



MCPS Re-entry plan 2020-2021

MCPS Families,

We all know this school year continues to present challenges unlike any year before, not the least of which is the uncertainty surrounding potential changes throughout the year. However, we've developed and continued to update a re-entry plan that we feel is realistic, practical, and flexible.

This document is intended to serve as an overview of how we are taking on some of the challenges of this school year. We've been provided a tremendous amount of requirements and recommendations from the Kentucky Department of Education and health experts, and our plan reflects that information.

This school district believes strongly that no form of education can truly replace the interaction between a student and a qualified teacher in the classroom. However, we also recognize the concerns parents have regarding health and safety. That's why our re-entry plan outlines In-Person, Distance-Learning and Hybrid options. You can read more about these options beginning on page 4.

Throughout the year, we have needed to update this document based on additional information, requirements or recommendations. At the top of each page, you will find the most recent date when changes were made.

This school year will undoubtedly continue to prove challenging, but I feel confident this school district and this community are up to that challenge.

*Taylor Schlosser
MCPS Superintendent*

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CALENDAR

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL: AUGUST 26, 2020

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL: MAY 26, 2021

Why did we change the calendar?

- By using this later start date, we are not required to schedule a minimum of 170 days of school. Instead, we are required to ensure 1,062 hours of instruction, which can be accomplished in fewer days.
- The added time gives our schools and teachers more opportunity to prepare for a challenging school year. This includes creating schedules and brainstorming ways to best implement distance-learning.
- This calendar still includes fall break and spring break, which we recognize as important to families. Also, this calendar does not include early-release days.

Will we still have NTI days?

We certainly could. The Kentucky Department of Education has granted school districts as many NTI days as they need. So, any day that school is canceled for MCPS will almost certainly become an NTI day. That means the last day of school is very unlikely to change.



CALENDAR

2020-2021 MCPS Calendar - Alternative Maroon

July 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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26	27	28	29	30	31	

August 2020						
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23	X 24	O 25	S 26			29
30	31					

September 2020						
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October 2020						
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November 2020						
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	X 25	H 26	X 27	28
29	30					

December 2020						
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		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	X 21	X 22	X 23	X 24	H 25	26
27	X 28	X 29	X 30	X 31		

January 2021						
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					H 1	2
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30

February 2021						
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28						

March 2021						
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

April 2021						
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

May 2021						
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	L/U 26	C/U 27	P/U 28	29
30	X 31					

June 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		P/U 1	P/U 2	P/U 3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

O / C Opening / Closing K / X Break / Other PD Professional Development/No Students H Holiday
 S First Day for Students U Possible Make-Up Day D Staff Development/No Students
 L Last Day for Students PS Preschool Start Day PL Preschool Last Day

Dream. Believe. Achieve.



STUDENT OPTIONS

Our re-entry plan for the 2020-2021 school year recognizes that many parents may not feel comfortable sending their children to school given the circumstances surrounding COVID-19. Below, you'll find descriptions for In-Person, Distance-Learning and Hybrid A/B options. On the following page you'll find a chart that defines these and other potential learning opportunities.

In-Person

With this option, students will attend class in-person following the safety expectations outlined in our [three-tier safety system](#).

This is very similar to a traditional school day. However, students may notice differences in how classrooms are arranged (to allow for social distancing), changes in day-to-day procedures (e.g. where students sit in the morning), or instructional practices in the classroom.

Students will be required to wear a mask at all times throughout the day.

Hybrid A/B

Working with the regional health department, the superintendent of schools may make the decision to move to the RED tier of our [three-tier safety system](#) if public health concerns continue to grow.

The district may move to Non-Traditional Instruction (NTI) or, based on the [Kentucky Department of Public Health COVID-19 Mode of Instruction Metrics for K-12 Education](#) (released December, 2020), may move to an aggressive hybrid model.

Distance-Learning

With this option, students will learn from home through a variety of instructional practices intended to mirror in-person instruction as much as possible.

While this option is open to all students, **Distance-Learning will work most effectively and efficiently for those with a reliable Internet connection.**

Distance-learning is NOT the same as NTI work.

Students who choose this option should expect to be involved in classwork throughout the day at specified times just as if they were in class at school. In fact, in some instances, students will participate virtually with students who are taking the same class in-person at the school.

These students will be subject to all attendance policies.

Schools are able to provide limited small-group In-Person instruction while operating on Distance-Learning. Individual schools will communicate to families about these opportunities.

Students who initially choose the Distance-Learning option can transition to In-Person instruction at the following re-entry dates:

Wednesday, September 23rd	Monday, February 22nd
Wednesday, November 4th	Monday, March 22nd
Monday, December 7th	Monday, April 26th
Monday, January 25th	

Students who initially choose the In-Person option can opt for Distance-Learning at any time.

Regardless of which option parents choose, all students will participate in local and state assessments. All students will also be able to participate in extracurricular activities provided they meet eligibility requirements for the activity.



STUDENT OPTIONS

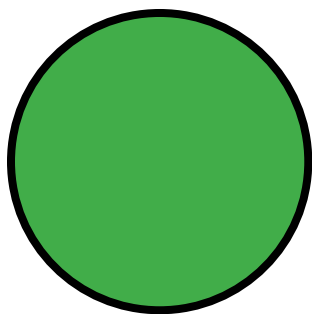
LEARNING TYPE	DEFINITION
In-Person	Students attend classes in a traditional manner with the teacher and classmates in the same classroom. Safety precautions will be observed, including: use of masks (when required), social distancing, and other expectations outlined in the district's re-entry plan.
Distance-Learning	Students learn from home through a variety of instructional practices intended to mirror in-person instruction as much as possible. This may include video conferencing with a teacher, accessing online resources, and participating in class sessions via video in real-time. Students should expect involvement in classwork throughout the day at specified times just as if they were in class at school. Students are eligible to participate in athletics and extracurricular activities.
Hybrid A/B	Students would attend In-Person learning two days per week, with students divided into 'A' day and 'B' day groups in order to limit the number of individuals in school facilities. Students would also participate in Distance-Learning two days per week and complete NTI assignments on the remaining day.
Home School	Parents provide their own academic curriculum at home instead of sending students to a public school. Students would not be eligible to participate in public school athletics, clubs, or other extra-curricular activities.
Marvel - Marion Virtual and Extended Learning	This is an opportunity for students in grades 6-12 to complete self-paced and self-guided online curriculum. These students have access to help from staff members as well as some in-person classes. In order for students to be accepted into MarVEL, they must go through an approval process.
Hugh C. Spalding Academy -- Alternative School and A5	This is an in-person alternative-setting option for students in grades 6-12 who are not successful in a traditional classroom setting. Some students will eventually transition back to a traditional classroom setting; others are enrolled in our A5 school. Although these students attend in-person, they complete classwork online with the help of staff members.
Non-Traditional Instruction (NTI)	The continuation of academic instruction on days when school would otherwise be canceled.



3-TIER SAFETY SYSTEM

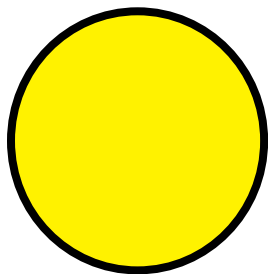
This section outlines the safety precautions we will take at our schools based on guidance from health experts. We'll work with our regional health department when deciding to move from one safety level to the next.

At the GREEN tier, we'll incorporate the safety expectations we've received from the Kentucky Department of Education and health experts. We'll also include guidelines on the suggested best practices. Below you'll find specific guidelines we will follow while in the GREEN tier.

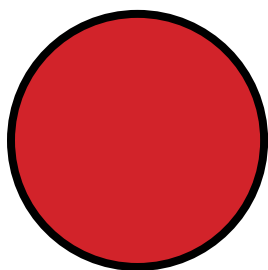


- All students and staff wear masks at all times while in school buildings or on a bus, unless medically waived. Students and staff should only lower their masks while actively eating or drinking.
- All staff and students will have temperature checked immediately upon entering the building. If a temperature is at or above 100.4 the student or staff member will either isolate or return home.
- Schools will encourage healthy practices (eg: wash hands thoroughly, covering your cough).
- Use of lockers is suspended.
- Field trips, including competitions, and assemblies may be approved on a limited basis.
- Visitors/guest speakers will be approved on a limited basis with virtual interaction encouraged.
- Special classes (eg: band, PE, art) may be modified to reduce contact among students.
- Schools will establish a quarantine room.
- Students will have assigned seating in classrooms, cafeteria, bleachers, and on school buses. Other areas with assigned seating may be established as needed.
- Breakfast and lunch will be served using healthy at school guidelines including social distancing. This may require meals to be served using spaces other than the cafeteria.
- In grades 8-12, students will have fewer transitions throughout the day due to a change in the daily schedule.
- At the elementary schools, students will not change classrooms; teachers will rotate to classrooms to provide instruction.
- Water fountains will not be used; students will have access to the touchless automatic fillers.

Working with the regional health department, we may move to the YELLOW tier if there is a surge of cases within the county, confirmed cases among students/staff members, or other public health changes that require greater precautions. This level includes the precautions from the GREEN tier, although some measures may be heightened.



- Assemblies and large gatherings are canceled. Field trips will be canceled or approved on a case-by-case basis.
- Continue with cleaning and disinfecting throughout the building. In some cases, a room or area may be closed for additional cleaning measures.
- Some classes may need to be moved to an online format to allow for greater social distancing.
- All non-essential visitors/guest speakers will be canceled.
- Special classes (eg: band, PE, art) may be further modified or have elements of instruction discontinued.
- Breakfast and lunch may be moved to classrooms or other areas outside of the cafeteria to allow for greater social distancing.



Working with the regional health department, we may move to the RED tier if public health concerns continue to grow. At this stage, MCPS will move to Non-Traditional Instruction (NTI) or our Hybrid A/B schedule.

We will attempt to continue to provide meal service for our families. The status of athletic events will be determined on a case-by-case basis.



TRANSPORTATION

You can view our updated 2020-2021 transportation documents, including our comprehensive transportation plan, bus routes & transfers, and bus rules at the following link: [MCPS TRANSPORTATION](#)

- All students will wear masks on school buses.
- Family members will sit together.
- Buses will load filling the back seats first.
- All students will have assigned seats.
- Bus drivers will wear a protective face shields.
- Social distancing will be observed at bus pick-up and drop-off locations.
- Parents should check their child's temperature before loading the bus.
- Each bus will have hand sanitizer.
- Each bus will be disinfected after every run.



SANITATION AND SAFETY

- Signs will be placed throughout schools to encourage appropriate hygiene practices.
- Daily cleaning and disinfecting will occur based on guidelines from the regional health department.
- Schools will follow recommendations from regional health department regarding ventilation capacity and use of outdoor instructional time.



FOOD SERVICE

- Students will have assigned seating in the cafeteria.
- Schools will have staggered lunch times to allow for social distancing.
- Additional Plexiglas will be installed.
- Cafeteria staff will plate food for students.
- Disposable plates and utensils will be used.
- No share tables or sharing of food among students.
- No outside food for special occasions (eg: birthdays, holidays, etc.).
- Students will still have multiple meal options.



MASK POLICY

- The mask policies apply to all students, including those in preschool.
- Masks are required in all common areas, classrooms, on school buses, and when moving throughout the building. The only exceptions are while eating and drinking.
- Students who do not have a mask will be provided one.



COVID TESTING AND CONTACT TRACING

- Staff was required to be tested for COVID-19 prior to school opening; staff will be tested on a rotating basis throughout the school year.
- Students will have access to COVID-19 testing, but it will not be required.
- MCPS will cooperate with the regional health department to complete contact tracing of confirmed cases, and follow their recommendations regarding next steps. This may include moving a particular class to an online format.
- Each time we receive information about a confirmed positive involving an individual in one of our schools, we will send an email to the families of that particular school. As a way to remain transparent, we will also include a list of all COVID-19 messages on our website at the following link: [MCPS COVID-19 MESSAGING](#).



SOCIAL and EMOTIONAL SUPPORTS

- MCPS has adopted Social and Emotional Learning standards for the 2020-2021 school year and has a designated part of the school day to address these needs. Students who are participating in Distance-Learning will also receive these services.



FAQ'S and RESOURCES

What if I have a limited or no Internet service and I want to elect distance-learning?

Distance-learning (and NTI) works most effectively and efficiently for those with a reliable Internet connection. However, if you do not have a reliable Internet connection, we'll work with parents on a case-by-case basis to develop a plan to provide instruction and services.

If I elect distance-learning but later decide to send my students to school in-person, what are my options?

Students can transition from distance-learning to in-person instruction at designated transition dates throughout the school year (page 4). Students who are attending school In-Person learning can transition to Distance-Learning at any time.

Isn't Distance-Learning the same thing as Non-Traditional Instruction (NTI) like we used at the end of last school year?

No. NTI is not recognized as a preferred way to provide instruction over long periods of time. While the use of NTI days to conclude the 2019-2020 school year was necessary, it wasn't ideal. Our Distance-Learning option is much different. Students will be involved in each of their classes every day at specified times just as if they were in class at school. This might include joining video conferences, participating in online discussions, or other real-time activities as determined by the teacher. Distance-Learning is not a self-paced option.

What happens if my child or a staff member tests positive for COVID-19?

We'll work with our regional health department in these situations. This includes providing information for contact tracing and following their recommendations concerning changes made to classroom or school-wide procedures. We'll also communicate directly to the families of the affected school by email and include a list of all of our COVID-19 communications on our district's website.

What will be different about In-Person learning this year compared to previous years?

You and your child might notice changes in procedures such as how students move from class to class, where they are allowed to sit, and the types of classroom activities available. For the most part, these decisions will be made at the school level by building administrators and teachers. For example, a teacher who normally incorporates a group project with students working close together, may redesign that project so that students collaborate online.

Are the procedures for picking up my child from school different this year?

When entering our school, you'll have your temperature checked. You'll also be required to wear a mask.

Below are some of the resources MCPS used to inform this re-entry plan:

[COVID-19 Considerations for Reopening Schools: Workplace Health and Safety](#)

[COVID-19 Considerations for Reopening Schools: Facilities and Logistics](#)

[Guidance on Safety Expectations and Best Practices for Kentucky Schools](#)

[Kentucky Department of Public Health COVID-19 Mode of Instruction Metrics for K-12 Education](#)