



Pocahontas County Schools

Re-Entry Plan

2020-2021

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From Superintendent Beam

As we embark on this journey to provide the best quality education possible to our students while keeping their safety (and the safety of our employees) as the most important component of this process, we have designed the following re-entry plan for our staff and students. Although far from perfect, we have asked the input of more than 80 employees, health care providers, and board members to provide guidance in creating this plan. As a fluid document, we will monitor the effectiveness of this plan and make necessary alterations when necessary, but not without the approval of the Pocahontas County Board of Education. Our end goal is to get all of our students back to school five days a week as soon as it is safe to do so.

Terrence C. Beam, Superintendent

Overview

The Pocahontas County Board of Education, in consultation with the West Virginia Department of Education, has developed a guide for reopening schools in Pocahontas County in response to the COVID-19 public health crisis. As Pocahontas County Schools (PCS) prepares for re-entry to school, it is critical to be prepared for change as the year unfolds.

This document is built upon the guidance and recommendations of the Pocahontas County Health Department and the Center for Disease Control (CDC). It is designed with the health and safety of students and staff as the priority as schools begin to reopen and deliver instruction for the 2020-2021 school year. As impacts of the COVID-19 may evolve, the Pocahontas County Health Department, WVDE, and the CDC will continue to provide updated guidance and recommendations to PCS on navigating the academic, social, and emotional effects on students and employees.

As statewide and local COVID-19 public health needs change over time, it is critical for Pocahontas County Schools to plan for a variety of learning scenarios for the 2020-2021 school year. PCS will consider the following possible re-entry plans and the nine focus areas as we prepare to reopen.

Focus Areas

1. Safe Schools & Facilities
2. Health, Social-Emotional, & Mental Wellness
3. Instruction/Learning
4. Special Education
5. Career Technical Education (CTE)
6. Technology
7. Child Nutrition
8. Finance
9. Transportation/Extracurricular/Extended Activities

Current Face Covering Protocols/Temperature Checks

Face coverings are required of all students and staff when they cannot socially distance from others.

- Staff members must be wearing a face covering when they enter the building. They must also have their temperature read upon first entering the building.
- All K-12 students must wear a face covering both on the bus and in the schools unless they can provide a medical statement from a certified health care provider stating the reason the student cannot wear a face covering. Students will also have their temperature checked daily when entering the school.
- Unless medically waived, all students ages 9 and above are required to wear face coverings in all public places at all times. Exceptions to this requirement is health reasons and actively eating or drinking. (This is by order of the Governor) This would include riding the bus and in classroom settings. It is our preference to emphasize safety over comfort.
- Any student who cannot wear a face covering due to a medical condition (documented by a medical health provider), including those with respiratory issues that impede breathing, a mental health condition, or disability, and students who would be unable to remove a mask without assistance are not required to wear face coverings. Individuals who are communicating or seeking to communicate with someone who is hearing impaired or who has another disability, where the ability to see the mouth is essential to communication, are not required to wear a mask; however, individuals should consider using another type of face covering such as a plastic face shield, for example.

Re-Entry Plans

Plan A (4 day Face-to-Face Instruction)

Students will be required to attend school four days per week (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday) for face-to-face instruction beginning on November 5 unless they are enrolled in virtual school. Parents need to understand that, in some cases, social distancing of six feet apart may not be possible due to the number of students attending. In those cases, face coverings will be required at all times other than eating meals. While eating meals, students will remain six feet apart. Wednesdays will continue to be deep-cleaning and remote learning days at this time.

Plan B (Virtual Learning)

Parents may choose to keep their children home for five days of virtual instruction. PCS will provide the virtual instruction option for students to follow. It is our intent to use our county teachers to deliver the virtual learning instruction, not necessarily the child's homeroom teacher, but a teacher in our school system. Parents who choose this option are asked to commit to this virtual option for a nine week period if their child is in elementary or middle school. High school students are asked to commit for one full semester due to grading requirements. After that time elapses, students may continue to receive virtual instruction or may choose to participate in Plan A or B if virtual instruction is no longer preferred. We will allow virtual students to return at any time to face-to-face instruction if they are having problems academically with virtual instruction.

Plan C (Remote Learning)

Remote learning may occur if the Governor and/or County Health Department directs a school system to close down and all students would be getting instruction from home. In that scenario, employees would report to work and instruct students from their own classrooms. Food service would still be available to students through much the same process as of the spring of 2020.

Additional Information:

- As part of our blending and distance learning approach, PCS will attempt to provide computer devices to all students and staff as part of a USDA Grant that we are pursuing. PCS is also planning on expanding the number of WIFI hotspots in our county to help promote distance/virtual learning.

General Information and Scheduling for Each Plan

Scheduling for Plan A (Face-to-Face 4 days)

- Least restrictive plan with social distancing required.
- School facilities are open; all students in attendance
- Traditional instruction with preparation for Blended and/or Distance Learning.
- Meals provided.

Scheduling for Plan B (Virtual)

- Students are learning through virtual instruction. Classes will be arranged for each child by grade level to allow limited numbers of students as the law requires.
- Instruction will be provided by our local teachers or through a West Virginia Virtual Schools instructor.
- Meals are provided for pickup at designated sites.

Scheduling for Plan C (Remote)

- Facilities are closed for students. .
- Remote Learning instruction plan will be used for all students and staff.
- Teachers will be on duty at school, preparing remote lessons and assisting students via internet and/or by phone.
- Meals will be provided for pickup at designated sites.

Within the School Day Scheduling Changes

- Minimize opportunities for close contact and risk of exposure.
 - Daily temperature screening will be conducted at each school upon entrance to the buildings.
 - Students will be asked COVID-19 screening questions daily.
 - Entry/Dismissal, bell schedule adapted.
 - Cafeteria limited to 50% capacity.
 - Staggered recess times in smaller groups.
 - No field trips.
 - Assemblies closed for full capacity.
 - Visitors are limited.
 - Students in Pre-K through 5th grade will stay in homeroom class all day. Teachers move, not students.

- Staff and Students will follow current face covering protocols.
- Social distancing behaviors continue as recommended by state and local health authorities, such as removing groupings of desks and creating hallway floor stickers.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided for student and staff use.
- Food service employees will wear face coverings at all times, to the greatest extent possible.
- School buses will be cleaned before every run.
- Signage will be located throughout the buildings to remind students to social distance.
- Minimize opportunities for close contact and risk of exposure
- School facilities are open with as much social distancing as possible
- Limit density of people in school facilities to no more than 50% maximum occupancy
- Enhanced health and cleaning protocols
- Meals will continue to be provided for all five 5 days to all students, regardless of what option they choose
- Employees may bring their children to school in order to allow them to catch a bus running to a different location.

No school for students every Wednesday to allow for thorough cleaning and sanitizing of the facilities and for preparing Blending Learning instruction. Teachers are available for assistance with assignments via phone or Teams.

Safe Schools and Facilities

Cleaning & Hygiene

- Adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors will be provided (e.g., paper towels, tissues, soap and hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol) for safe use by staff and older children.
- Hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol will be provided for safe use by staff and older children at entrances, exits, classrooms and the cafeteria.
- Teaching and reinforcing of handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and/or the safe use of hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol by staff and older children.
- Increase monitoring to ensure adherence to safety measures among students and staff.

- Use of hand sanitizer by students will be supervised.
- Children with skin reactions to hand sanitizer will use soap and water.
- Handwashing will be reinforced during key times such as, before, during and after preparing food; before eating food; after using the toilet; after blowing nose, coughing, or sneezing; after using bare hands to touch objects that have been handled by other individuals.
- Hand cleaning will be required when entering each classroom. Systematically and frequently check and refill hand sanitizers.
- Staff and students will be encouraged to cough and sneeze into their elbows, or to cover with a tissue.
- Used tissues will be thrown in the trash and hands will be washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or cleaned with hand sanitizer.
- Proper cleaning and disinfection of high-touch surfaces will occur throughout the day. Establish a schedule for and perform ongoing and routine environmental cleaning and disinfection of high-touch areas (e.g., door handles, stair rails, faucet handles, toilet handles, playground equipment, light switches, desks, tables, chairs, kitchen countertops, cafeteria and service tables, carts, and trays) with an EPA Approved Disinfectant for SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19), and increase frequency of disinfection during high-density times.
- All shared objects will be disinfected (e.g. gym or physical education equipment, art supplies, toys, games) between use. Paper-based materials, such as books and loose-leaf paper, are not considered high-risk for COVID-19 transmission and do not require additional cleaning or disinfecting procedures.
- Safe and correct use and storage of cleaning and disinfection products will occur, including securely storing and using products away from children, and allowing adequate ventilation when staff use such products.

Other Action Steps to Consider for Each Scenario:

- Engagement of all school personnel on the sanitization and procedures for opening of school
- On-going cleaning and disinfection of schools.
- Highly touched surfaces such as tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desk, phones, keyboards, toilets facet sinks, etc. cleaned throughout the day.
- Floor markers and signs to promote social distancing.

Physical, Social-Emotional, and Mental Wellness

Monitoring and Handling of Presumptive, Suspected and Confirmed COVID-19 Cases

- Signage will be posted at the main entrance requiring that people who have been symptomatic with fever and/or cough not enter.
- Staff, students and their families will be educated about the signs and symptoms of COVID-19, when they should stay home and when they can return to school.
- Wellness policies will be established and enforced to prevent the spread of disease, including:
- Staff will be required to stay home if sick; and flexibility will be provided with leave policies as provided by the CARES Act Temporary Rule for Paid Sick Leave and Expanded FMLA.
- A space will be dedicated for symptomatic individuals that will not be used for other purposes. Symptomatic individuals will immediately be assigned to a designated area at the school and sent home to isolate.
- Symptomatic students will remain under visual supervision of a staff member who is at least six feet away. The supervising adult should wear an appropriate face covering.
- A symptomatic person will wear a cloth face covering or a surgical mask while waiting to leave the facility when age and health appropriate.
- Cloth face coverings will not be placed on:
 - Anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious;
 - Anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance; and/or
 - Anyone who cannot tolerate a cloth face covering because of developmental, medical or behavioral needs.
- Screening for symptoms will be conducted of any visitors entering the building, including family members, vendors and others. Screening will be provided at the school entrance or at the main office. Individuals waiting to be screened must stand six feet apart from each other. Use tape or other markers on the floor for spacing.
- The staff member responsible for screening temperatures must wear a cloth face covering and must stay six feet apart unless screening temperature.
- Use a touchless thermometer if one is available. If not available, use a tympanic (ear), digital axillary (under the arm), or temporal (forehead) thermometer. Change disposable thermometer covers between individuals.
- Temperatures will not be taken orally (under the tongue) because of the risk of spreading COVID-19 from respiratory droplets from the mouth.

- Staff member must wash hands or use hand sanitizer before touching the thermometer.
- Staff member must wear gloves if available, change between direct contact with individuals, and must wash hands or use hand sanitizer after removing gloves and between direct contact with individuals.
- Staff member must clean and sanitize the thermometer using manufacturer's instructions between each use.
- Teachers will utilize the age-appropriate Symptom Screening Checklist for students.
- In grades PK–2, the checklist should be used in conjunction with teacher observation & monitoring of student's appearance, activity and level of engagement.
- School nurses or delegated school staff who provide direct patient care will be required to wear appropriate protective gear and perform appropriate hand hygiene.
- Once a symptomatic person is removed from the school, cleaning and disinfecting procedure will occur following CDC guidelines.
- The following process will be followed for allowing a student or staff member to return to school:
 - If a person has had a negative COVID-19 test, they can return to school once there is no fever (without the use of fever reducing medicines) and they have felt well for 24 hours.
 - If a person is diagnosed with COVID-19 by a medical professional based on a test or symptoms or does not seek medical attention and has symptoms, he or she should not be at school and should stay at home until he or she (or a family member if younger child) can answer YES to the following questions:
 - Has it been at least 10 days since the individual first had symptoms?
 - Has it been at least three day since the individual had a fever (without using fever reducing medicine)?
 - Has it been at least three days since the individual's symptoms have improved, including cough and shortness of breath?
- Local health authorities will be notified of confirmed COVID-19 cases among children and staff.
- School administrators will coordinate with local health officials to notify staff and families immediately of a person who was in the school setting with COVID-19, while maintaining confidentiality in accordance with FERPA and all other state and federal laws.

Social-Emotional Wellness

- A crisis response planning team meeting will be held to update and revise the West Virginia Schools Crisis Prevention and Response Plan through collaborative planning. (Refer to WVDE Crisis Response Plan Template Overview/Instructions for more information.)
- In response to a crisis, convene a mental health crisis response team meeting will be convened to provide mental health supports. Access to professional student support staff, including school counselors, school psychologists and school nurses will be provided.
- A continuous advisory system will be implemented that provides students with meaningful supportive relationships and maximizes each student's personalized learning experience.
- An integrated delivery of social-emotional standards will be provided. (West Virginia College and Career Readiness Dispositions and Standards for Student Success)
- Pocahontas County schools will evaluate every student's SEL strengths and needs utilizing evidenced based screeners. These screeners will be repeated on a rotating schedule to allow tracking of growth and/or regression in all areas.
- EBP (Evidence-based Programs) SEL (Social Emotional Learning) programming such as Coping Cats, Too Good for Drugs and Violence, Camp Cope-A-Lot, Signs of Suicide and Botvin Lifeskills will be facilitated by school and Expanded School Mental Health staff to address identified needs. These programs will utilize a variety of delivery methods including face-to-face classroom lessons, Zoom and Microsoft Teams.
- Students not physically present in the building whom remain intact with Pocahontas County Schools will also be screened and have the opportunity to participate in all SEL programming through distance learning options. These options will be evaluated on a case by case basis to determine the best delivery option for each student.

Protecting Vulnerable Health Populations

- Health records and emergency contacts for students and staff will be updated on a regular basis.
- All current health plans will be systematically reviewed for accommodating students with special healthcare needs and update their care plans as needed to decrease their risk of exposure to COVID-19.

- Complete health histories and current well-child checks will be obtained for all students entering pre-k, kindergarten, grade 2, grade 7 and grade 12. Be alert for any conditions or chronic illnesses that may exacerbate symptoms of COVID-19.

Instruction/Learning

Plan A: Face-to-Face Instruction (four days per week)

Students will attend school four days per week in a face-to-face setting and receive distance learning opportunities on Wednesdays. No students will attend on Wednesdays as that day will be used for deep cleaning and assistance via telephone or Teams with assignments as needed.
Benchmark testing will occur within the first two weeks of school to provide student data on need for re-teaching and thereafter during each benchmark window.
Teachers will focus instruction around Essential Standards and Learning Targets, as well as, weaknesses determined by student benchmark data.
Design lessons with the possibility of shifting to Remote Learning, if ordered by the Governor and/or County Health Department
Provide practice and instruction for students at least twice a week on using the TEAMS to prepare for Blending and/or Distance Learning.

Plan B: Virtual Learning

Guardians will contact school principal to request virtual school option. Guardians will fill out appropriate paperwork and send to Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Federal Programs (Lynne Bostic) lbostic@k12.wv.us
Teachers will prepare all student lessons on the WV Learns platform.
Staff will communicate with families in a consistent format and time, clearly defining all expectations during remote change to virtual learning for students.
Teachers will focus instruction around Essential Standards and Learning Targets, as well as, weaknesses determined by student benchmark data.

Plan C: Remote Learning

All students will be learning from home on the orders of the Governor and/or County Health department. All school facilities will be closed to the students, with the possible exception of CTE instruction on a very limited basis.
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Teachers will work in their classrooms to provide the remote learning instruction. Student work will be graded and become part of their educational record. Teachers will contact their students on a regular frequent basis.

Meals will be provided to all students.

Child Nutrition

- Meal times will be increased and all staff and students will wash hands before and after meals.
- Breakfast for all K-12 students will be a Grab and Go process.
- All lunch schedules and procedures will follow 50% capacity and social distancing. Lines will be marked on floors and seats.
- Elementary students will be socially distanced while eating in their classrooms with their core group. Face coverings will be worn while picking up trays to take back to their rooms. Middle school and high school students will eat in the cafeteria or adjacent rooms and be at 50% capacity with social distancing. Elementary students may be eat lunch in the cafeteria in the event that they cannot eat in the classroom with a six foot separation for social distancing.
- All food service employees will wear masks throughout the day, to the greatest extent possible. Masks shall be cleaned or replaced daily. Reasonable accommodations will be made for employees who cannot wear a mask because of a specialized health condition; however, medical support documentation will be required by the employer to better understand what accommodation is appropriate. The local health department will be asked to help with this decision.
- The entire cafeteria facility will be thoroughly detailed, cleaned and sanitized before resuming dine-in services and continue to do so regularly. Cleaning and sanitation will be focused on high-contact areas that would be touched by employees and students by always doing the following:
 - Procuring and utilizing cleaning products and protocols that include EPA-approved disinfectants that meet CDC requirements for use and effectiveness against viruses, bacteria and other airborne and blood-borne pathogens.
 - Between school meal services, commonly touched areas will be cleaned and sanitized.
 - Staff will begin by cleaning and sanitizing kitchen surfaces, and will do so throughout the day. High Touch areas will be cleaned and disinfected

between meal shifts. Food contact surfaces will be avoided when using disinfectants.

- Daily checklists with cleaning routines will be recorded daily.
- Any single-use items left in the meal service area by students will be discarded.
- Food preparation and distribution models will be in place and adhere to social distancing guidelines.
- Designated trash bins will be placed where students can dispose of items at the end of the meal service in a manner that adheres to proper social distancing guidelines.
- Utensils, napkins, condiments, and milk will be placed on trays by staff. Salad bars and share tables will not be available at this time.
- Family-style meal service will be eliminated (i.e., in pre-k collaborative settings within the school system). Meals will be distributed following proper food safety guidelines.
- USDA Civil Rights requirements will be followed. Meal service contingency plans have been developed for remote learning scenarios.
- Procedures and protocols have been established to ensure students have access to school meals if we return to a remote learning situation. Bus routes or feeding sites will be used to distribute school meals to the best of our ability during these situations.
- Blended Learning and Virtual Meals will have weekly designated time for pickup. The three pick-up sites will be HES, MES, and GBEMS. Times and dates to be decided.

Pocahontas County's Food Service Plan for Remote Learning (School Closure)

- All cooks will remain in their own schools and prepare meals for distribution.
- We will continue to use Hillsboro Elementary, Marlinton Elementary, and Green Elementary Middle School for our weekly distribution sites.
- This is a no-contact distribution. Staff are to place the meal package inside the trunk of the vehicle. If we cannot use the truck, they will place the meal package on a table for the parent to place in their vehicle.

Transportation

Pocahontas County Transportation Department Bus Cleaning Protocols 2020-201

Entire interior of bus must be cleaned/disinfected before/after each run. Documentation of cleaning will be required. See Attached document for recording the cleaning schedule.

1. Windows to remain open during cleaning and only closed when electrostatic sprayer is used (15 minutes). Must then be reopened. Windows are to be open while conducting your bus route (giving attention to weather, temperature, and dust conditions).
2. Clean the floor first - must be cleaned daily - sweeping and mopping alternatives
 - a. Air compressor
 - b. Steam cleaner
3. Identify high-touch areas for the students and for the driver. Spray and wiped with Purgo.
 - a. Driver Console
 - i. Seat Belt and Buckle
 - ii. Armrest
 - iii. Steering Wheel
 - b. Handrail
 - c. Windows and window latches
 - d. Seats
 - i. Clean bottom cushion
 - ii. Lift every seat
 - iii. Clean back cushion
 - iv. Clean back of cushion
4. Two Step Cleaning
 - a. Seats and High Touch Areas – spray cleaner, Purgo and wiping to remove soil
 - b. Electrostatic spray sanitizer/disinfectant
5. Filters – heaters
 - a. Must be cleaned and/or replaced monthly.
 - b. Must be checked daily.
6. Strict adherence to the six-week Preventative Maintenance Schedule.
7. Face Coverings
 - a. Must be worn when children enter and exit the bus
 - b. Disposable masks will be available for students who do not have one
 - c. Masks must be worn during the cleaning process
 - d. No face shields are permitted for drivers
8. Hand sanitizing must be done by students when entering the bus and when they are unloaded.
 - a. Drivers must remove the hand sanitizing dispenser after each run and refill.
 - b. Dispenser must stay off the bus when parked for the day.
9. Nitrile gloves will be provided.
 - a. Gloves are not to be worn while driving
 - b. Students are not to be given gloves
 - c. Garbage can emptied, cleaned, and disinfected after each run.

10. All cleaners, disinfectants, equipment and supplies will be stored in a locked cabinet at each bus terminal.
 - a. MSDS information shall be stored in the cabinet
 - b. Any time a cleaner is suggested for change (omit or add) it must be cross referenced with the EPA N list for accepted use and the effectiveness for killing coronavirus.
- Teachers and students will be required to view “Safe Bus Loading &Unloading Procedures” video from WVDE to address best practices related to transportation safety.
- Seating arrangements and protocols will be developed to limit the number of students to no more than two per seat. Face covering will follow current protocols. The county will provide face coverings for students if they do not have one.

Other Action Steps to Consider for Each Scenario:

- Using proper procedures for transporting students and communicated to school community
- In the event of a shutdown, develop plans to deliver food to students
- Groups A/B school scheduling, determine ridership of students...who rides when and how we can divide so the proper students are riding on the days they are in school

Communications

- Reliable communication channels will be developed that accommodate all families regardless of technology accessibility. This should include online communications, emails, School Messenger, personal phone calls, texts, newsletters (electronic and paper).
- Families will be surveyed to learn how to best communicate with them.
- An email or phone number that is monitored regularly will be provided that families and community members may use to submit questions.
- Timely updates will be provided to the community for the upcoming school year including when school begins, what the school day will look like, what safety precautions are in place, additional requirements of students and important screening protocols.
- Regular updates will be provided to the board of education and community members at each board meeting throughout the year.
- Newspaper articles and radio interviews will be a regular mode of communication with the community.

- Regular messages will be communicated to our employees through emails and School Messenger calls.
- Pocahontas County Schools will be transparent and timely in updating families and communities.

Professional Learning to Occur Before and During Re-Entry to School

Teachers will be provided professional development before and during school beginning on the following:

- WV Virtual Schools Platform
- Remote Learning Guidelines, Preparation, and Training
- Effective grading strategies to use during remote instruction
- Use of webcams in the classrooms
- Social distancing practices within the classroom, cafeteria, and hallways
- Social distancing guidelines for buses
- Surface Go Training
- Virtual Instruction Preparedness
- Content Standards and Learning Targets
- Cleaning and Sanitization Protocols
- Reopening Guidelines
- Office 365 TEAMS
- Zoom Video Communications
- Legal updates with Dinsmore and Shohl

Pocahontas County Schools: Providing education to all Students 2020-21

	Blended Learning		Options	
	Return to School Building	Distance Learning	Virtual School Option	Home School Option
Student enrolled with Pocahontas County Schools	✗	✗	✗	
Student receives instruction from a certified teacher through Pocahontas County Schools and/or West Virginia Department of Education	✗	✗	✗	
School Begins on September 8, 2020	✗		✗	✗
Student does not come to the school building for learning		✗	✗	✗
Contact at Pocahontas County Schools	Your child's principal		Lynne Bostic 304-799-5023	Ron Hall 304-799-5018
Contact for student with special needs	Ruth Bland 304-799-5021			
Schools are closed due to weather or COVID-19		✗	✗	✗
Student can participate in extracurricular activities with Pocahontas County Schools	✗	✗	✗	50% of courses at School Building
Student receives support from a certified teacher	✗	✗	✗	
Student receives special education services	✗	✗		
Student receives instruction from PreK to 12th grade with a certified teacher	✗	✗	Available K-12	
Class size limitations based on State Code for grades K-5	✗	✗	✗	
Student is hospitalized or home bound due to health issues (written statement by a licensed physical is required)	Home Bound Teacher		✗	
Student needs their own device to access the internet	Currently students in grades 11 th and 12 th will receive a device		✗	✗
Student cannot move out of option until they attend a full grading period (nine weeks)	Blended Learning will depend upon the levels of COVID-19 in the county		✗	
Student will receive grades.	Grades received from their assigned Pocahontas County Schools teacher(s)		Grades received from their assigned Virtual School teacher(s)	Grades received from their home school instructor

Virtual School Frequently Asked Questions:

How long will the student be required to commit to virtual school? A student with Pocahontas County Schools will commit to one full grading period/nine weeks. Parents may request that their child return to face-to-face instruction if academic progress is being hindered by virtual instruction.

How will I enroll my child in virtual school? Parents wishing to enroll their child in virtual schools for the second semester (middle/high) or second nine weeks (elementary) need to contact their principal immediately.

Is there a charge to families? No, Pocahontas County Schools provides a free public education to all students enrolled with the county.

Does the student have courses during the day or evening? Students will work at their own pace. Students may work during the day or evening.

What is the average time a student is required to be online per day? Virtual school is self-paced and varies from student to student.

Are the virtual courses conducted live or are they recorded? The courses are built into a platform. There may be times that the teacher feels the need to offer live meetings (not required) or record special instruction to help students learn the content.

Can the lesson/course be downloaded and watched later if a child missed the class? The course is available 24 hours a day/seven days a week.

Is there one website to access all the classes or do you have to log in and out of different sites? The West Virginia Virtual School uses the WV Learns platform for courses. On a rare occasion, an elective course may not be available by a West Virginia teacher and the state may need to use an outside provider.

Does West Virginia Virtual supply needed materials? A few courses require an e-book – typically, those are Advanced Placement or higher-level math. A code will be provided if needed.

Is there an outline for each course? Courses use an outline such as a syllabus.

Will the child need assistance with the virtual class beyond their family member? Yes, the county will provide a facilitator at the local level to help families.

What happens to virtual school if the Governor or Health Department closes Pocahontas County Schools? Students enrolled in Virtual School will continue in Virtual School and students who were attending the actual school buildings will begin remote learning provided by their classroom teacher.

Can a family take their device to an internet access point, download the course and then go home to do the assignments? Each class is going to vary. Sometimes, the lessons will include videos and interactive games that require internet access. However, there will be items they can download by clicking print and it will save it as a PDF so they can read from home. A lot of times at the end of the lesson, they have a “text version” so they can read it. I’ve known students to copy and paste this information to a Word document and take it home with them. As long as they have Microsoft loaded to their device, they will be able to work on many of the assignments from home.

What are the options for gifted students completing virtual? WV Learns has honors classes for the high school level. The other levels typically advance to the next grade level.

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Re-Entry:

When does school officially start? September 8, 2020 for In School/In Person and WV Virtual School

Can a student in WV Virtual School play sports? Yes

Can a student opt into ½ WV Virtual School and ½ Home School? Yes, and can still play sports.

Will students have to wear masks or face shield?

- All staff and all students in grades K-12 will be required to wear masks both on the bus and in the schools, including classrooms and hallways if social distancing cannot be followed.
- Masks would not be required at times when social distancing is being practiced.
- Masks and shields are being provided

What if the students will not keep the masks on in the environment that they are required?

- Students will be taught the importance of the wearing mask/shield.
- Every situation will be addressed individually

Will the process of Eligibility for IEP testing be waived if a parent opts to go to home school? No. No IDEA regulations have been waived since the start of the Pandemic. Location of services (push in, pull out, Related Services) will be provided per the child's IEP and as reviewed by the IEP team. Recovery services will be offered if needed.

Are student temperatures going to be taken at bus stops? Students will have their temperatures scanned as they enter the buildings. No temperatures will be taken at the bus stops.

Will there be a mandatory COVID – 19 testing requirements for students and staff? Not at this time. This may change as we receive direction from the Health Department, DHHR, or the West Virginia Department of Education.

Are there protocols in place for students that become ill? Yes. The Pocahontas County Board of Education has hired additional LPNs to assist with ill students. If a child becomes ill, the medical personnel or the principals in the buildings will isolate the child, supervise the child, screen the child for symptoms, and will contact parents and will explain the protocols used so it may be shared with the family's health care provider. Contact tracing will be a part of the response protocol.

How will Preschool work?

- West Virginia Universal Pre-K is not considered for virtual learning, as pre-k is voluntary. If parents feel the pandemic warrants not enrolling their West Virginia Universal Pre-K-aged child into school, they have the flexibility to not enroll them. Next year, they can enroll their child in a kindergarten program.
- To provide another learning option for families with pre-k children, school systems may offer a blended option for West Virginia Universal Pre-K programs, so children can receive quality instruction part time at the school building and part time outside the school building. If utilizing a blended model for pre-k students, schools must consider developmental appropriateness of schedules and use of technology as well as equity and access to broadband. This is being planned by the Preschool Instructors.
- Half of the class will come on Monday, Tuesday and the other half will come on Thursday, Friday.

How often will the situation be re-evaluated to determine a change in full in person attendance? The West Virginia Department of Education is developing a Metrics System that will indicate the number of active cases per county and will use a Green, Yellow, Orange, Gold, and Red system to determine the status school continuation.

Will high school students be able to drive to school? Yes, and it is encouraged!

Can the two day/two day in person schedule be changed from the A-L and M-Z? Parents will need to work with the school principal to alter the days especially if there are children in the home with different last names and also parent work schedules will be taken into consideration.

Will the students receive computer devices? At this point, all juniors and seniors in high school will be given the opportunity to have a loaned device. There will be a contract/agreement for the student and the parent to sign. A USDA-RUS-DLT grant has been submitted to get devices for the rest of the grade levels. Notification of the grant award is tentatively in early September. Students cannot bring personal devices at this time.

If the Governor issues a Stay at Home Order, what will happen? Students will continue instruction with Remote Learning.

If my child becomes ill and is absent from school will assignments be provided? Yes.

Why are the bus transfers happening at MMS instead of MES? The limited space on 9th Ave prohibits the social distancing ability. MMS has a large parking lot, off the main road, that will be safer for students and bus operators.

Will the bus routes be the same? Yes, but times for pick up and arrival may be different depending upon the number of students that attend in person. Children that get on the buses in town at MES will have a bus taking them to the high school and MMS.

What about outside classrooms? Careful consideration must be given for outdoor classrooms and will be at the discretion of the principals at each school. The following list of issues must be considered for all students and staff when choosing to teach outdoors (this list is not exclusive):

- Location of classroom site from main building;
- Closest restroom facilities for both students and staff;
- Communication to main office from outdoor classroom site;
- Water for students and staff;
- Exposure to sun and the use of sunscreen for students and staff;
- Exposure to insects and the need to have Epi-Pins available for allergic students and staff and the use of insect repellent; and,
- How to handle abrupt changes in weather and how to account for students when a building evacuation or fire drill occurs.

What about sports? Fall sports practice will begin at PCHS on August 17, 2020 and there will be Activity Buses.

What about winter sports? By order of the Governor, winter sports will begin on January 11.

What about basketball? At the November 17, 2020 board meeting, the board voted to approve the continuation of basketball for the 2020-2021 season. Should school bus transportation be available during away games, it will be utilized of 20% capacity, the availability to purchase two tickets per athlete per game for both home and visiting teams is permissible. The media will be restricted to two individuals per team per game. Temperature checks will be monitored with athletes and all spectators. Social distancing and mask/shield regulations will be followed as provided in the Re-Entry Guidelines. Operating concession stands is at the discretion of the school, but must be in accordance with the guidelines provided by the Pocahontas County Health Department.

Color Coded Map

The following color codes will be used by the Governor and County Health Departments to make determinations concerning school closures or changes in schedules, including athletic events and spectator attendance at games.

These maps will show the current COVID-19 transmission data used to determine school settings in each county.

These maps will be updated every week and the color code will be in effect for the county for a two-week period, minimally.

GREEN Minimal transmission spread reported. Schools maintain their current status.

YELLOW Medium transmission spread reported. More stringent enforcement of face covering policy and more communication with the community concerning the need to practice proper protocols such as face coverings, washing of hands, social distancing, etc.

GOLD Elevated community transmission reported. Face coverings required in grades 3-12. Athletic competitions limited to contests with other GOLD counties.

ORANGE Heightened transmission rate has been reported, and this could affect athletic contests and/or spectator attendance at extra-curricular events, such as games. Further discussions

with the County Health Department will occur to determine best practices.

RED

The Governor and/or County Health Department determine that students will not report to school and will be taught remotely. All face-to-face instruction will cease at this point. Employees will continue to report to work daily.