

WASHINGTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT



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Board of Education
Mr. Chris Hutchings, Chairman
Mr. Sammie L. Knight, Vice Chairman
Ms. Gladine Thompson
Mr. Paul Turner
Mr. Tracy Giddens

Reopening FAQ

August 7, 2020

School Day Related Questions

Will students be required to wear masks all day?

Masks are to be worn when social distancing is not easy to achieve. The CDC and the DPH have released strong guidance on the benefits of wearing masks. When a student is within 6 feet of another student it will be expected that they wear a mask. One of our goals is to ensure that there are many situations and instances where social distancing is possible (i.e. outdoor classrooms when appropriate, utilizing non-traditional spaces to spread out students, and more).

Are there any stipulations as to the type of mask my child can wear?

As long as it is a CDC approved face covering and is appropriate, your child will be allowed to wear it. Please note the CDC recommends that Cloth face coverings should **not** be worn by:

- Children younger than 2 years old
- Anyone who has trouble breathing
- Anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance

Can my child wear a face shield?

Yes, your child can wear a face shield.

Will the students eat in the lunchroom or in the classroom?

Our School Nutrition Staff is working directly with each school to organize meal times. Each school will have a different protocol, as they deal each have different circumstances.

Will the students have recess?

Yes, students will be able to participate in recess.

Will the students have P.E. (physical education)?

Yes, students will still have PE.

Will students be expected to wear a mask outside during recess and/or P.E.?

As long as students have the ability to social distance, masks will not be expected outside.

Will there be certain guidelines for going to the restroom?

Each school already has a protocol for going to the restroom. This protocol is being reviewed to ensure that it meets the social distancing guidelines.

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Will there be social distancing on the bus?

Our Transportation Department has purchased new software that will streamline and develop more efficient bus routes. This software, in conjunction with our drivers running multiple routes, will help minimize the number of students on the bus at one time. We also plan on sitting households together. This will help with social distancing.

What are you doing to keep my child safe?

In addition to the social distancing measures, we will also be checking temperatures during day as needed. We will be cleaning shared surfaces multiple times a day, establishing one-way hallways in certain areas, staggering passing times, de-fogging classrooms and buses, instituting a handwashing/sanitizing regiment in each classroom, and decreasing large groups of students congregating. Staff will also be subject to these screening measures and temperature checks.

Will the parents be notified of potential exposure(s) at school?

Yes, the Washington County School District has developed a communication protocol to alert parents if our mitigation plan has been activated with contact tracing notification via a phone call, email, and/or Parent Portal within Infinite Campus.

Learning Option Questions

If I choose Option B or C can my child still participate in extracurricular activities (Sports, Fine Arts etc.)?

Yes, they will need to meet all of the regular criteria to be eligible. All students participating in extracurricular activities will be expected to attend practices, games, and events as if they were attending school Monday-Friday. Parents and Guardians will be responsible for providing transportation to and from practice.

If I choose Option C, how will my child get their school lessons?

The week of August 10th-14th teachers will be reaching out to their Remote Learning students. During this week you will be given a date and time to come check out your device, discuss the level of connectivity you have in your home, and be introduced to Google Classroom and Google Meet. These will be the main platforms that your child will be utilizing. Washington County is committed to working with parents to ensure that their child has a successful school career. We will collaborate with each parent to make sure that your student has the tools necessary to succeed. We are very excited about this learning platform. Learning packets will be available on a limited basis upon request. We will do everything in our power to ensure that your child participates in an incomparable education.

If I choose Option C, how often will my child speak with their teacher?

Teachers are expected to keep a daily communication log with their students. We anticipate the Option C format to look as close to a normal school day as possible.

What if I lose power and can't login to do my assignments for Option B or C?

We urge you to have an open line of communication with your teacher. We understand that sometimes these things happen. Communicating with your teachers will be crucial to the success of your child.

If I choose Option B, will my child be kept separate from the Option A students?

No, students that choose Option B, will join the students that are on site Monday -Friday.

What if I want to switch learning options?

Learning Options A and B can be changed at the end of the first 9-week period. Option C can be changed after the first semester. Exceptions can be made if medical documentation is provided. Note: if you changed from Option A and B to C during the days of July 27th-July 29th, you will get the opportunity to reevaluate after 9-weeks.

If my child has a temperature, what will happen?

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If your child presents with a temperature throughout the day, they will be taken to a staging area and parent contact will be made. The student will then need to be picked up. Medical approval is required to return.

Meal Pick-Up

Will you still be providing meals for pick-up?

Yes, meals will be available for all of our students at the school sites.

School Closure Questions

How do you decide if you need to close schools again?

The decision to close schools would be made in conjunction with the DPH, CDC, DOE, and other local agencies. Washington County Board of Education is in close contact with these entities and will keep parents and community members informed of any changes as soon as we can.

GTID Number

Where can I find my child's GTID number for my P-EBT application?

This number is now available on the Parent Portal. Please follow this link if you have not signed up for a Portal account: <https://campus.washington.k12.ga.us/campus/portal/parents/washington.jsp>

What if I can't access the Parent Portal?

Please contact the board office at 478-552-3981 and ask to speak with a member of our wrap-around services team. They will be able to assist you.

Teacher Contact/ School Contact

Can we contact the Board of Education during this time?

Yes, you can call 478-552-3981 between the hours 8:00 AM- 4:30 PM Monday-Friday. You can also e-mail info@wacoschools.org.

How will teachers interact with my child on a consistent basis?

For students with internet access the primary mode of contact is google classroom or email. If there is no access to technology you can call the teachers, or your individual school. Additionally, each student should be hearing from their teacher in some form each week.

Who can I contact if I have concerns with my child's teacher(s)?

Each school will have someone on-site from 7:30 AM -1:00 PM. Please do not hesitate to contact them using the below contact information.

Ridge Road Primary School:

Ms. Clark: 478-552-6047 ext. 4403
Mrs. Andrews: 478-552-6047 ext. 4410

E-mail: lclark@washington.k12.ga.us

Ridge Road Elementary School:

Ms. McPherson: 478-552-2245 ext. 4802.

E-mail: cmcpherson@washington.k12.ga.us

T.J. Elder Middle School:

Mr. May: 478-552-2007 ext. 3203

E-mail: tmay@washington.k12.ga.us

Washington County High School:

Dr. Gilbert: 478-552-2324 ext. 2207
Susan Smith: 478-552-2324 ext. 2205

E-mail: dgilbert@washington.k12.ga.us

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Washington County Alternative School:

Mrs. Harden: 478-553-1243 ext. 2803

E-mail: vharden@washington.k12.ga.us

Will the school provide counselors and social workers to assist our children if they need to speak with someone?

Yes, you can email Gerry.wilson-dukes@washington.k12.ga.us, jdunn@washington.k12.ga.us, sirby@washington.k12.ga.us, Georgia.Larimore@washington.k12.ga.us

Special Education and Section 504**If I have a special needs child how will my child interact with teachers and their case worker?**

Special Education Teachers are required to check in with their students on a weekly basis.

Will we still conduct our required IEP and 504 meetings?

Yes, they will be conducted via Telephone conference or Video conference (ZOOM).

What about additional services my child may receive (OT, PT, and Speech)?

You should have been contacted about these services. If you have not, please see email or phone contact below.

If you need additional assistance you can contact: ejohnson@washington.k12.ga.us or call 478-552-3981 ext. 1225.

ESOL Program**We my child continue to receive the supports they need during this COVID-19 situation as second language learning?**

Yes, we will continue to provide that service with Mrs. Sheppard. Her phone and email will always be open to address any questions.

Board of Education Meetings**How will we conduct BOE meetings for the foreseeable future?**

Meetings will be held via ZOOM. You participate face-to-face until room capacity is reach.

How can I participate in the BOE meetings as a member of the public?

You can view these meetings by joining the ZOOM sessions. In order to get the meeting ID and Password please e-mail mnugent@washington.k12.ga.us.

Enrollment/Transfer/Withdrawal Information**If we are new to the community, how can we enroll our students?**

You can enroll your students online utilizing our online enrollment platform. This is located under the Parent tab on our website. If documentation needs to be brought in, please contact Karen Wright at 478-552-3981 ext. 1241 to make an appointment.

What will be the procedure for withdrawing my child if we are going to another county?

Withdrawals will still have to be done through the schools.

Do I still need to pay tuition?

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Yes. If you have any questions you can email kwright@washington.k12.ga.us .

Medication Questions

I have medication at the school, how do I get it?

You can e-mail jhackley@washington.k12.ga.us or dkemp@washington.k12.ga.us to arrange a time to pick up your medications.

Will my child still be able to have medicine administered to them by the school nurse?

Yes, the school nurse will still provide the services that were offered last year.

CDC: COVID-19 and Children – Frequently Asked Questions

What is the risk of my child becoming sick with COVID-19?

Based on available evidence, children do not appear to be at higher risk for COVID-19 than adults. While some children and infants have been sick with COVID-19, adults make up most of the known cases to date. You can learn more about who is at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 at [People who are at higher risk for severe illness](#).

How can I protect my child from COVID-19 infection? You can encourage your child to help stop the spread of COVID-19 by teaching them to do the same things everyone should do to stay healthy.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue and throw the tissue in the trash.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects (e.g., tables, countertops, light switches, doorknobs, and cabinet handles).
- Launder items, including washable plush toys, as appropriate and in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. If possible, launder items using the warmest appropriate water setting for the items and dry items completely. Dirty laundry from an ill person can be washed with other people's items.

You can find additional information on preventing COVID-19 at [Prevention for 2019 Novel Coronavirus](#) and at [Preventing COVID-19 Spread in Communities](#). Additional information on how COVID-19 is spread is available at [How COVID-19 Spreads](#). More information on [Children and Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#) is available online.

Are the symptoms of COVID-19 different in children than in adults?

No. The symptoms of COVID-19 are similar in children and adults. However, children with confirmed COVID-19 have generally presented with mild symptoms. Reported symptoms in children include cold-like symptoms, such as fever, runny nose, and cough. Vomiting and diarrhea have also been reported. It's not known yet whether some children may be at higher risk for severe illness, for example, children with underlying medical conditions and special healthcare needs. There is much more to be learned about how the disease impacts children.

Should children wear masks?

CDC recommends that everyone 2 years and older wear a cloth face covering that covers their nose and mouth when they are out in the community. Cloth face coverings should NOT be put on babies or children younger than 2 because of the danger of suffocation. Children younger than 2 years of age are listed as an exception as well as anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance. Wearing cloth face coverings is a public health measure people should take to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in addition to (not instead of) social distancing, frequent hand cleaning, and other everyday preventive actions. A cloth face covering is not intended to protect the wearer but may prevent the spread of virus from the wearer to others. This would be especially important if someone is infected but does not have symptoms.

How do I prepare my children in case of COVID-19 outbreak in our community?

Outbreaks can be stressful for adults and children. Talk with your children about the outbreak, try to stay calm, and reassure them that they are safe. If appropriate, explain to them that most illness from COVID-19 seems to be mild. [Children respond differently to stressful situations than adults](#). CDC offers [resources](#) to help talk with children about COVID-19.

What steps should parents take to protect children during a community outbreak?

This is a new virus and we are still learning about it, but so far, there does not seem to be a lot of illness in children. Most illness, including serious illness, is happening in adults of working age and older adults. However, children do get the virus and become ill. Discourage children and teens from gathering in other public places while school is dismissed to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in the community.