off for a student at school- NOT only medication. The parent will buzz into the secretary and either the nurse or another staff member will come outside wearing appropriate PPE to collect the medication. Since we won't have open houses, school nurses will be contacting parents to schedule a time for them to drop off medications prior to the first day of school.

Face Masks

Are students and staff required to wear a mask?

At this time, students in grades 3-12 are expected to wear a mask and students in grades PreK - 2 are strongly encouraged to wear a mask where social distance (6 feet) cannot be maintained. Staff are expected to wear a mask.

What is considered a face covering?

A gaiter, mask, or bandana are all considered acceptable face coverings. CDC guidance and recommendations on face coverings can be found [here](#) (see cloth face covering section).

Will the district purchase masks for students?

Students will receive 3 cloth masks and a limited supply of disposable face masks for students will be available if a student forgets, misplaces, or damages their mask throughout the day.

My students will be wearing masks if/when they return to school. Will teachers/staff ensure that students will not be singled out or made fun of for these personal choices (whether wearing a mask or not) in accordance with other PBIS standards?

Yes, face masks will be no different than any other behavior. Therefore, teachers and staff will make sure no one is being singled out for their choice.

Who will be responsible for helping students keep their face coverings on when in school?

All school staff will work to educate the students about the importance of wearing a face covering in situations where adequate social distancing (6 feet) cannot be achieved. We ask that families work with their children at home to practice wearing a face covering and also to stress the importance of wearing a face covering to keep everyone healthy.

Screening & Cleaning Protocols

Will students' temperatures be checked daily at school?

Yes. Thermal cameras will be installed at the entrance of every building to scan all who enter for elevated temperatures. Anyone experiencing a temperature at/above 100.4 will immediately be moved to a designated area and screened for additional symptoms to determine if they need to be sent home. Where appropriate, handheld thermal temperature readers will also be used in buildings at additional entrances, by parent educators before meeting with families, for activities purposes, etc.

Will extra custodial staff be provided during the day vs. evening so that extra disinfecting can take place?

Additional custodial staff are being hired to aid in the increased sanitation and disinfecting of our schools.

IEPs & 504s

My child is in both regular and special education classes. Will my child still go to both?

Yes.

Will IEP meetings be held before the start of the school year? If so, will meetings be virtual or in-person?

Yes and No. Annual IEPs will be held at the time they are due according to the IEP timeline. For families who choose to do virtual learning, IEP meetings will be held prior to school to determine if virtual learning is appropriate. IEP meetings can be held in-person or virtually and will be at the comfort level of the attendees.

If my student has an IEP in place and we choose to do virtual learning, does FPS have a plan to deliver IEP minutes to students?

When a student with a disability, or the student's parent, requests virtual learning, the IEP team will convene to consider how registering in the virtual learning will impact provisions of FAPE (Free Appropriate Public Education) for their student. The IEP team will need to determine if virtual education is appropriate for the student to receive FAPE. In regard to services, Launch will provide modifications and accommodations related to an IEP. IEP services will be determined at the time of the IEP meeting.

Will my student's 504 accommodations be honored through a virtual learning format?

Yes, Launch will make accommodations.

Attendance

How will attendance be taken?

DESE has provided guidance to school districts related to reporting student attendance for in-person, distance, and a hybrid of in-person and distance learning for the 2020-2021 school year. Attendance will be taken daily during in-person instruction and online engagement will be monitored for state reporting purposes.

Will attendance policies be altered or adjusted on a case-by-case basis?

FPS will follow state guidelines for attendance reporting. If a student is required to quarantine for 14 days that will be noted on their record of attendance. Attendance for virtual learning while a group of students are quarantined, or during a district closure, will be monitored based on student engagement in distance learning activities.

Will the district be suspending attendance incentives and awards for students and staff members?

Yes. Perfect attendance will not be incentivized by buildings as our preference is for anyone who is sick to stay home.

The Learning Process

What is the difference between virtual learning and distance learning?

Virtual Learning through Launch - The student is enrolled in FPS but is taking classes online through the Launch program.

Distance Learning - In the event FPS finds it necessary to shut down, the district will be prepared to make the change from in-person learning to learning from home with FPS staff.

What learning options will be available to Fulton Public Schools students for the 2020-2021 school year?

Students may choose between in-person school attendance, or a full-time virtual learning experience. Families who do not feel comfortable sending their students to receive in-seat instruction may apply to participate in virtual education via Launch, an online education platform which was used by Fulton Public Schools for summer school this year. See pages 13-14 of the Return to Learn Plan to learn more about virtual learning opportunities for the 2020-21 school year.

What will In-Person learning look like?

Assigned seats (with required seating charts) will be used in classrooms. Desks/tables in classrooms will be spaced as far apart as possible to allow for social distancing (6 feet), nonessential furniture and other soft surfaces such as carpets and seating will be removed for sanitation purposes. Social distancing (6 feet) will be enforced throughout the school day. Students and staff are expected to avoid close interactions and minimize exposure to every extent possible. Additional details about social distancing can be found on [pages 5-6](#) of the Return to Learn Plan.

What will virtual learning look like?

See [pages 13-14](#) of the Return to Learn Plan to learn more about virtual learning opportunities for the 2020-21 school year.

If a student needs to quarantine because they are exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID-19, will that student be able to continue learning from home?

Procedures have been developed to maintain the continuity of learning for students who are required to quarantine at home. Information about distance learning will be released in mid-August.

If my family starts the school year by choosing in-person learning, but then we change our minds, can our students opt into online? Or vice versa?

To help us secure student materials and plan for a successful student experience, we are asking that all virtual course requests be made no later than August 10th. Students approved for virtual education will begin on August 24th and will have until September 1st to transfer back to in-seat instruction if so desired. Otherwise, they must remain in the Launch program for the duration of the semester for which they were approved. Students approved for virtual education for the first semester of the 2020-2021 school year can return to in-seat enrollment for the second semester if so desired, or may remain virtual for the duration of the school year.

If the school shuts down again, what will learning look like?

A task force of teachers and administrators has been working this summer to develop plans for online learning for intermittent or extended school closures. Goals of the task force were to maintain the continuity of instruction from in-person learning to remote learning for all students, minimize the detrimental impact of school closure, and to develop professional development and guidance for staff to support teaching and learning. Teachers will receive specialized training during back to school meetings related to blended and online learning. Additional details, including expectations for distance learning, will be released in mid-August.

Will grades be taken for distance learning?

Yes, expectations have been developed for grading, assessment, and feedback during distance learning. Information about distance learning will be released in mid-August.

Will all PreK-12 students have access to a device for learning?

Yes. Chromebooks will be available for students PreK-12.

Will Chromebooks be allowed to go home with students or do they need to stay at school?

In the event of a school closure, the District has a plan to distribute Chromebooks to all students, PreK-12. 6-12 graders will continue to take their Chromebooks home during in person learning as in the past.

What is being used to monitor student use of devices?

The FPS technology department has several programs in use to monitor student technology access and use. FPS uses Bark and Go Guardian to protect students from online dangers and to alert parents and staff of misconduct and/or concerns. A plan has been developed to ensure continuous monitoring of student internet activity on each FPS provided device.

What kind of support will the district provide to familiarize parents with the platforms being used?

FPS is currently developing tutorials for parents/guardians on the use of the Parent Portal, Student 360, as well as Google Classroom and Google Meet. These tutorials will be available on the For Parents tab of the website at fulton58.org and in the Distance Learning document scheduled to be released mid-August.

If I am undecided between in-person school and virtual learning through Launch, should I sign them up for virtual learning just in case?

The sign-up deadline for Launch is August 10, 2020. Classes begin August 24th. If you decide virtual learning is not suited for your child, the deadline to return to in-person school is September 1, 2020.

Is it possible for a student to be a part-time virtual student and part-time in-person student?

State law allows students to attend public school part-time, as long as their total educational experience meets the requirements of the state compulsory education law and the student is not already enrolled full-time in another public school (Board Policy JEA).

Can I still go to school but do AP courses online?

If a scheduling conflict exists and your student is not able to take an available seated course at the high school, they can enroll in an online AP course through Launch. Students will need to visit with their counselor to review their Individual Career and Academic Plan before signing up for any virtual coursework.

Is there a back up plan if cases continue to rise so quickly?

Yes, FPS will be ready to change from in-person school to distance learning if it is determined a shutdown is necessary. A task force has been working all summer and a plan will be in place prior to the start of school on August 26.

If we choose to do in person classes, but start feeling uncomfortable about the spread of Covid, do we have the option to switch to online schooling at any point?

The deadline to sign up for Launch for first semester is August 10th. If you sign up and decide you don't like it, you may withdraw until September 1st and return to in-person school. You could sign up for online learning for second semester in December.

Will students be learning the same things as the other students while learning online?

Both Launch (Springfield Public Schools) and FPS curriculum is based on the Missouri Learning Standards.

COVID-19 Cases

If one student or a staff member tests positive for COVID-19, does that mean the teacher and the rest of the class have to quarantine for 14 days?

The requirement for quarantine in FPS is guided by CDC and Health Department recommendations. Please see the chart below.

What is considered a close contact to someone potentially exposed to COVID-19?

The CDC has provided categories for low, medium, and high risk contact or exposure to COVID-19. Please see the chart below.

COVID Infection: Degrees of Contact by Individuals	Individual's Response to Contact
HIGH RISK If contact was: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Direct and inside• Extended contact with positive case (person to person for more than 30 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remain at home 14 days
MEDIUM RISK If contact was: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Direct and inside but little time in contact with positive case,• Moderate social distancing (person to person for less than 30 minutes, mostly 6 ft. apart)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Usually self-monitor• Frequent handwashing• Temperature scan, face mask in presence of others
LOW RISK If contact was: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Indirect, outside• Able to maintain social distance consistently	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Frequent handwashing• No other actions necessary

If a student or staff member on campus tests positive for COVID-19, will the building be shut down?

FPS will be in ongoing communication with the Callaway County Health Department regarding any positive cases and will follow CDC and Health Department guidance on quarantine or building closure.

How will you notify affected students and families if they have been exposed to COVID-19?

If your child was found to be at a sufficient risk for exposure through contact tracing completed by the Callaway County Health Department, you will be directly contacted by them.

What happens if my student gets sick or has been exposed to the virus from a sick relative at home?

If your student is sick, please keep them home.

The return to school guidelines below will be used to allow for a student/staff member's re-admittance to school in the **ABSENCE of a diagnosis related to COVID-19** such as allergies, strep throat, ear infection, pink eye, etc.

A student or staff member was sent home with COVID-19 like symptoms:	A student or staff member subsequently has a negative COVID-19 test by their healthcare provider.
Must be fever free a minimum of 72 hours without fever-reducing medication,	Must provide negative testing results from healthcare provider
AND have an improvement in symptoms (cough/shortness of breath),	AND be fever free a minimum of 24 hours without fever-reducing medication
AND bring Medical Clearance to return to school signed by their licensed health care provider (MD/DO/NP).	AND have an improvement in symptoms (cough/shortness of breath)

Has the district identified the criteria which will be used to determine if another shutdown of a building or the entire district is warranted?

Decisions on shutting down as a district or a single school will be made on a case by case basis in collaboration with current CDC guidelines and our local health department. CDC guidelines on school closure decisions can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-schools.html>