

Learning Model Options

What are my choices when sending my child back to school?

Traditional Classroom Instruction: Students will physically see and interact with their teacher(s) and classmates and follow their class/course schedule each day at their school. This will include health and safety protocols to include social distancing, controlled movement and increased sanitation efforts.

eLearning: eLearning students will maintain their enrollment status at their brick and mortar schools and will attend school online during regular school hours and follow a standard schedule. All students will be expected to adhere to daily attendance guidelines, log in and attend class during the designated times. eLearning courses will be designed to ensure rigor matches the traditional classroom setting.

Hillsborough Virtual K-12: It is an independent, fully accredited, and flexible public-school option in the HCPS system. Unlike a traditional classroom or eLearning model, the curriculum and content are designed specifically for a true, virtual format and front-loaded at the beginning of the course. It is available 24/7 online, for which students create a daily work schedule to ensure completion of coursework in a regular semester timeframe.

If I sign up for one option – can I change my mind at any time, or does it have to be after the semester?

When making a selection, parents are committing to at least one full semester of instruction. Our district will work with families to make accommodations in extenuating circumstances during the first semester.

School Procedures

What is the process if there is a positive COVID-19 case in my school?

Upon notification of a positive result, a parent or employee will notify their principal or supervisor, respectively. The principal or supervisor will notify the regional superintendent or assistant superintendent/chief, who will notify the COVID-19 commander. Upon receipt, the COVID-19 Commander will communicate details with the Supervisor of School Health Services, Director of Safety and Risk Management, and the Chief of Communications and Media Relations. The Chief of Communications and Media Relations will alert the Superintendent, anyone who has come into direct contact with the positive individual, and the school site.

Returning to campus: At least 10 days will need to have passed since symptoms appeared; at least 72 hours fever-free without using fever-reducing medication, and all other symptoms have subsided.

Contact Tracing: Hillsborough County Public Schools is collaborating with the Department of Health to conduct contact tracing. Upon notification of a positive case on campus, the district's Department of School Health Services will also communicate with administration to track movement of the person who tested positive and secure affected areas. Impacted individuals will be notified.

My child cannot wear a mask – can I file for an exemption?

Students or staff must have a medical issue for which a face covering would cause an impairment. There is also an applicable exemption for students or staff who need to communicate with someone who is hearing impaired and needs to see the person's mouth to communicate.

If my child is quarantined for 14 days, can they easily transition into eLearning for that time so they don't miss instruction?

Our district will make necessary accommodations for students to continue learning in case of an illness.

Health & Safety

Are face coverings required when entering school buildings?

Yes. Students, staff, vendors and visitors will be required to wear face coverings on campus when social distancing is not possible. Students shall wear these face coverings during extracurricular activities, as well as on school buses. Masks provided: Staff members and students will receive an allotted number of reusable cloth masks from the district on the first day of school to ensure each person on campus is following proper safety precautions. If a staff member or student forgets or loses the mask, a disposable one will be provided for the day. School administration or staff will be stationed at entry points throughout each campus to remind students to wear face coverings prior to entering campus. In instances where reusable masks are left at home, a disposable mask will be provided for the day. Students who repeatedly do not wear a mask on school grounds will be educated on their importance while faculty will work to use restorative practices to encourage students to utilize a mask. Each school will have a COVID Point Person to work on compliance issues at the school level.

Can my child bring his or her own mask to school?

Yes, your child can wear a mask provided from home. They must be school appropriate and shall not interfere with the district's dress code policy.

How often will my school be cleaned?

Schools will be cleaned daily, focusing on major touch entry points in common areas such as doorknobs, handles, elevator buttons, stairwell railings, light switches and soap dispensers. Custodial staff will disinfect using proper cleaning products (ADQ, Avistat-D) with microfiber cloths to spray and wipe down objects. Custodial staff will create a schedule to clean cafeteria tables and classrooms throughout the day.

- **Routine cleaning:** Throughout the workday, the custodial staff will implement a routine of surface cleaning in the major touch point areas discussed such as restrooms. The staff will, in some cases, report at staggered times depending upon hours of operation to ensure consistent disinfection practices while primary building employees are present. Latter custodial shifts will apply the full standard cleaning of all areas to be ready for the next day. Additional disinfecting will be performed prior to the arrival of district staff in high-traffic areas such as the front office. Custodial staff will wear face masks and gloves.
- **Deep cleaning:** If a positive COVID-19 case is determined within a school or building, district staff will use an approved chemical and fogging machine to disinfect any area deemed appropriate by contract tracing processes. The Vital Oxide sanitizer for spray or foam application is OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration), WHMIS (Workplace hazardous Materials Information System) and GHS (Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals) compliant.

What precautions are you taking on school buses?

Students will be encouraged to stay socially distanced while at the bus stop. This must be a joint education effort between families and school personnel. Students will be socially distanced as much as the physical capacity of the bus allows. Students will load the bus from back to front in order to encourage social distancing throughout the bus ride. School administration, in conjunction with the driver, will establish seating charts with social distancing in mind to the best of their ability. Hand sanitizer stations will be on each bus, and students will be encouraged to use it upon entry and exit. Students will also wear masks while social distancing. Bus drivers will have disposable masks to hand out to students in the event a student does not have his or her mask. Ventilation will be incorporated into the bus along with air conditioning systems. Although the CDC recommends cleaning buses once a day, our district will clean buses twice per day. Bus drivers will wipe down high-touch areas between each run.

What is the district doing to ensure children and staff are mentally healthy?

Students, staff and families have encountered additional stress and anxiety over these past few months. Hillsborough County Public Schools has provided a Mental Health Hotline to help families deal with the added uncertainty of COVID-19 and eLearning. That hotline will remain in place. The number is 813-272-4787.

Mental Wellness Support:

- Triage needs and provide supports to families and educators
- Modify schedules as needed for students and staff

- Ongoing consultation to school-based teams on mental health, threat assessments and suicide assessment
- Crisis Intervention Team ready for response when needed
- Enhance partnerships with network of mental health professionals to provide services
- Provide a blended model of support, inclusive of in-person and virtual deployment of mental health services

What mental health supports are available in my community?

The School Board has approved Central Florida Behavioral Health Network, Inc. to serve as the managing entity of contracted community providers, who will deliver evidence-based mental health services to students including: mental health assessments, mental health and co-occurring diagnoses, mental health interventions (including transport to crisis care as needed), mental health treatments, mental health transition/recovery supports, and telehealth services. Parents may contact their school's Student Services team to inquire about our community partnerships and explore other possible agencies that may be available to assist students with mental health concerns. Through our mental health plan, the district will break down barriers that may exist with students and families receiving services, including insurance issues, high co-pays, and accessing important services that may not be available with other agencies. Our contracted community mental health providers include Chrysalis, Crisis Center of Tampa Bay, DACCO, Gracepoint, HEADS, Northside, and Success for Kids and Families

Operations

How will classrooms be modified to keep students safe?

Student desks will be spaced six feet apart when possible. Extraneous furniture will be removed from each classroom as much as possible for proper social distancing practices. Administrators will view and approve classroom designs prior to the start of the school year. Students will be required to wear face coverings. Each classroom will be outfitted with additional sanitation stations with a variety of supplies to encourage proper cleaning practices. Each station will include gloves and disinfectant wipes for spot cleaning, along with hand sanitizer. Students and staff will work together to ensure everyone is contributing to a healthy environment by wiping surfaces after classroom instruction is complete.

How will students be social distanced during lunch?

A: Lunches will be Grab-and-Go boxed meals, to move student lines more rapidly, and to prevent serving and sharing of food. Staff members will be assigned to cafeteria monitoring, to ensure social distancing, and will provide and monitor classroom and outdoor lunches where available.

How will you maintain social distancing in hallways?

Staff members will escort students to common areas when possible, to ensure social distancing and prevent hallway gatherings. Students will be directed to walk on the right-hand side of the hallways at all times and enter and exit common areas through different doors where possible. Schools will also place signage where appropriate to encourage social distancing.

Does my child have to wear a face covering at their desk?

Students must wear face coverings in each area where social distancing is not possible. This includes a classroom if desks are not spaced at least six feet apart, as well as cafeterias, hallways and other shared spaces.

Will the district be providing devices for all children who are eLearning?

Electronic devices will be available on an as-needed basis.

Teaching and Learning

What does an eLearning day look like? How long will my student sit in front of a computer?

eLearning students will receive instruction on a schedule that is mirrored with their brick and mortar school. Sample schedules can be found on the School Reopening plan.

My child is in IB classes. Can they choose eLearning?

Yes. Your child can participate in IB classes through their home school through eLearning.

My child is in Performing Arts/Culinary/Automotive program – can they do eLearning?

This is dependent upon your learner's school. Certain classes lend themselves better to face-to-face instruction. While any student can participate in eLearning, there may be some classes not available in a virtual capacity.

Will eLearning provide textbooks, art supplies and other necessary materials where possible?

Yes. Students will be issued any associated materials such as textbooks, art supplies, musical instruments, and other necessary materials where possible

Is there any flexibility with eLearning for parents who work? Can lessons or assignments be done in the evening?

eLearning students will attend school online during regular school hours and follow a standard school schedule. If your learner needs a more flexible schedule, Hillsborough Virtual K-12 is another virtual option. It provides students increased flexibility as to when they complete their assignments. This platform is not tied to a specific bell schedule.

How will I know if my child’s electives are being offered eLearning?

Please contact your school for specific details

Can my child still come to school for band/sports/extracurricular activities?

Our district is currently in a phased implementation process depending on FHSAA guidance, and will be following guidance as it is available. This includes athletics, band, JROTC and color guard. This guidance is subject to change, so please continue to follow district websites, social platforms and Parentlink for the most updated information. Please contact your school for specific details about other activities.

What is the difference between eLearning and Hillsborough Virtual K-12?

eLearning	HVK12
Students are assigned to their brick-and mortar school, and to teachers within that school.	Students are assigned to Hillsborough Virtual K-12 full-time, and to teachers within Hillsborough Virtual K-12.
Teachers provide eLearning instruction that follows their daily face-to-face classroom instruction. Classroom hours and office hours are specified on a daily, scheduled routine.	Teachers provide a front-loaded semester-long syllabus for students, to enable them to work at their own pace. Correspondence hours with teachers are flexible, to accommodate student and family schedules.
Student work is submitted according to the daily schedule for assignments, activities, and assessments.	Student work is submitted at the student’s own pace, providing all assignments, activities, and assessments are completed by the end of each week. (Note: students may complete at a more rapid pace, providing teachers verify mastery of standards)
Curriculum is provided through Canvas, and is directly aligned with the teachers’ face-to-face, daily classroom instruction.	Curriculum is provided through Canvas at the elementary level and is designed by Hillsborough Virtual K-12 teachers as an entirely web-based instructional pathway. Secondary curriculum is a franchise of the Florida Virtual School (FLVS).
Parents are encouraged to support their children’s pacing as set forth by their teachers and to provide a home setting which is conducive to the classrooms’ daily schedule.	Parents are encouraged to serve as the learning coach and to facilitate their children’s daily routine as best suits the family schedule.

<p>eLearning is designed for students who wish to be connected to classroom teachers within their assigned brick-and-mortar schools, thereby enabling them to work at a prescribed pace with their peers. It is a prime option for students who wish to stay connected to their school classmates and school community.</p>	<p>Hillsborough Virtual K-12 is designed for self-motivated students who wish to work at an independent pace, with flexibility in hours and scheduling of work completion. It is a prime option for students who need to accommodate a work schedule, college and career-minded students, homeschool students, hospital-homebound students, children in military families, amateur athletes, students who wish to accelerate their learning path, as well as students in need of credit recovery.</p>
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How involved do I need to be as a parent in eLearning vs Hillsborough Virtual K12?

Hillsborough Virtual K-12 and eLearning both require adult guidance. With Hillsborough Virtual K-12, the program is designed around parents acting as a “learning coach”. For elementary grades, this means parents will likely need to provide daily guidance to their learner. For secondary grades, the parent will need to check in with the student throughout the week to ensure that activities are being completed at a rate consistent with completion in one semester. On the eLearning platform, parent guidance will resemble that for Hillsborough Virtual K12, although there will be a need for more frequent check-in with the learner regardless of the grade level. Parents are expected to oversee their child’s participation and provide guidance in completing assignments and seeking teacher feedback.

How are we going to put enough rigor into eLearning so that students are challenged?

eLearning courses will be designed to ensure rigor matches the traditional classroom setting. Standards have been prioritized in the scope and sequence of instruction to support students as they enter the next grade, course level. High-quality curriculum and learning experiences are being designed that can be implemented in both the traditional and eLearning model. The exact course offerings by school will be solidified by the student’s school. Students are expected to participate daily in the eLearning option; attendance will be recorded when a student logs in each day. The student will adhere to a schedule that resembles traditional school hours, and the program will mirror the content, rigor and daily expectations as if participating in classroom-based learning.

If my child decides to enroll in Hillsborough Virtual K-12, will they lose their spot in their magnet school of choice next year?

If a student enrolls in Hillsborough Virtual K-12 but was scheduled to enroll in a magnet school for 2020-2021, consideration will be given to the student reenrolling in the magnet school for 2021-2022 academic year, space permitting and assuming interruption does not prevent successful program completion.

If I choose eLearning, will my student be learning with children who are also in a classroom? Will teachers provide instruction for students in both online and traditional classroom settings? No. While the content that both groups of students will be learning is the

same, the instructional delivery will be adapted for the eLearning group of students. There will be teachers dedicated to the eLearning platform and those dedicated to the traditional classroom model. In most instances, teachers will teach either one format or the other; however, there may be cases where teachers provide support in both formats.

Will my child be able to take part in extracurricular activities, clubs or sports if I choose eLearning or Hillsborough Virtual K-12? Yes, eLearning and Hillsborough Virtual K-12 students will be able to participate in extracurricular activities, clubs and sports at their attendance-area school.

ESE

Will kids with an IEP be given special assistance with eLearning?

For families choosing eLearning, the IEP team will meet to ensure that the district's online program is individualized for each student in the eLearning environment. Special education and related services as identified in the IEP during eLearning may be provided in a variety of ways including the use of telephone calls, instructional support materials, internet based or virtual lessons and/or virtual therapies, and other available distance-based learning approaches.

My ESE child will not wear a mask. Are there any considerations?

Students can be granted a mask exemption based on their specific circumstances. In addition, therapists, teachers and other staff working with students who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing, will need to wear a face shield and not a mask to ensure proper communication. Shields will also be used by Speech and Language Therapists when providing speech therapy.

If my ESE child does eLearning, will they have an ESE teacher doing that eLearning?

For families choosing eLearning, the IEP team will meet to ensure that the district's online program is individualized for each student in the eLearning environment. Special education and related services as identified in the IEP during eLearning may be provided in a variety of ways including the use of telephone calls, instructional support materials, internet based or virtual lessons and/or virtual therapies, and other available distance-based learning approaches.

I have a child with special needs – will teachers help them learn about safety, face coverings and social distancing?

Social narratives, a tool for teaching a skill that presents information in an understandable and repeatable way, and visuals will be provided to staff upon return to school and will be included in instruction. These social narratives will be focused on developing an understanding of social distancing and safety protocols. Visuals will be provided for lining up, washing hands, and wearing a mask/face covering. These routines will be practiced during the school day.

General Questions

Will visitors be permitted on campus?

Visitors will be strictly limited on school campuses. It is essential to create a healthy and safe environment by limiting potential COVID-19 exposure whenever possible. Our district will be limiting access to visitors and volunteers to appointment only. A request must be made 24 hours in advance. Administrators will establish protocols for greeting visitors and the use of screenings and temperature checks.

Could the first day of school be pushed back to September?

Any decision about moving the start date will be made with guidance from the Governor's office and the Florida Department of Education.

What type of professional development will be provided to instructional staff if the eLearning platform is utilized?

Canvas, our new Learning Management System, is designed to support face-to-face, blended, and online instruction. The system provides teachers with resources and training modules designed to enhance instructional practices in both a traditional classroom setting and through remote delivery. Canvas will house grade level instructional frameworks, curriculum, and most of the instructional/textbook resources previously located in multiple places. Canvas has many features that reinforce and enhance technology skills acquired during eLearning. Our teachers committed multiple hours to sharpening instructional skills during last year's school shutdown in preparation for remote instruction. Virtual and self-paced training for instructional and site-based administration will be available. All teachers have access to professional learning to prepare them for the 2020- 2021 school year. Summer professional development will be offered virtually with session facilitators focusing on important teaching and learning topics related to the 20-21 instructional models: blended learning, synchronous learning, Canvas, Achieve 3000, iReady, SIPPS, digital tools and platforms, etc.