



## Patrick County Public School Reopening of Schools Instructional Plan

Patrick County Public Schools has developed a plan to reopen schools by implementing state guidance as provided in [Recover, Redesign, Restart 2020](#). The Virginia Department of Education website has provided resources and information for schools and communities on Virginia's [Return to School Plan](#).

Patrick County Public Schools has identified areas to be addressed in the reopening of schools for the 2020-2021 school year as operational infrastructure to support learning, new instruction for all learners, identification of instructional gaps and student needs, and remote learning plans for future instruction.

### **Updated Information:**

On *July 21, 2020*, the Patrick County School Board met and approved Option 1 with a blended learning model of staggered schedule and virtual/remote learning beginning on August 11, 2020.

On *August 7, 2020*, the Patrick County School Board held a special called meeting to change to Option 2 which is a total virtual/remote learning model beginning on August 11, 2020. A special meeting to re-evaluate the plan is scheduled to be held on August 27, 2020.

On *August 27, 2020*, the Patrick County School Board held a special called meeting to change to option 1 with a blended learning model of staggered schedule and virtual/remote learning beginning on September 14, 2020 with face coverings required on buses and in school. On October 12, 2020, students with disabilities and English Learners are invited to attend on a 4 day schedule. On January 11, 2021, students with 504 plans are invited to attend on a 4 day schedule. On February 1, 2021, at risk students in grades PK - 2 are invited to attend on a 4 day schedule.



## Operational Infrastructure to Support Learning

### Plan for school schedules

In planning for reopening, Patrick County Public Schools recognizes a variety of possibilities for providing instruction to students. The focus during planning instruction and communicating with families is based on two scenarios/options. Option 1 is a blended learning model including staggered schedules with virtual/remote learning. Option 2 is a total virtual/remote learning model with Patrick County Public Schools providing online coursework and materials with no face-to-face instruction. For either option, student coursework will be required and assignments will be graded.

Option 1 - Blended Learning: To ensure students and staff can meet physical distancing requirements, instructional delivery will require a reduced schedule of in-person learning, with virtual or remote learning on days when students are not present in the building. Beginning August 11, 2020, Patrick County Public Schools will operate on a 50 percent attendance capacity as shown in the model below. Students will be assigned as an A group or a B group. The A group will attend face-to-face classes on Monday and Tuesday with virtual/remote learning occurring on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. The B group will attend face-to-face classes on Thursday and Friday with virtual/remote learning occurring on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Specific school schedules will be communicated from each school. Every effort will be made to ensure siblings attend face-to-face classes on the same days.

Health and social distancing protocols will be in effect. When in the building, six feet of separation is maintained whenever possible. Efforts are in place to limit mixing of groups of students. Face coverings are required and will be made available by the school.

Depending on the level of risk in Patrick County throughout the school year, schedules may be altered to reflect 25 percent capacity in buildings as illustrated below.



50% Model: Students see teachers two days per week

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Group A- in school	Group A- in school	Remote learning for all students; teacher workday	Group A- remote	Group A- remote
Group B- remote	Group B- remote		Group B- in school	Group B- in school

25% Model: Students see teachers one day per week

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Group A- in school	Group A- remote	Remote learning for all students; teacher workday	Group A- remote	Group A- remote
Group B- remote	Group B- in school		Group B- remote	Group B- remote
Group C- remote	Group C- remote		Group C- in school	Group C- remote
Group D- remote	Group D- remote		Group D- remote	Group D- in school



Option 2 - Virtual/Remote Learning: For virtual/remote learning, students will be served from home using school issued devices or paper packets of materials. For families who elect this option, students will receive required coursework online and/or via paper packets with support from the teacher during office hours. If paper assignments are requested, they must be picked up and returned to school weekly. Teachers will not be available for live lessons as they will be conducting in-person classes at school. Teachers will make available a time on Wednesdays to clarify questions.

#### Transportation

School buses will enact new capacity limits and seating guidelines, per health and safety expectations issued by the Virginia Department of Health. Buses will be cleaned and sanitized between uses in accordance with guidelines. Masks will be provided and required during bus routes.

#### Technology

PCPS students will be issued devices to be used according to current grade level.

K - 3: I pads

4 - 12: Chromebooks

Whether learning takes place primarily in an online environment or face-to-face, digital resources and platforms including VA Virtual and Google Classroom will ensure students have access to high quality learning tools.

#### Processes

Patrick County Public Schools will continue to enroll new students utilizing both face-to-face and virtual interactions.

During the school year, should families decide to transition to a different learning option/mode, schools will work collaboratively with families to ensure minimal loss of learning.

#### Systems

Patrick County Public Schools will utilize a flexible COVID-19 attendance practice that enables students to stay home or self-isolate when they are sick or have been exposed.



Specific attendance procedures will be developed according to forthcoming VDOE guidance on attendance and related topics such as ADM, calculating instructional time,

etc. Teacher office hours will be held on Wednesdays for specified times to be sent to families from each teacher.

Grading practices will be communicated for each course at the beginning of the semester. Students are responsible for completing all assignments in a timely manner.

#### Communication

Opportunities for conversations with stakeholders regarding plans and monitoring implementation are essential. Patrick County Public Schools utilizes information from division surveys to develop and refine plans within each scenario. Frequent and consistent communication from the school division will be utilized to maintain transparency. Communication methods will include School Messenger, LMS, email, phone calls, mailings, digital communication platforms, and text messaging.

#### **New Instruction for ALL Students**

During the planning phase for reopening, our commitment is to ensure that all Patrick County students have access to equitable educational opportunities. Patrick County Public Schools maintains a focus on equity as the center of our work as we serve all students. Vulnerable and special populations will be given consideration to ensure appropriate instruction while complying with state and federal requirements.

Services for special populations such as students with disabilities, English learners, economically disadvantaged, gifted learners and young learners will be considered based on specific student needs. Students in vulnerable populations will continue to receive access to instructional materials for use at home and in person based on specific student goals. Services explored by school teams will include the option for increased face-to-face instruction. When necessary, virtual meetings will be used to convene conferences, screenings, evaluations, eligibility and team meetings.



## **Identification of Instructional Gaps and Student Needs**

The focus for student assessments during school reopening will be to help staff identify student learning needs and plan for upcoming instruction. PCPS will use a variety of formative assessments including CIP early benchmarks, running records, Brigance, PALS, VKRP, teacher-created assessments, etc. to measure learning gaps and needs. Professional development will be provided to address instructional needs. Remediation will be provided using small group instruction, one-on-one instruction, and online interventions.

Social emotional learning is critical to re-engage students, rebuild relationships and school communities and create equitable learning environments for all students. Training will be provided for all instructional staff in the area of mental health and well being. School counselors will have dedicated time to provide social emotional learning support. Patrick County Public Schools will utilize existing PBIS strategies to support social-emotional learning and foster student confidence and competence. Formal and informal strategies may include morning meetings, advisory periods, PBIS strategies, counseling sessions, etc.

Using data from both formative assessments and social emotional assessments, teachers will revise curricula/pacing to address missing content as a result of extended school closures. Special consideration will be given to missing content from the previous year, identification of content connections between grade levels and student progression toward learning goals. Vertical planning within schools will allow teams to identify and ensure missing content is presented to students in a variety of formats.

### **Contingency Plan for Remote Learning**

As the division plans for the reopening of schools, we realize that changes in public health data could necessitate adjustments to our schedule including virtual learning for all. The division will continue to document effective virtual learning strategies and provide professional development and family resources in order to prepare for a possible return to virtual learning. Division leaders will communicate with families in the event of a change in instructional delivery.

*Guidelines are subject to change according to current guidance.*