

2020
2021



WCPS
Wythe County Public Schools

Return-to-Learning Plan

July 9, 2020

Return to Learning

The Future Begins With Us

Developing Our Return-to-Learning Plan

On March 13, 2020, the world of the students, staff, and families in Wythe County, and all over the nation, changed drastically. We all found ourselves adjusting to new routines, new habits, and new approaches to our everyday lives. Education was no exception.

Immediately after school systems shut down all across Virginia, our dedicated team of teachers, guidance counselors, instructional technology resource teachers, technicians, building level administrators, and central office administrators began their work on the WCPS Return-to-Learning Plan.

As a result of their hard work, combined with feedback provided by our families and staff, the Return-to-Learning Plan has become a reality for Wythe County Public Schools. This plan focuses on implementing an instructional program that is 100% Distance Learning. Components of this plan will also become permanent fixtures in our Hybrid Plan and other educational scenarios for years to come as the education world moves more towards remote and virtual learning.

This document will provide you with information about our Return-to-Learning Plan. We hope you find this document to be a helpful resource. Should you have any questions about the contents of our plan, please do not hesitate to contact your school or the School Board office.



The **Return-to-Learning Plan** has four primary Focus Areas:

1. Instructional Equity
2. Safety & Logistics
3. Student & Family Support
4. Teacher & Staff Support

In each of these Focus Areas, we considered a variety of factors. We needed to address topics and concerns such as the lack of internet connectivity, social and emotional supports, professional development, and best instructional practices.

This plan will provide highlights and information on our Focus Areas. This document is current, but please know that information is constantly changing. Please stay tuned for any additional changes and updates.

WYTHE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



WCPS

The Future Begins With Us

Return-to-Learning Plan

Instructional Equity Team

Chair - Dr. Becki James

Shannon Vaught	Marcy Olinger
Russell Street	Suann Hill
Jessica Crockett	Lisa Jones
Summer Stone	Timmy Watson
Anthony Sykes	Kim Lago
Michelle Patton	Tracie Kinser
LeAnna Holmes	Allison Dunkley
Christina Cole	Brittany Blair
Luke Phillips	Sara Jo Goines
Karen Diamond	

WYTHE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



The Future Begins With Us

Return-to-Learning Plan

Safety & Logistics Team

Chair - Dr. Wes Poole

Gretchen Robinson	Mary Henslee
Rickey Skewes	Sgt. Stacy Dixon
Jessica Crockett	Chad Newman
Thad Umberger	Charles DeBoord
John Smith	Megan Stephens
Tony Dundorf	Teresa Goad
Sara Williams	Russell Street
Shannon Vaught	

WYTHE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



WCPS

The Future Begins With Us

Return-to-Learning Plan

Student & Family Support Team

Chair - Ms. Mary Hersler

P.G. Rigney	Susan Hill
Brett Booher	Kim Kirtner
Alan Rouse	Brad Haga
Kristen Williams	M.J. Fogelsong
Jenny Buchanan	Kimberly Fowler
Kristy Castanon	Jonathan Grimes
Danielle Slovins	Marcy Olinger
Becki James	

WYTHE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Return-to-Learning Plan

Teacher & Staff Support Team

Chair - Dr. Scott Jefferies

Shannon Vaught	Marcy Olinger
Russell Street	Macie Coen
Dyr Jackson	Scott Hoglund
Tyler Carrico	Amanda Gillman
Allison Wright	Ami Scott
Michelle Patton	Tracie Kinser
LaAnna Helms	Karen Diamond
Mandi Tate	

Instructional Equity

One Instructional Program - Three Delivery Options

1. 100% Distance Learning

- All teachers will use the same Learning Management System (CANVAS)
- Pre-K through 2nd Grade will receive iPads
- Grades 3-12 will receive Chromebooks
- CANVAS can support Google Suite, Apple Education, Virtual Virginia and other learning programs
- For those without internet access, lessons and activities can be uploaded to devices for students to access at home

2. Hybrid Schedule

- Students will be alternating between in-person instruction and distance learning
- Schedules will consist of 'A' days and 'B' days at school
- 'A' days will be Mondays and Wednesdays, 'B' days will be Tuesdays and Thursdays
- Students will be participating in distance learning on other days
- Fridays will be utilized for targeted assistance and planning
- Cleaning and Disinfecting will take place daily
- Priority to keep families on the same schedule if they have students at multiple schools

3. Traditional In-Person Instruction with 'New Norms'

All students will return to school and WCPS will need to implement any and all safety guidelines regarding:

- Social Distancing
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Screening
- Large Gatherings
- Athletics and Activities
- Transportation
- Cleaning and Disinfecting

WCPS is committed to supporting our Teachers & Staff. The following Professional Development will prepare our teachers and staff to meet the new instructional challenges and needs of learners during our Return-to-Learning.

WCPS Hybrid School Schedule

As part of the Hybrid School Schedule, all students will be assigned a device to use for in-person and at-home instruction. Students in grades 3 through 12 will use Chromebooks, and students in Pre-Kindergarten through 2nd grade will use iPads.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
A-Day	B-Day	A-Day	B-Day	Teacher Office Hours & Remediation/Planning

If your child is an A-Day Student:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Attend school in-person for traditional instruction	At-home instructions: complete assigned distance learning assignments	Attend school in-person for traditional instruction	At-home instructions: complete assigned distance learning assignments	At-home instructions: complete assigned distance learning assignments

If your child is a B-Day Student:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
At-home instructions: complete assigned distance learning assignments	Attend school in-person for traditional instruction	At-home instructions: complete assigned distance learning assignments	Attend school in-person for traditional instruction	At-home instructions: complete assigned distance learning assignments

It is very important that students remember to bring their devices on their assigned/in-person days, so that at-home learning assignments may be downloaded. In addition, students will use their devices during instruction on in-person days.



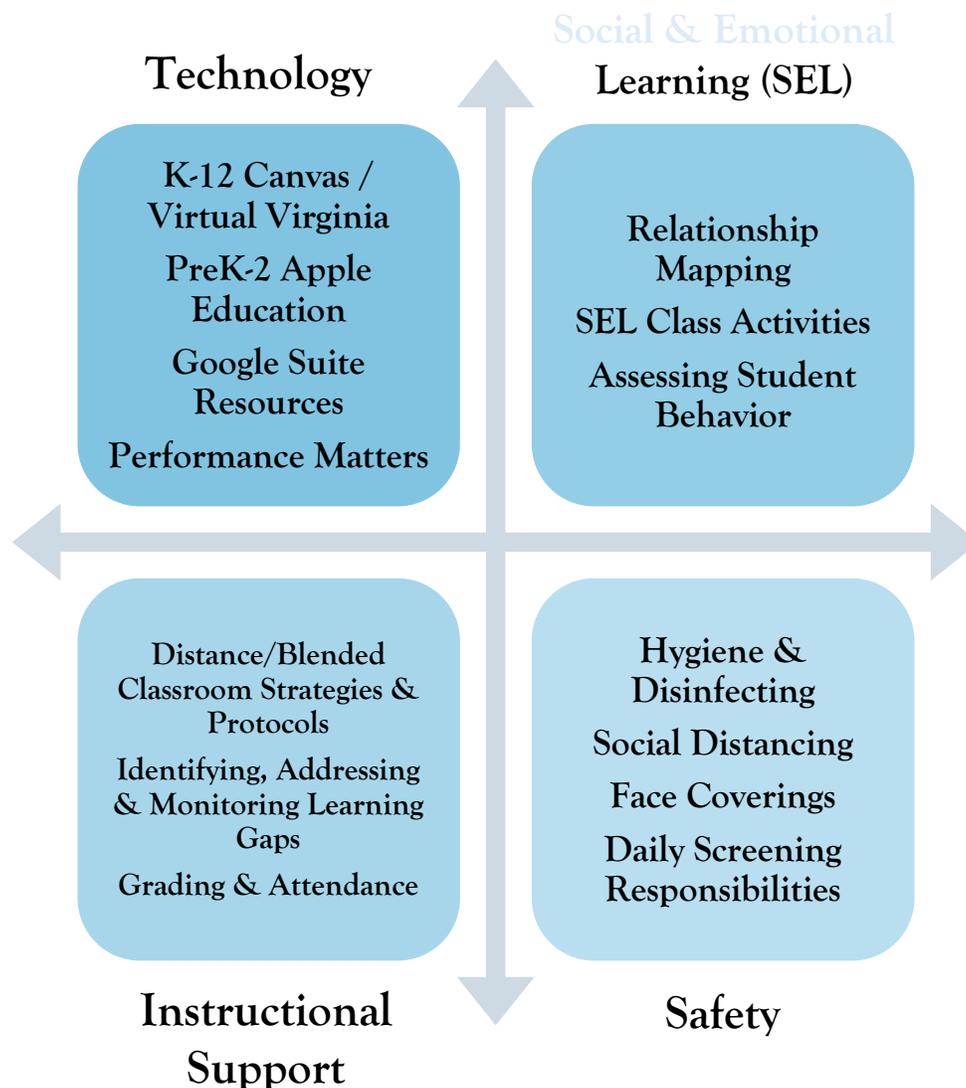
Students can only ride their assigned bus on their assigned days.

Families will be provided the option of choosing Distance Learning for their child/children. Families will be able to choose this option when registration information is communicated and released. Please contact your school for additional details.

Additional information from ALL families, regarding instructional choice and transportation, will be requested when registration information is communicated and released. Registration will be completed online. Contact your school to make alternate registration arrangements.

Addressing Professional Development

WCPS is committed to supporting our Teachers & Staff. The following Professional Development will prepare our teachers and staff to meet the new instructional challenges and needs of learners during our Return-to-Learning.



Teacher & Staff Support

Addressing Emotional & Physical Wellness

WCPS is committed to supporting our Teachers & Staff. We have pulled together resources that we believe will be helpful to you during this stressful and challenging time. Here are a few recommendations to consider:

Emotional Wellness

- **Begin with you:** You will not be able to help others unless you take care of yourself.
- **Take breaks from watching news stories:** Hearing and seeing troubling news can be upsetting.
- **Know the facts:** Get accurate information to feel less stressed.
- **Connect with friends and loved ones:** Communication can help you feel less isolated.
- **Be aware of your emotions:** Monitor your anxiety and stress, and don't be afraid to reach out for help. Don't become overwhelmed.
- **Support others:** Check in on colleagues and neighbors who may be in need of assistance.
- **Keep your perspective:** Appreciate yourself and be kind to others.

Physical Wellness

- **Make time for yourself:** Prioritize your well-being and health.
- **Get out:** Go for a walk, find a workout buddy, work in the garden, or ride a bike.
- **Maintain healthy sleeping habits:** Make sure to get the appropriate amount of sleep every night.
- **Practice mindful eating:** Try to eat healthy, well-balanced meals.
- **Unwind and relax:** Listen to music, read a book, enjoy a TV show, meditate, or try yoga.
- **Engage your mind:** Do a puzzle, play a trivia game, or journal your thoughts.
- **Find partners for accountability:** Rely on a support system to keep each other on the right track.

Know when to get help from professionals. If any of the following symptoms interfere with daily responsibilities and become persistent, contact a medical professional for help and guidance:

- Trouble focusing on daily activities
- Anxiety that turns into feeling out of control
- -Intense feelings that interfere with daily activities
- Experiencing emotions that are difficult to manage
- -Feeling hopeless or helpless-
- Feeling increased levels of distress

What are the benefits of being physically active?

- -Stress and anxiety relief
- -Supports your immune system
- -Improves bone and muscle strength
- -Improves flexibility and balance
- -Helps with weight management
- -Reduces other health risks
- -Helps prevent diseases and illnesses

Student & Family Support

Addressing the social and emotional needs of students, with a focus on family engagement and partnership.

WCPS is committed to providing continuity of support to families and students. The following initiatives will help families and students acquire the knowledge and resources needed during our Return to Learning.

Students

- Reconnecting with Peers and Staff
- Pre-K and Kindergarten Outreach
- 6th & 9th Grade Transitions
- Growing New Connections
- Emotional/Social Supports

Families

- Re-engaging with Community Schools
- Providing Parent Resources
- Homeless and EL Outreach
- Supporting Parents as Teachers
- Inviting Parent Participation

For additional information on Student & Family Support, please visit the following sites:

- <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/families/families/index.shtml>
- <https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/helping-children-cope-with-changes-resulting-from-covid-19>
- https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/managing-stress-anxiety.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fprepare%2Fmanaging-stress-anxiety.html

Safety & Logistics

Addressing the matters that will impact instruction

WCPS is committed to keeping our students, staff, and school community safe. We are planning to meet the demands and expectations of this challenging time. The following are some items that we are addressing in our final plan:

Safety Measures

- Health Plan submitted to the VDOE
- Health screening procedures
- Disinfecting procedures and cleaning schedules
- Face coverings for teachers and staff
- The following will be implemented for students based on health guidelines:
 - Face coverings
 - Social distancing
 - Small groups

Logistics

- Plans for pupil transportation
- Schedules for schools
- Capacity in classrooms and learning spaces
- Technology implementation
- Food service delivery
- Athletics and extra-curricular activities
- Cleaning and disinfecting materials and supplies
- Training for teachers and staff
- Communication plans with families and school community

Wythe County Public Schools is constantly utilizing information and guidelines from various resources when considering our plans for implementing our Return-to-Learning Plan:

- Virginia Department of Education (VDOE)
- Virginia Department of Health (VDH)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Local and Regional Health Officials
- Virginia High School League (VHSL)

*Please note: Plans are constantly changing, and are dependent on many factors and suggestions from officials and organizations (Executive Orders from the Governor, Health Department Guidelines, VDOE Plans for Re-opening Schools, etc.). Stay tuned for additional updates and specifics of our Return-to-Learning Plan as we approach the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year.

Cleaning & Disinfecting

- Buses and vehicles will be cleaned and disinfected after morning and afternoon runs
- Classrooms and materials will be cleaned and disinfected daily, with a deep clean twice a week (electrostatic sprayers)
- Restrooms checked and cleaned throughout the school day
- Water bottle fillers checked and cleaned throughout the school day
- Offices and hallways checked and cleaned throughout the school day
- New cleaning materials
- New cleaning schedules
- Accessibility to cleaning and disinfecting products and supplies for all faculty and staff
- Additional hand sanitizing stations at each school
- Limited access to ensure better sanitation and cleaning

Health Screening: Before Going to School

Students and staff should assess themselves for symptoms of COVID-19 before reporting to school; and/or may be asked the following by school personnel upon arrival:

Check all boxes that apply:

- A new fever (100°F or higher) or a sense of having a fever?*
- A new cough that cannot be attributed to another health condition?*
- New shortness of breath that cannot be attributed to another health condition?*
- New chills that cannot be attributed to another health condition?*
- A new sore throat that cannot be attributed to another health condition?*
- New muscle aches (myalgia) that cannot be attributed to another health condition or specific activity (such as physical exercise)?*

If an individual answers YES to any of the screening questions before arriving, they should stay home and not enter the building.

Arrival & Dismissal

Arrival

- All students will be health screened (temperature and symptoms)
- Students will report directly to their first assigned class
- Students will eat breakfast in their classrooms
- Teachers and staff will be in classrooms and hallways to supervise

Dismissal

- Each school will create a plan to dismiss students in small groups to report to:
 - Buses

- Parent/Guardian Pick-Up
- Their Own Vehicles in Parking Lot

What are the check-out procedures for students?

To check-out students during the school day, parents/guardians should call the school office upon arrival to the school. Office staff will escort students outside to verify identity and obtain appropriate signatures.

Additional Safety Measures

- Personal Protective Equipment provided to Students, Teachers & Staff (Protect yourself and others)
- Social Distancing
- Designated isolation rooms in each school
- Safety & Logistic signage throughout buildings
- Breakfast & Lunch in classrooms
- Visitor restrictions (No classroom volunteers, no parent lunches with students, no guest speakers, no use of facilities by outside groups)
- Travel restrictions (Field Trips, Conferences)
- Classroom arrangements (Spacing, No communal areas)
- Bus seating
- Students will only ride assigned bus
- Vaccination requirements/guidelines are still in effect
- Water bottle fillers only, no fountains
- No large gatherings
- Hand washing encouraged, hand sanitizer stations in classrooms and hallways

Student or Staff Member Suspected of Having COVID-19

- If an employee or student displays symptoms consistent with COVID-19 at school, he/she will immediately report to the school's isolation room at the direction of the school nurse.
- Once the employee or student arrives at the isolation room, immediately provide them with appropriate PPE. Explain that this is to help protect other employees and students and prevent the spread of the potential virus.
- The nurse will consult with the nursing supervisor and call the local health department.
- The nurse and others attending the suspected infected person should also wear a protective mask and gloves while working with the suspected infected person.
- The nurse will direct the ill employee to leave work or call the parent/guardian of the student to be picked up and sent home.
- The isolation area and suspected employee's or student's work area/classroom must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected, in addition to all other common surfaces recently touched by the employee or student.

Student or Staff Member has COVID-19

- In the event that a student or staff member has been diagnosed with COVID-19, the school/office building will be closed for a period of 2-5 days (consultation with Virginia Department of Health). If possible, only the impacted school/office building will be closed.
- If school has to be closed, Distance Learning for all students in that school will be utilized.

Reminders

- COVID-19 cases will occur, and schools may have to close.
- Be ready for Distance Learning to be implemented on short notice. Please make sure students bring home their electronic device daily.
- The Return-to-Learning Plan will constantly be monitored and adjusted as needed.
- We understand that there is no 'perfect' plan, however, we are implementing a plan that we feel is best for our students and staff based on the limitations we have in regards to logistics and recommendations.
- We greatly appreciate the support of our families and school communities.
- Continue to be safe, be patient, and be ready.