

FUTURE READY RETURN TO SCHOOL

2020-21 School Year Plan Summary



Since mid-March when Kansas school facilities closed, the COVID-19 crisis has continued to impact every aspect of our lives. Nowhere is this impact more keenly felt than in public education, which is facing competing pressures that place immeasurable strain on individuals, schools, districts and communities. The Wichita Public Schools (WPS) continues to work with experts, monitor public health data, learn from peers, and gather input from staff and families. As such, the [Future Ready Return to School Plan](#) is a constantly-evolving document that reflects the roadmap WPS will use to engage students and staff in a high-quality and safe learning environment this school year.

The district's response and recovery work will be guided by the [Every Student Future Ready strategic plan](#). Our return to school plan is focused first and foremost on the **safety and well-being** of WPS staff, families and students, as well as providing **rigorous and high-quality learning opportunities** regardless of which of the three options a family selects.

As what we understand about COVID-19 changes, along with corresponding public health guidance, WPS stakeholders should understand that our plans will change along with this knowledge. We are indebted to all of those who have been engaged in our planning efforts and who will continue to be an active part of what is sure to be a school year like no other.

My request to each of you is that we each show one another flexibility, grace and patience as we do everything with the best interest of our students and staff in mind. We WILL get through this challenging year, and we will be **STRONGER TOGETHER!**

Sincerely,

Alicia L. Thompson



TOP 10 Things to Know About the Future Ready Return to School Plan

1. Parents may choose one of three learning options for students in order to select what is best for their family.

 OPTION 1 Onsite (in-person learning)	 OPTION 2 MySchool Remote (online learning)	 OPTION 3 Education Imagine Academy (virtual)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Traditional, face-to-face instruction with enhanced health and safety guidelines in place• Technology device provided	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 100% online instruction• Learning is connected to base or magnet school• Technology device provided• Engaging, virtual, daily interactions with teachers• Full regular school day of instruction• Learning log regularly submitted by parents/ students/teachers• Option to return to onsite learning may be selected at semester break	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Flexible schedule• Technology device provided• Self-paced learning• Regular check-ins with staff and teachers• Robust online curriculum• KSHAA and NCAA approved• May submit special request for request to return to base school at the end of the semester

Program is at capacity for 2020-21

Students with special needs have the opportunity to enroll in any option, but some IEP (Individualized Education Program) teams may decide on temporary adjustments that are needed while providing services in a remote or virtual environment. IEP teams will contact families prior to the start of the school year. Learn more about all three high-quality options at www.usd259.org/enroll.



2. Remote learning will be different than what students experienced last spring.

We listened to your feedback and learned a lot as we reviewed our continuous learning experience from last spring. If you choose MySchool Remote your child will receive high-quality instruction and engaging learning opportunities from WPS teachers directly. Education Imagine Academy occurs through online learning platforms and regular check ins with teachers and staff.

3. The 2020-21 school year calendar will begin on Tuesday, September 8.

At its July 30 meeting, the Wichita Board of Education approved a [revised school year calendar](#). School will begin for students on September 8, and the year will end on May 25 as originally planned. Most in-service days are removed during the year, and spring break will occur the week of March 22-26, 2021.



Teachers will report on August 5 and have time to collaborate and prepare for the teaching and learning opportunities our students may be exposed to this year.

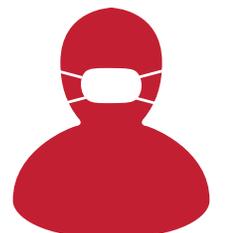


4. Every WPS student will be provided with a computer to support learning, and internet access if needed.

All PreK-12 students will receive a modern computing device that will support enhanced classroom learning as well as remote learning through MySchool Remote or Education Imagine Academy. Internet access will be provided if a student does not have access at home. Devices will be ready for distribution to K-12 students by the first day of the fall semester in September, with devices for PreK students coming soon thereafter. We will provide opportunities for parents and families to better understand how to support student learning using these devices.

5. Face coverings will be required.

The Governor's Executive Order 20-59 requires that all individuals who enter a WPS building will wear a face mask. Continued discussion is occurring regarding face mask practices for elementary students. Should guidelines change, the WPS plan will be updated accordingly. All students who ride on district-provided transportation will wear a face mask while on the bus.



6. Significant safety and hygiene practices will be in place at every district facility.



Adequate hand sanitizer and cleaning products available for frequent cleaning



Proper personal hygiene techniques encouraged, including handwashing and coughing into your elbow



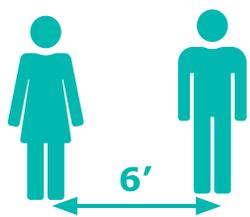
Water fountains replaced with water bottle refilling stations



Revised air handling protocols promote recommended air circulation standards



[Protocols outlined to address confirmed or potential COVID-19 cases](#)



7. All facilities will practice caution and social distancing.

Our schools will employ all available strategies to carry out the Governor's Order 20-59, including practices to space students out during lunch, passing periods, and restroom and handwashing breaks. Social distancing is not mandated for in-person instruction when masks are worn. In addition, students who ride the bus will follow loading/unloading and assigned seating protocols that will provide the safest-possible environment.

8. Building access will be limited.

In order to keep students and staff safe, and support contact tracing that will need to occur in the event of a potential exposure, building access will be suspended for anyone other than essential staff, visitors and vendors. We will review the building access plan prior to the end of each academic quarter to determine whether accessibility will change. During this time, building rental by outside partners will also be suspended.

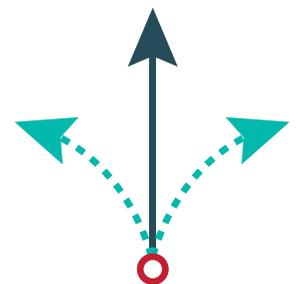


9. Stay home if you are sick!

To safeguard the health and well-being of all students, staff and families, [those who feel ill must STAY HOME](#). Daily temperature checks and [self-screening](#) will be required. Anyone with a temperature of 100.4 or higher must go home immediately. Employees who have questions about the impact of absence can reach out to Human Resources.

10. We will closely monitor health conditions and be prepared to pivot in our planning and execution if warranted.

Our [Learning Model Decision Guide](#) frames the evaluation process the Wichita Board of Education will use to determine when all three learning models are available, or when WPS will need to suspend all in-person classes and offer learning for all students through online options only. Families should be prepared with a child care plan should illness cause a classroom or school to temporarily suspend in-person attendance. Decisions of this nature would be made in collaboration with the [Sedgwick County Health Department \(SCHD\)](#).



We are currently planning for all three learning models to be utilized when school begins on September 8. We will evaluate public health data in collaboration with the SCHD and confirm by August 20 that we can proceed in this manner.

Future Ready Return to School Plan Details

We recognize that families may have questions about the hundreds of details included in our Future Ready Return to School Plan, including topics such as latchkey, athletics, school supplies, course offerings, field trips and many others.

Our plan is a continuously-evolving document that will be updated based on changing health conditions, guidance from partners, and emerging details. As detailed information is available, we will include updates on our website www.usd259.org/WPSreturn.

Questions?

Call your school or email your questions to info@usd259.net.

Connect with WPS

Follow our social media channels to stay engaged with WPS updates.

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