



Roadmap to Return Frequently Asked Questions

The intent of this document is to provide answers to the most frequently asked questions from the community. We would also ask that if you have specific questions you also reach out to your school. We will continue to update this document as we receive more questions so please continue to check back in.

Back to School

When is the first day of school?

At this time the return date for teachers is **August 10th** and the return date for students is **September 9th**. This date is always subject to change as data is monitored and a safe, effective and equitable return is our top priority.

How do I register my child for school?

Registration forms for the upcoming school year were made available in [Parent Portal](#) for returning students. More information about how to access registration forms can be found on the ACPS website under [Online Registration](#).

What do I need to do if I want my child to participate in remote learning?

Parents need to complete all registration forms made available in Parent Portal. The form titled *Home Internet Access Survey* prompts to select “Yes” for 100% remote learning or “No” for in person instruction.

17 - Home Internet Access Survey

Purpose
The Virginia Department of Education is collecting information about what type of internet access students have in their homes. Please indicate below what type of Internet service your student has available to them in order to participate in remote learning in their home.

Please Select only 1 choice *

- Broadband at home (via cable or vendor hotspot)
- DSL at home (through phone company)
- Dial-up at home (must be connected via phone dial)
- WiFi Connection NOT at home (coffee shop, fast food restaurant, recreation center, public library, etc)
- Other
- No Internet connection available
- Unknown

Parental Remote Learning Decision
Will your student be participating in 100% remote learning for the 2020-2021 school year and NOT attend school in-person?

Select a Choice *

- Yes
- No

Save for Later Submit

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Instruction

What is the Elementary Schedule?

Group A 8:00-2:00 M-Th (Start in Hybrid, finish in Homeroom)

Group B 9:00-3:00 M-Th (Start in Homeroom, Finish in Hybrid)

What is the Secondary Schedule?

For secondary students (grades 6-12) students will be split into A and B groups.

Group A will be in-person on Monday and Wednesday from 10:00am-4:00pm

Group B will be in-person on Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00am-4:00pm

Students will be provided with work for their “at-home” days while at school.

Fridays can be used for some CTE hours, academic, technology, and other supports. This will be communicated by teachers to specific students as appropriate.

How are A/B groups determined?

There are many contributing factors that are considered when determining A/B groups. Information has been collected to determine which kids are planning to be car riders vs bus riders. With that information (please provide to your specific as soon as possible), schools will be making specific decisions based on how many students are riding a particular bus, grade levels, identification of siblings (family units). The plan is to have that information out to families in the next two weeks.

What will a “normal” in-person day look like?

Each day will look different for each student. Continue to communicate with your specific schools once they have determined their schedules. Explainer videos for a “typical” day for students should be released by early August.

What will Hybrid Learning in the elementary schools look like?

Homeroom teachers will teach math and english.

Each school’s hybrid groups and locations will be different due to staffing and grouping needs. .

Hybrid Learning will be a flexible time period where students will be able to receive a variety of supports (SEL, Tech assistance, Virtual Virginia, science/social studies, resource teachers, Dare)

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What is the Block Schedule ?

Block schedule is the scheduling model the middle and high school will use to reduce the amount of movement for students. We will replace the typical schedule of seven 40–50 minute daily periods with four longer class periods that meet fewer times each day. Students finish the course in a semester as they will be in the class twice as long each day.

Will honors and AP Courses be offered on-line?

Virtual Virginia has all the honors courses and AP courses currently offered at ACHS. Students may take elective courses (some may be virtual, some may only be offered in person)

- **CTE-** Teachers will work directly with students to bring them in on Fridays if they need more hands-on practice or they can take the same course in the 8th slot.
- **Governor's School-** Students will attend CVGS on Mondays, therefore they will be assigned to B group.
- **Early College/STEM -** The CVCC Board has met to determine final plans. ACPS will update that information once it is received.

What is Virtual Virginia?

Virtual Virginia is a *curriculum* that is provided to ACPS through the VDOE. This curriculum will be available through the **Amherst Remote Academy**. Courses have a variety of multimedia learning modes that support many learning styles. Courses will have an instructor available during the day for student support.

Special Education and Student Services

What services and supports will be available for students with an IEP or 504 Plan?

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Services and support determinations will be made by each student's IEP or 504 team based on the individual disability-related needs of the student. Changes in school schedules and structures will necessitate each team reviewing students' plans and ensuring that appropriate services and supports are provided.

What services and supports will be available for students with an IEP or 504 Plan while participating in remote learning?

Students participating in remote learning will have access to accommodations and modifications as a part of the Virtual Virginia learning platform, as well as frequent access to ACPS instructors and special education staff through virtual meeting platforms. Students who participate in related services as a part of their IEP will have access to personnel at scheduled times through a virtual format.

My child has an 504/IEP, do they get to come to school everyday?

A student's identification status does not automatically qualify them for a different schedule than all other students. Any requested changes to a student's assigned schedule will need to be considered by their IEP or 504 team. All determinations will be made based on the individual disability-related needs of the student.

When will assessments for eligibility determinations be completed?

Assessments will resume beginning August 3rd, and scheduled individually with families of applicable students. For specific questions regarding assessments, please contact the Student Services Office at 434-946-9386.

Who do I contact if I have additional questions about my student with an IEP or 504 Plan?

For additional or specific questions, please contact your student's school and arrange a time to speak with your student's assigned special education teacher. Questions may also be directed to the Student Services Office at 434-946-9386.

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Assessment and Accountability

Will work be graded?

Yes, work will be graded. We understand that learning looks different and as such grading will also. A grading committee is being developed to determine best practices and specific guidelines.

How will attendance be monitored?

Remote learning attendance will be based on time or by product completion.

Also, students who choose Remote Only will be required to attend teacher check-in meetings either virtually or by phone. The School Division will update as soon as we receive more guidance from the VDOE

Technology

Will students have the option to register for Remote Learning Only?

Yes, ACPS will provide a remote only option for students through the Amherst Remote Academy. Teachers will be utilized to provide instruction for students who elect not to participate in in-person instruction. The option to register will be included online the student's registration form. Please also communicate this with your school. This will help with bus and classroom scheduling.

Watch this to learn how to register students online.



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Will my student receive a device for remote learning?

Students will be given devices from their zoned school within the first two weeks of school. Virtual Virginia is the remote learning curriculum for ACPS schools.

What are my connectivity options?

As connectivity is different for all students, the option for students to have work downloaded on their device or they may be given access to work through flash drives. Students may also still access the internet from the school parking lots and mobile hotspots.

Where can I find a mobile hotspot?

Parents may access the internet from all the schools parking lots and also the following mobile hotspot areas.

- Scott Zion in Madison Heights
- New Prospect Baptist Church
- Forks of Buffalo Fire Department
- Amherst Church of God

What if we choose Remote Learning Only, but find that it is not right for our students?

All students will be given a grace period where they can choose to drop remote only and start face to face. Understand that changes to schedules will take time.

Will remote only students still be able to participate in extracurricular activities and other school activities?

Yes, remote only students will be able to participate in the same activities as students participating in-person instruction. Please be aware that all extracurricular activities will be required to follow specific ACPS safety and mitigation strategies and procedures.

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Transportation

Can siblings sit together on the bus?

Yes, students identified as siblings/family groups will be able to sit together on buses.

What is the face covering requirement for buses? Does this include students w/ Disabilities?

As students will be allowed to sit one per seat, face covering will be required.

Special Education buses will have students at a 6 foot social distance so students do not have to wear a face covering.

What if circumstances change and my child needs to start riding the bus during the year?

Accommodations will be provided but understand that there will be a time lag to schedule and reroute buses.

Mitigation Strategies & Response to Outbreak

Will my child have to wear a face covering?

Yes, our Roadmap to Return Mitigation Plan has been updated to require face coverings for all staff, students and visitors while in ACPS's buildings

Can you discuss in more detail the mitigation strategies in place?

Students are required to wear facemasks when in the building regardless of social distancing guidelines.

Students are expected to maintain social distance and when that is not an option, students are encouraged to wear face masks where/when appropriate.

Students are encouraged to bring their own facemask to wear.

Staff, students and parents should assess themselves for symptoms. Students will be asked to show evidence of this screening daily. Examples include: Fever of 100.4, new cough, shortness of breath, sore throat.

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Schools will spend the first week of school teaching and reviewing health expectations (social distancing, hand hygiene, face coverings, staying at home, etc.)

Please feel free to view Dr. Arnold’s and Dr. Pitre (CEO of Blue Ridge Medical Center) [Chamber Chat](#) for information on Mitigation Strategies.

What is the school response if there is a case or an outbreak?

Once a positive test is confirmed, we will be notified by the VDH. They will immediately begin their investigation and contact tracing process to determine next steps. Those next steps can include: closing a bus, a specific classroom, a grade level, or an entire school. Each case is different and the VDH will be very involved in the process.

How will I be notified?

Notification of teachers, staff, and parents of a laboratory-confirmed case of COVID-19 associated with the school is expected. Notifications need to be done in a way that protects the confidentiality of the ill individual and clearly explains what the school is doing in response to the diagnosis and what the recommendations are for teachers, staff, and parents.

Schools should work with their local health department to plan the more detailed personal communication that will be needed for parents whose children have been identified as being a close contact of a person with COVID-19 and to discuss any questions about ongoing communications with the school and greater community.

Human Resources

What do I do if I’m feeling sick?

If you wake up and you are experiencing any of the symptoms from the Symptom Screening Document that cannot be attributed to another health condition, you will not report to work, and notify your immediate supervisor. Your immediate supervisor will provide you with guidance to contact your healthcare provider for consultation. If the health care providers do not suspect that symptoms are potentially COVID-19 related, they will provide guidance regarding your return to work, typically noting a 24 hour symptom free period prior to returning.

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Will I have to use my sick leave for COVID related symptoms?

If your health care providers do not suspect that symptoms are potentially COVID-19 related, they will provide guidance regarding your return to work, typically noting a 24 hour symptom free period prior to returning. This will fall under ACPS' sick leave policy. If the healthcare provider advises the employee to stay home (quarantine) for any period of time to monitor symptoms out of concern that they may be COVID-19 related, those sick days may be requested to be covered under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) which will not impact an employee's personal sick leave.

Will I be paid if I have to self-quarantine several times due to potential exposure?

In accordance with the FFCRA, if an employee is subject to a quarantine order related to COVID-19, has been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine related to COVID-19, or is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and is seeking a medical diagnosis, they may access 10 days of emergency sick leave. These 10 days are cumulative for the school year, and not applied per each individual experience.

Childcare

What are my resources for child care ?

If you are an ACPS employee child care for school-aged children will be provided for you through the county. ACPS will continue to communicate with you to determine your specific needs. We are also working on options for the teacher work weeks.

If you are not an employee, [here](#) you will find Community Child Care options. The linked document provides information on child care providers and their rates. Please contact them directly for more information.

What are the changes for Headstart?

If you were a 3 year old student in Head Start last year, you may apply to our Smart Start Program for 4 year olds. Please contact your school.

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Extracurricular Activities

Will there be sports/extracurricular activities for students?

VSHL voted and decided July 27th to move forward with Model 3. All VHSL sports and activities are delayed until December 14 and adopted the Condensed Interscholastic Plan.

ACPS will allow conditioning and activities with specific health plans and mitigation strategies in place. It is important to note due to the current bus schedule, transportation will not be provided for after-school activities. If you choose Remote Learning Only due to a safety concern, understand there will also be risk involved in participating in extracurricular activities.

Where can I find more information about the return to school plan?

More information can be found about Roadmap to Return plan using the following links:

[Roadmap to Return Plan](#)

[Elementary Zoom Update](#)

[Roadmap to Return: Overview Video](#)

[Secondary Zoom Update](#)

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