



Student & Family Guide for School Re-Entry
2020-2021 School Year
Superintendent Michael Douglas

Planning Phases for 2020-2021

Due to the uncertainty of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Decatur City Schools will reevaluate the instructional and operational components within this plan based upon the following phases:

- Phase 1 - August 7 to September 4 (Labor Day)
- Phase 2 - September 8 to October 9 (Fall Break)
- Phase 3 - October 14 to November 20 (Thanksgiving)
- Phase 4 - November 30 to December 18

Morgan County COVID-19 Advisory Levels

These are dependent upon the number of confirmed cases per capita over a given period of time.



Red Level - Very High Risk

Orange Level - High Risk

Yellow Level - Moderate Risk

Green Level - Low Risk

*This presentation focuses on DCS operational procedures during COVID-19 advisory levels Yellow and Orange.

Use this [LINK](#) to check current alert status.

Instruction



Instructional Plan (K-12)

Decatur City Schools (DCS) remains committed to creating learning environments that foster creative thinking, a culture of caring, and personal connections. Students will continue to receive a quality education through a rigorous, engaging and challenging curriculum. The state academic content standards will be the foundation for all instruction.

Three Instructional Options Available to Students:

1. Virtual
2. Blended
3. Traditional

*All students MUST complete InfoSnap (online registration process) prior to selecting an instructional option.

Virtual Plan (K-12)

- The DCS System offers an online instructional option for all students in grades Pre-K-12.
- All DCS virtual students will be assigned a virtual administrator separate from the building level principal.
- This online instructional option allows learning to take place at home.
- Some tests are required to be administered on site.
- All DCS students (K-12) will be issued a digital device.
- To enroll in virtual, please click on the following hyperlink:

<https://forms.gle/u1hhfBxvVd1sycCX7>

1. Currently enrolled students interested in the virtual option should complete the information contained in the application by clicking the hyperlink provided by noon on July 27.
2. Newly enrolled students may apply at time of registration.

All students MUST complete InfoSnap (online registration process) prior to selecting an instructional option.

Research Based Recommended Times for Virtual Instruction

Grade	Minimum	Maximum	Recommended length to sustain attention
Kg	30 minutes/day	90 minutes/day	3-5 minutes
1-2	45 minutes/day	90 minutes/day	5-10 minutes
3-5	60 minutes/day	120 minutes/day	10-15 minutes
6-8	Class: 15 minutes/day Total: 90 minutes/day	Class: 30 minutes/day Total: 180 minutes/day	1 subject area or class
9-12	Class: 20 minutes/day Total: 120 minutes/day	Class: 45 minutes/day Total: 270 minutes/day	1 subject area or class

Blended Option (K-12)

- The DCS System will offer a blended option for students in grades K-12.
- This option allows students to transition seamlessly from the traditional option to the virtual option due to COVID-19 health concerns. Contact the principal if you are interested in this option.
- Students who choose this option should plan to receive instruction virtually for a minimum of 2 weeks.
- A Blended Virtual Teacher will be assigned to work with the student and classroom teacher.
- Students may return to traditional instruction at approved intervals such as end of 9 weeks and/or “natural breaks”.
- The school principal and the virtual school administrator will collaborate with parents to determine re-entry to the traditional setting.
- Students will remain on the traditional teacher’s roster.
- All DCS students will be issued a digital device.

All students MUST complete InfoSnap (online registration process) prior to selecting an instructional option.

Traditional Option (K-12)

- Students participating in a traditional instructional model will be provided instruction in-person.
- Due to COVID-19 and based on the ADPH Advisory Levels, students enrolled in traditional learning may be required to transition to virtual learning led by their classroom teacher.
- Parents who select the traditional instructional model are scheduled to return to school August 12.
- All DCS students will be issued a digital device.
- Students who are new to the DCS System will enroll at the Enrollment Center located at *406 2nd Avenue SE Decatur, Alabama 35601---(256) 308-2308*

All students MUST complete InfoSnap (online registration process) prior to selecting an instructional option.

Face Coverings



Face Coverings

All Students

Orange Level - High Risk

Yellow Level - Moderate Risk

Green Level - Low Risk

- DCS will supply each student with a minimum of 3 masks. Personal masks are permissible. Bandanas are not permissible as a school approved face covering.
- Due to social distancing guidelines and the safety of our students and our bus drivers, all students will wear face coverings on buses.

Pre-K-2

- Pre-K- 2 students must wear a face shield or mask.
- Students may remove masks when behind a desk, protective barrier, or when social distancing is possible.

Grades 3-12

- All students must wear a face shield or mask.
- Students may remove the mask when social distancing is possible.

Registration

- **InfoSnap Registration**-Whether you choose traditional, blended, or full virtual, Infosnap needs to be completed as soon as possible for planning purposes. Completion of registration will provide accurate means to communicate with you. If you need your InfoSnap code, please contact the district.
- **Bus Registration** will be required for students prior to being eligible to ride DCS transportation.
- **Virtual and/or Blended Registration (anyone starting the year at home)**- Please register through this [LINK](#).

Morgan County COVID-19 Advisory Levels

These are dependent upon the number of confirmed cases per capita over a given period of time.



Red Level - Very High Risk

Orange Level - High Risk

Yellow Level - Moderate Risk

Green Level - Low Risk

*This presentation focuses on DCS operational procedures.

Use this [LINK](#) to check current alert status.

Red Level - High Risk

DCS will likely transition to total virtual learning for most students.



Orange Level - High Risk

- DCS will be in daily contact with public health officials about the rate of COVID-19 in our community and the impact it is having on schools, students, parents/guardians, and businesses.
- Transition to virtual learning may be needed for a grade level, specific school, or location.
- Transportation provided by the school system may be altered depending on a specific situation.
- Students should be prepared at the end of the day to take home items needed should DCS need to shift to virtual learning.

Yellow Level - Moderate Risk

DCS plans to offer a variety of educational opportunities during this phase but will still remain vigilant to the ongoing number of COVID-19 cases in our community. Each health room (as feasible per campus) will have a plan for mitigating infection rates. These include:

- Limiting/reducing health room traffic.
- Designating well and sick areas of the health room as well as waiting areas (such as in hallways). Isolation rooms outside of the healthroom will be determined by each nurse and admin staff.
- Monitoring the overall health and wellness of each school/building. School nurses will focus on any illness, actual COVID-19 cases, and suspected cases of both students and staff and report to the lead nurse.
- Training will be ongoing for COVID-19 signs & symptoms. We will align all practices with mandates issued by the ADPH, ALSDE & CDC.
- Students should be prepared at the end of the day to take home items needed should DCS need to shift to virtual learning.

Green Level - Low Risk

- Continue social distancing and use of face coverings when distancing is impossible.
- Large gatherings in venues are allowed with increased hygiene measures, physical distancing, face coverings, and symptom monitoring.
- Symptoms check/monitoring: check for fever, cough, or other abnormal symptoms related to COVID-19 before sports, practice, etc.
- Stay home if temperature is 99 degrees or above.
- Staff will model and encourage hand washing/sanitization, face coverings, physical distancing, sneeze and cough etiquette.
- Discourage students from touching walls, lockers, and other common surfaces.
- Discourage sharing of any type. If sharing must occur, sanitization must occur between students.
- Students should be prepared at the end of the day to take home items needed should DCS need to shift to virtual learning.

Materials/Supplies Needed for the Return to School

- **School Supplies** - Make sure your student has all necessary school supplies contained on the system-wide grade level list, found [here](#).
- **Personal Mask** - Students will be required to wear masks on the bus, in classrooms, and during transition times. Please make sure your student has a mask with them when they leave for school each day. The Alabama Department of Education will provide a limited number of washable masks for each student.
- **Water** - Most water fountains have been disabled. DCS requests students to have a **clear** water bottle each day (no Yeti's or other such tumblers). Cups will be available at or near operational water fountains and schools will have a limited supply of bottled water. Only water is allowed. Sports drinks, sodas, energy drinks, etc. are not permissible.
- **Hand Sanitizer** - Students will be allowed to bring personal-sized hand-sanitizer. Please do not send cleaners or other disinfectants to school.

Wellness Precaution Measures - Parent/Home Actions BEFORE School

- Parents/Guardians will be encouraged to assess their child for any illness symptoms or complaints each morning before sending them to school.
- Parents/Guardians will be encouraged to perform a temperature screening on their child each morning before sending them to school. If a child has a temperature greater than 99 degrees or above and/or are exhibiting any abnormal symptoms, they should stay at home.
- Parents/Guardians should be encouraged to clean and sanitize their child's book bag, backpack, Chromebook, digital device, and other daily school supplies that are taken to school each day. Guidelines on how to clean devices will be provided.
- Parents/Guardians should discourage their child from taking non-essential items to school.

Wellness Precaution Measures - Parent/Home Actions BEFORE School

- Parents/Guardians will be encouraged to prepare their child/student for the wellness precautionary measures that they will encounter while on a DCS campus or building.
- Parents/Guardians will be encouraged to help their child/student become acclimated to wearing a face covering for extended periods of time while on the bus, at school, or in a school designated area.
- Parents/Guardians will be encouraged to help educate their child/student on daily hygiene measures including: frequent hand sanitization/washing, practicing social distancing, avoiding touching their own face/nose/eyes/mouth, daily bathing/grooming, and keeping their face covering over their mouth and nose.

Transportation

- As students load the bus, they must have their face covering over their mouth and nose.
- The bus driver will ask each student for confirmation of their health status (that it has not changed and they are not sick).
- The student will give a simple, “Thumbs Up” sign or a quick verbalized statement that they are clear to attend school and ride the bus.
- The student will use hand sanitizer upon loading the bus.
- Bus seating will be assigned from the rear as students board. Family members and those in the same household may sit together with as much physical distancing as feasible.
- Bus registration will be required for students prior to being eligible to ride DCS transportation.

DCS COVID-19 Simple Assessment Questions & Symptoms
For Rapid Assessment Screenings



- Do NOT go to WORK or send your child to school if they answer "YES" to the following questions:
 - Have you been in contact with anyone who has tested POSITIVE for COVID-19 in the last 2 weeks or do you live in the same house with someone who has tested POSITIVE for COVID-19 in the last 2 weeks?
 - Have you been tested for COVID-19 within the last 2 weeks and/or DO NOT have the results or the results were POSITIVE?
 - Have you had ANY of the following symptoms within the last 2 weeks:

Fever or chills

Cough

Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing

Fatigue

Muscle or body aches

New loss of taste or smell

Sore throat

Congestion or runny nose

Nausea/vomiting/diarrhea

Headache



NOTE: Anyone going to WORK or SCHOOL should be symptom-free for at least 10 days. If you are unsure, please stay home and contact your healthcare provider.



Decatur City Schools

RAPID HEALTH SCREEN

"How are you feeling today?"

Verbalize

OR

Indicate

ACTION

"YES"
"I'm Good"
"I'm OK"



Thumbs Up



"NO"
"I Feel Sick!"
"Not Good"



Thumbs Down



No answer or
indication.
"I'm Not SURE?"



No Indication or Unsure



School Arrival

- Each school will have designated drop off and entry points. As students enter the building, they will be greeted by staff who will check to see if the student's face covering/mask is being worn properly. They will then be directed to their homeroom/1st class or a holding area where social distancing will be followed.
- During their first class or in the holding area, staff members will ask students to confirm their health and wellness status. Any concerns will be directed to the school nurse or designated school staff.
- Restrooms will be stocked with soap and paper towels. These areas will be sanitized/disinfected throughout the school day.

DCS COVID-19 Simple Assessment Questions & Symptoms
For Rapid Assessment Screenings



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 - Have you been tested for COVID-19 within the last 2 weeks and/or DO NOT have the results or the results were POSITIVE?
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Headache



NOTE: Anyone going to WORK or SCHOOL should be symptom-free for at least 10 days. If you are unsure, please stay home and contact your healthcare provider.



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Thumbs Down



No answer or
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No Indication or Unsure



Classroom Environment

- Physical distancing will be established in classrooms. The space and distancing may differ from classroom to classroom due to size and number of students in each setting. Generally, there will be 3-6 feet distancing as advised by the American Pediatric Society.
- Classroom teachers will remove all soft surfaces within the classroom environment, such as rugs, bean bags, reading tents, etc.
- Community items/centers are highly discouraged and will not be a part of the instructional format as we enter the 2020-2021 school year.
- Teachers will keep an updated seating chart in each classroom.

Hallways and Transition/Class Change

- Most large halls will be divided for more distant traffic flow when possible.
- Facial coverings will be required for the foreseeable future.
- When possible, elementary classrooms will consider self-contained classrooms and/or teacher rotations. This may include fine arts and other enrichment activities to assist with reducing traffic in the hallways.
- Secondary schools will develop a transition plan based on the number of students and facility layout that ensures minimal contact with students from other classrooms.

What happens if my child gets sick at school or someone in their class is COVID-19 positive?

- DCS will continue to follow guidance from the ADPH as to how to deal with positive cases. The below bullets outline our plan for now:
- DCS will be transparent and will send notifications when we are aware of positive COVID-19 cases in a school. This will allow parents to make decisions individually about whether their child needs to return or switch to a different option for instruction available for K-12. Individual names will not be provided and we will assess later as to whether we will identify the grade level.
- If students become sick or show signs of COVID-19, flu or any other infectious illness, parents/guardians will be contacted. If we are unable to reach the parent/guardian, we will notify other contacts listed for the student during the registration process. It is vitally important that updated and accurate contact information is provided in InfoSnap during registration. Contact your school if verification is needed.
- DCS will have a variety of absentee codes to address student illnesses and various situations that may develop during this pandemic. Students will not be penalized in matters such as exam exemptions if they are absent due to these type situations.

What happens if my child gets sick at school or someone in their class is COVID-19 positive?

- DCS will continue to follow guidance from the ADPH as to how to deal with positive cases. The below bullets outline our plan for now:
- Students that are presumed to have an infectious illness by the school nurse will not be allowed to return to the classroom. They will be isolated and proper PPE will be utilized to protect the students and others until they are picked up from school.
- To eliminate embarrassment to the student and to protect privacy, teachers will not check temperatures in the classroom. Only nurses, administrators or designated office personnel will conduct temperature screenings. Teachers MAY ask students to determine whether a health room visit is needed.

Visitors, Clubs, and Outside Groups

- In order to limit the exposure to our students and staff, visitors will generally not be allowed past the main lobby of the school. This includes lunch and classroom visits. Any entry approved will require a wellness screening to include temperature checks and required PPE.
- School sponsored clubs will be allowed to start the membership process, but all meetings will be conducted virtually or in a limited size (officers, etc.) until further notice.
- Other than Decatur Youth Services, outside groups and organizations will not be allowed to hold meetings on campus or volunteer in our classrooms as we start the school year. This includes mentoring and other community programs.

Disinfecting and Sanitizing our Schools

- In addition to our daily cleaning routine, DCS will take proactive steps to disinfect and sanitize at various times daily.
- We will be using CDC and EPA approved products and maintain Material Safety Data Sheets for all chemicals.
- We have purchased hydrostatic fogging devices that will be deployed in every school.
- In addition to our custodial teams, DCS will have a designated disinfectant team to oversee sanitizing of our schools. Additionally, we have secured contracts with a national company and a locally owned business to assist us in sanitizing and disinfecting should we have a need for a more intensive or high volume approach.

FAQ - General Questions

When is the first day of school?

The first day of school will be Wednesday, August 12, 2020.

When is the last day to register for the Virtual or the Blended Option?

The last day to register for the Virtual or Blended option will be Monday, July 27 by noon.

How do I enroll if I am new to Decatur City Schools?

Students who are new to Decatur City Schools System will enroll at the Enrollment Center located at 406 2nd Avenue SE Decatur, Alabama 35601 --- (256) 308-2308. Appointments are highly suggested.

How do I pre-register for the 2020-21 school year, regardless of the option I choose?

Students who are new to Decatur City Schools System will enroll at the Enrollment Center located at 406 2nd Avenue SE Decatur, Alabama 35601 --- (256) 308-2308. Appointments are highly suggested.

FAQ - General Questions

Can my student choose the Virtual or Blended options and still participate in extracurricular activities & athletics?

Yes. Students choosing either option may participate in extracurricular activities and athletics.

If I choose the virtual school option for my child, will they be able to participate in the school lunch program?

Students who choose the Virtual or Blended Option are eligible for the school lunch program. Please refer to the section below for more information.

Will Extended Day be offered this school year?

Extended Day will be provided when the traditional (in-person) option is being offered as a district/school.

FAQ - General Questions

How often will the current plan be assessed and possibly changed?

Due to the uncertainty of the COVID-19 Pandemic, we will reevaluate the instructional and operational components within this plan based upon the following phases.

- *Phase 1 - August 7 to September 4 (Labor Day)*
- *Phase 2 - September 8 to October 9 (Fall Break)*
- *Phase 3 - October 14 to November 20 (Thanksgiving Break)*
- *Phase 4 - November 30 to December 18 (End of 1st Semester)*

Will there be any additions/deletions to school supply lists?

Please visit this [link](#) to view all necessary school supplies. Virtual only students are advised to wait on directives from their virtual teacher. Students may bring their own personal hand sanitizer and masks.

FAQ - General Questions

Will we have an opportunity to meet our teacher prior to the beginning of school?

Yes. In small groups to ensure safety and social distancing.

How will field trips be handled?

There will not be any field trips approved until after Labor Day. We will reevaluate future field trips at that time.

Where will students eat breakfast and lunch?

Students will eat breakfast and lunch in classrooms. However, the principal may develop a rotating schedule so students will have the opportunity to eat in the cafeteria on occasion.

Will lunch be available for virtual and blended students?

Meals will be available to all students. Students that choose the Virtual or Blended option will pick up their meals on Monday or the first day of the week.

FAQ- General Questions

What is the protocol for students who ride the bus?

As students load the bus, they must have their face covering over their mouth and nose. The bus driver will ask each student for confirmation of their health status (that it has not changed and they are not sick). The student will give a simple “Thumbs Up” sign or a quick verbalized statement that they are clear to attend school and ride the bus.

The student will use hand sanitizer upon entering the bus. Bus seating will be assigned from the rear as students board. Family members and those in the same household may sit together with as much physical distancing as feasible. Bus registration will be required for students before being eligible to ride DCS transportation.

FAQ - Safety Questions

Will students/teachers be required to wear masks at school? If so, are we supplying masks for students/teachers?

At this time, face coverings will be required for staff and students inside, and at any other time, social distancing guidelines cannot be met. Desk and face shields are being considered for Pre-K-2 students, so they will not have to wear masks while sitting in the classroom. In some situations, alternative PPE will be used in place of facial coverings. Both staff and students will be provided a limited supply of face coverings. Everyone is encouraged to have the face coverings they are accustomed to wearing and can regularly sanitize. Bandanas are not approved face covering.

Grades Pre-K- 2 ----Students may remove masks when they are behind a protective barrier or socially distanced.

Grades 3-12--- Students may remove the mask when they can be socially distanced.

FAQ - Safety Questions

How can families help promote a safe and healthy learning environment?

Parents/Guardians will be encouraged to ask and assess their child for any illness, symptoms, or complaints, each morning before sending them to school.

Parents/Guardians will be encouraged to perform a temperature screening on their child each morning before sending them to school. If a child has a temperature greater than 99 degrees or above and/or is exhibiting any abnormal symptoms, they should stay at home.

Parents/Guardians should be encouraged to clean and sanitize their child's book bag/backpack/Chromebook/digital device and other daily school supplies that are taken to school each day.

Parents/Guardians should discourage their child/student from taking non-essential items to school and from sharing materials/supplies with other students.

Parents/Guardians should allow their children to become comfortable with face coverings before the start of school.

FAQ - Safety Questions

What is the protocol when a student(s) gets sick at school?

Decatur City Schools will be transparent and will send notifications when we are aware of positive COVID-19 cases in a school.

*Decatur City Schools will continue to follow guidance from the ADPH as to how to deal with positive cases. (This could range from a student, multiple students, a classroom, or a school transitioning to virtual)
Parents may elect to transition their student to virtual or blended based on the system's response to a positive case*

What instructional options are available to my child if they test positive for COVID-19?

Traditional: If you elect to remain traditional, the absence is treated as any other absence where assignments can be sent home and/or made up.

Blended learning: If you elect to transition to blended, you will be assigned virtual lessons and a blended teacher. You can transition back to traditional at the next natural break (minimum 2 weeks).

Virtual: If you elect full virtual, you will be assigned virtual lessons and a virtual teacher. You can transition back to traditional at the end of a nine week grading period.

FAQ - Safety Questions

How will social distancing be achieved at school?

Each room will be set up to maximize the space between students, but 6-foot distances between students are not always attainable, which is why we are requiring masks or face coverings.

How will social distancing be achieved at some schools when students sit at tables instead of desks in the classrooms?

Every effort will be made to practice social distancing. We will follow the guidelines of health professionals. Also, we are exploring the purchase of desk shields/dividers for students in grades PK-2.

Can you guarantee my child's safety?

We take student safety seriously, and every effort will be made to protect our students and staff. However, risk assessments must be made by parents as to whether students will attend in person or virtually. Please remember, safety is ALWAYS our #1 priority!

FAQ - Safety Questions

If my child tests positive, how do they re-enter school?

The school nurse will work with the family to determine the re-entry date based upon the date of infection and any remaining symptoms. Generally, established guidelines have required an isolation period of ten days.

How will we handle school supplies and manipulatives?

Students should only be able to utilize their supplies. All manipulatives must be separated and labeled for individual student use only. Students should not share manipulatives or supplies.

How will schools be disinfected and sanitized?

Decatur City Schools is in the process of hiring a disinfectant technician to oversee the process and distribution of supplies. We have agreements with two companies to assist staff with disinfecting campuses if the need arises.

Will parents/visitors be allowed to visit students on campus?

No. If a parent needs to drop something off to the student, they will leave it in the office, and the student will be notified to pick it up at an appropriate time.

FAQ - Safety Questions

Will the administration at the school level be responsible for taking student temperatures each day?

No. Neither administrators nor teachers will be required to administer temperature checks for students. We have developed a self-monitoring protocol that both staff and students (with parental assistance) should review daily before coming to school. We are not taking temperatures upon entry due to the asymptomatic spread of COVID-19, and we do not want temperature/fever to be the sole factor in determining health and wellness status related to school attendance.

What will be the daily sanitation procedures at each location?

Sanitation will be performed as needed throughout the day. Additionally, rooms will be sanitized daily with a fogger after the students are dismissed. Sites with Extended Day will also sanitize specific spaces that are in use by students.

FAQ - Instructional Questions

What instructional options are available to families?

*Families may choose for their students to engage in virtual, blended, or traditional learning in grades Pre-K-12. All students **MUST** complete InfoSnap (online registration process) before selecting an instructional option.*

The Virtual Option allows learning to take place at home. Some tests are required to be administered on-site. All DCS students (Pre-K-12) will be issued a digital device.

The Blended Option allows students to transition seamlessly from the traditional option to the blended option due to COVID-19 health concerns. Contact the principal if you are interested in this option. Students who choose this option should plan to receive instruction virtually for a minimum of 2 weeks. A Blended Virtual Teacher will be assigned to work with the student and classroom teacher. The school principal and the virtual school administrator will collaborate with parents to determine re-entry to the traditional setting. Students may return to traditional instruction at approved intervals (i.e. mid-term, end of 9 weeks, and/or “natural breaks”). Students will remain on the traditional teacher’s roster.

The Traditional Option allows students to participate in-person for their instruction. Due to COVID-19 and based on the ADPH Advisory Levels, students enrolled in traditional learning may be required to transition to virtual learning led by their classroom teacher.

FAQ - Instructional Questions

Will there be a limit on the amount of work assigned to students who choose the virtual option? *Yes. The recommended times are below.*

Grade	Minimum	Maximum	Recommended length to sustain attention
Kg	30 minutes/day	90 minutes/day	3-5 minutes
1-2	45 minutes/day	90 minutes/day	5-10 minutes
3-5	60 minutes/day	120 minutes/day	10-15 minutes
6-8	Class: 15 minutes/day Total: 90 minutes/day	Class: 30 minutes/day Total: 180 minutes/day	1 subject area or class
9-12	Class: 20 minutes/day Total: 120 minutes/day	Class: 45 minutes/day Total: 270 minutes/day	1 subject area or class

FAQ - Instructional Questions

What learning platform will be used for students who choose the Virtual option?

Grades K-5 --- The Canvas platform will be the Learning Management System (LMS) used for students. Teachers will assign lessons and activities in the platform for instructional purposes. Also, Google Classroom and SeeSaw can be utilized in the Canvas platform.

Grades 6-8 --- Edmentum Courseware will be utilized for students. The courses have been aligned with the DCS Pacing Guides, and teachers will provide recorded lessons and resources to enhance instruction. A teacher will be assigned to each course to provide daily support for students. Students will be expected to engage daily. Google Classroom or Canvas will be used to disseminate assignments in the instance that traditional (face-to-face) instruction is halted.

Grades 9-12 ---Edmentum or ACCESS will be utilized for students. A virtual teacher will monitor your child's progress in each course. Students will be expected to engage daily.

FAQ - Instructional Questions

What are the grading parameters if the school or school system closes due to COVID-19?

Students are expected to complete all assignments. Grades will be assigned based on the completion and accuracy of final products.

Will students be allowed to go back and forth between virtual and traditional throughout the school year?

Yes. Blended students will remain blended for a minimum of 2 weeks or until the next natural break. A virtual student can transition to traditional at the end of the nine week grading period.

Will elective courses be offered virtually?

Yes. Almost all course offerings will be offered virtually. Please contact your building administrator or virtual administrator for specific courses.

FAQ - Instructional Questions

Who will provide the instruction and assignments with the blended model? The classroom teacher or the virtual teacher?

The classroom teacher will drive instruction and assignments through the virtual learning management system. Classroom teachers and blended virtual teachers will communicate regularly, and the blended virtual teacher will be the primary contact for the student and parent. The classroom teacher assigns the final grade for traditional and blended students.

FAQ -Instructional / Secondary Only

Will elective courses be offered virtually?

Yes - almost all course offerings will be offered traditionally and virtually. Please contact your building administrator for specific courses.

Can my student take a mixture of traditional (in-person) and virtual courses?

Yes. Please contact your student's respective high school for specific course requests.

Is my high school senior required to take a full eight (8) course load if he/she has met all requirements to graduate?

No. Please contact your student's respective high school to ensure all requirements for graduation have been achieved.

If my high school student chooses to take courses via ACCESS or Edmentum, will he/she be required to come to the campus to take tests?

No. Students will be allowed to test at home, with the exception of some State-mandated assessments. However, specifications will be given.

Are there some content area courses that will be taught fully virtual?

Yes. Due to staffing availability, some courses may be taught in a traditional setting with a virtual teacher.

FAQ - Instructional Questions / Special Services

My child receives Special Education(SPED) services. May they go virtual or blended?

Yes, we have virtual and blended options for students who receive special education services. Your IEP team will meet with you to develop a plan.

My child was referred for special education and/or gifted services when school closed. What happens now?

The referral process is continuing and evaluations will continue. We are currently working to assess students so that the eligibility meeting may be held promptly, and special education services, if warranted, are not delayed. You will be contacted by a DCS special service representative to arrange a time to work with your student.

How will IEP meetings be held this school year? How do I request a meeting?

Meetings may be held in person, virtually, or by phone. To request a meeting, virtual or face-to-face, please contact your child's special education teacher/case manager at their school.

FAQ - Instructional Questions / Special Services

My student receives services for English Language Learners. Will they be able to choose the virtual or blended option?

Yes, English Language Learners services will be provided to virtual and blended students.

How will students with IEPs receive services if they choose the virtual or blended option?

Students who qualify for special education services and choose the virtual or blended option will receive services in line with their IEP. There will be support for general education courses as well as small group/individualized assistance to meet the needs of our students per their IEP.

FAQ-Instructional Questions / Special Services

Will students that choose the virtual option receive gifted and talented services?

Yes, students who qualify for *gifted and talented services will have a plan developed to provide services virtually by a gifted teacher.*

Can my student be tested for gifted and talented if he/she chooses the virtual option?

Yes. The parent or teacher can make a referral to the building principal for all students K-8.

Will my student lose their spot in the magnet program if he/she chooses the virtual option?

No.

Questions?

If you have a question about the 2020-2021 school year that we have not answered yet, please submit it [here](#) and we will get back to you.