

On Wednesday, July 8, 2020, the Washington Union School District Board of Trustees approved a plan to safely reopen the schools of the district for fall 2020. The approved plan allows for three scenarios based on level of risk:

- **Lowest Risk to Students and Staff:** Students and teachers engage in virtual-only classes, activities, and events. **This plan should be implemented when due to the increased presence of COVID-19 in the community, local, state and federal guidelines and mandates may require school facilities to close.**
- **More Risk to Students and Staff:** Small, in-person classes, activities, and events. Groups of students stay together and with the same teacher throughout/across school days and groups do not mix. Students remain at least 6 feet apart and do not share objects (e.g., hybrid virtual and in-person class structures, or staggered/rotated scheduling to accommodate smaller class sizes). **This plan should be implemented when local and state regulations for shelter-in-place are lifted to allow for modified school operations.**
- **Highest Risk to Students and Staff:** Full sized, in-person classes, activities, and events. Students are not spaced apart, share classroom materials or supplies, and mix between classes and activities. **This plan should be implemented when California enters Stage 4: End of stay at home order. This allows for the gradual opening of larger gathering venues at a pace consistent with public health and safety. Gradually resume remaining activities and travel. Plans should include the continual monitoring of critical indicators to alter scope of reopening if necessary to protect public health and safety.**

Many of you have called and emailed with questions related to the hybrid and at-home learning plans. The following are answers to the most frequently asked questions regarding the district's fall learning plans.

Are there any specific requirements that have to be met in order to choose a 100% distance learning plan?

No. The district will be sending out a Decision Letter in the next few weeks that will require families to commit to a fall learning plan option. For families that choose At-Home learning, we will just ask the reason for the choice as we do have to document that information; however, it does not require a doctor's note or any specific medical reason.

How many hours will students be required to spend on schoolwork?

According to AB77 and the California Department of Education, the instructional minutes requirement for kindergarten is 180 minutes per day; grades 1 to 3 is 230 minutes per day; and grades 4 to 12 is 240 minutes per day, which will be inclusive of daily student-teacher interaction.

Will distance learning be done fully on the computer or will we receive papers to do on our own in addition to computer work?

We are still in the planning process, but it will likely be a combination of multiple modalities. There will obviously be an online component, but there will also be synchronous and asynchronous learning as well as packet work.

Will each class of students have their own homeschool teacher assigned?

The plan is for a small number of teachers to be assigned as At-Home Learning teachers and they will be assigned a mixed-grade cohort of students. The district doesn't have enough students who have chosen At-Home Learning to have a class at each grade level. We will evaluate those numbers when we send out the Decision Letters and staff accordingly at that time.

Middle school students will be assigned a schedule of classes/teachers and teachers will provide both in-person and at-home learning to all of the students on their roster, irrespective of their designation.

What will the curriculum be like?

We will continue to provide our district-adopted curriculum that is aligned with state standards. The delivery model will be a mix of different modalities, but the curriculum for both in-person and at-home learning will be the same.

Will distance learning students still be provided with music and art lessons?

We will continue to provide Art and Music in the At-Home learning plan. The lessons will likely be asynchronous and will be posted for parents to access if they choose, although those plans have not been finalized.

If we choose to do full distance learning, is there an option to come back to a school setting if things begin to reopen at full capacity in the spring?

Yes. In the Decision Letter, we will outline the time commitment once a learning plan is chosen. While we haven't set a specific time frame, it will likely be a commitment for a trimester. At the conclusion of the trimester, we will ask for a commitment for the next trimester and so on, so that families who would like to change learning plans will still have the opportunity to do so in a timely manner.

Will my child be required to wear a mask?

Specific face covering protocols will be shared as we get closer to the start of the school year as they are dependent upon current county health orders.

Will you ensure that siblings are in the same cohorts?

Yes. We will place all siblings from a family in the same cohort.