

Returning to School

Frequently Asked Questions

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



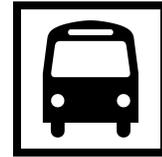
Wellness



Instruction



Building
Management



Transportation



Wellness 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 kindergarten 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. Mask breaks will be offered throughout the day when social distancing can be accomplished. 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 students will turn in the provided mask at the end of the day (either on the bus or student pickup area) so they can be properly washed and sanitized.

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

A2: Masks should either be made of cloth or you can use disposable fabric face masks. A double layer of fabric is necessary. 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: What happens if my child comes to school with a FEVER greater than 100.4?

A3: 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.

Q4: 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?

A4: Our local health department alongside the State Department of Public Health has emphasized the importance of keeping students (as best as a school configuration allows) in a "unit" 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 only 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 agent which is our local Health Department. Currently, communication procedures for reporting cases to families/ staff is 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).

Q5: As a working parent, will I need to prepare for possible intermittent school closures?

A5: 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.

Q6: Will water bottles be provided to students? Will water fountains be closed?

A6: The district will not provide water bottles for students. However, they will be allowed to bring their own to use individually. No water fountains will be in use unless they are equipped to fill a water bottle. Students are encouraged to bring a water bottle from home. If possible, students should provide their own reusable water bottles to be refilled with water throughout the day.

Q7: Will students be permitted to play outside for wellness time? Will playground equipment be sanitized?

A7: Schools will develop schedules to provide wellness time for students to be on the playground/outdoors and time to sanitize equipment between each group of students. Playground time will be scheduled for individual class/groups in order to minimize contacts. Hand washing will occur immediately before and after using the playground.

Q8: Will my child's temperature be screened daily at school?

A8: Yes, all students and staff will have daily temperature screenings utilizing touchless thermometers. 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.



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 sanitized before being used by another student. Students will not be allowed to share common classroom materials (i.e. scissors, pencils, chromebooks, etc); so, 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 online learning, will we need to have our own reliable device and Internet?

A2: Yes. Families choosing online learning should have a high quality internet connection and the availability of a reliable device such as a Chromebook, laptop or desktop computer for each child participating in the Online Learning Academy. Cell phones will not meet the requirement of allowing students to complete high-quality work.

Q3: Will a parent have a choice of online instruction instead of traditional in-person instruction for their child(ren)?

A3: 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 Online Learning Academy may not

be the best option for your child. If you have not shared your preference for the upcoming school year, please call your school as soon as possible.

Q4: Can students receiving online learning be eligible for extra-curricular activities?

A4: Yes. Students must be enrolled in a Hardin County School (includes the Online Learning Academy) and meet eligibility criteria in order to participate.

Q5: Will students be able to be pulled out for resource services (GT/SPED/EL)? If not, how will it be accommodated?

A5: 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.

Q6: If K-12 students start school on August 24th, when will preschool start?

A6: Preschool will start six school days after the first day of school for grades K-12 regardless of the start date. So, currently the first day of preschool will be September 1st.

Q7: Will the students in the Online Learning Academy follow the same curriculum as in person classes to accommodate for those moving back and forth as much as possible?

A7: Yes, it will be critical for our Online Learning Academy students to be exposed to all of the grade level content with rigorous instruction. All Hardin County Schools will follow the district-level curriculum maps and pacing guides to provide smooth transitions between in-person and online learning.

Q8: With both types of instruction taking place (on location/online learning) will students be held to the same expectations/grading?

A8: Yes, online learning expectations/grading will align with the same expectations for students receiving traditional instruction.

Q9: If students choose the Online Learning Academy, will they be required to take state assessments (K-PREP) or ACT?

A9: Yes, students will not be exempt from these assessments if they choose online learning. At this time, these assessments are scheduled to be given on campus.

Q10: Will school counselors continue to work with students from their own school who have moved to the Online Learning Academy?

A10: Yes, counselors at each individual school will be responsible for working with the students that choose online learning.

Q11: Can my child start at the Online Learning Academy and then switch to in-person instruction? Will students be able to transition between in-person and the Online Learning Academy?

A11: 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 best after the completion of a grading period (9 weeks for elementary/middle or trimester for high school). Unique circumstances will be handled on a case-by-case basis in partnership with the assigned school.

Q12: Will students take a diagnostic assessment (such as Measures of Academic Progress) in order to determine their current skill level upon returning to school?

A12: Yes, the Measures of Academic Progress test 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.

Q13: Will schools continue to hold Admissions and Release Committee(ARC) meetings and other parent conferences through online meeting platforms?

A13: Yes, ARC and parent meetings can continue to be held through Google Meet, Skype, Zoom or other electronic meeting forum.

Q14: Would a cell phone be a reliable device for the Online Learning Academy?

A14: No, cell phones will not meet the requirement of allowing students to complete high-quality work.

Q15: Where can I find my child's school supply list? Will there be a supply list for those students participating in the Online Learning Academy?

A15: Each school will communicate supply lists via social media and by contacting parents. The Online Learning Academy students will also be contacted about supplies by their homeroom teacher.

Q16: Will Hardin County Schools implement alternating day schedules (A/B schedule)?

A16: Yes, Hardin County Schools is implementing an A/B schedule at the highschool level only. Please see the district webpage for more information on the A/B schedule. <https://www.hardin.kyschools.us/Content2/a-b-hsschedule>



Building Management Questions and Answers

Q1: Will the School Age Childcare (SACC) program be available when school resumes?

A1: Yes, SACC will be available for families that have completed the application process. Currently, the SACC program is not taking new enrollments for the upcoming year.

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

A2: Stickers or tape on the floors in non-instructional areas such as hallways (near bathrooms, water fountains, lunchroom, library checkout, etc.) will mark 6-foot spacing for social distancing. Plexi-glass partitions will be installed in the main office area. 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 and visitors will need to make appointments prior to coming to campus. While the district appreciates our volunteers, we are not allowing volunteers in our building at this time.

Q4: Where will students be eating lunch?

A4: Students will be eating lunch in their classrooms or the cafeteria. Schools will create schedules to allow small groups of students to socially distance and eat in the school cafeteria. Other classes will eat in their classrooms.

Q5. Will breakfast and/or lunch be available for students enrolled in the Online Learning Academy?

A5. Lunches will be available to Online Learning Academy (OLA) students at the same price they would pay for lunch at their in-person home school. Free breakfast will also be available. Students will be asked on a weekly basis, and can pick up food once a week. The details about bulk meals will be communicated by the OLA.

We anticipate asking on Thursday if you want food the following the week and pick-up will be on Fridays. You will pick up meals at the home school of each child. It will help this process if money is loaded onto each student's online account. Lunch is \$2.80 a day for full price. You can load money digitally at www.mypaymentsplus.com or on the My Payments Plus app.

Q7. When and how will schools hold Open House events so that parents and students can meet their teachers?

A7. Schools will still be having Open House. This will vary school to school. Some schools may offer a virtual Open House event and others may have in-person events. Watch social media and the email you have in Infinite Campus for details.



Transportation Questions and Answers

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

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. When possible, students will be spaced out on the bus and asked to sit with members of their own household. Buses will be disinfected between runs.

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

A2: No, staggered starting and ending times are not being considered at this time. Start times for the upcoming school year were established by each school and approved by the Board of Education at the June 2020 Board meeting. Please check the district website for accurate start times at each school so you will know when your child needs to arrive (for those providing their own transportation).

Q3: Will my child be required to use hand sanitizer upon entering the bus?

A3: All students will be required to apply hand sanitizer when entering a Hardin County School bus each morning and afternoon. The hand sanitizer will include at least 60% alcohol and be provided by the district.

Q4: Students who are enrolled at the Early College and Career Center (EC3) travel between their home high school and EC3 daily. Will transportation continue for these students?

A4: 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.

Watch our district social media sites and website for updates.

FAQ document last updated 08/03/2020