



2nd Semester Information for Parents/Guardians

November 11, 2020

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Introduction

Parents/guardians of each child who is registered to attend Loudoun County Public Schools this year are required to indicate their choices for how their children will receive instruction in the second semester of the 2020-2021 school year, from January 21 to June 15.

The information provided below is meant to assist parents/guardians in understanding the choices available and the process for making decisions. More detailed information is also available on the [LCPS Return to School 2020 website](#) and in the [Hybrid Model in Stages Implementation Plan](#).

Registering Choices in ParentVUE

Choices must be registered in ParentVUE by November 20th at 8 p.m. The choices that parents/guardians make will be binding for the entire second semester of the academic year, from January 21 to June 15.

Parents/guardians must choose between:

Option 1: Hybrid In-Person and Distance Learning, and

Option 2: 100% Distance Learning.

LCPS will provide in-person learning as described below and in the [Hybrid Model in Stages Implementation Plan](#) so long as conditions allow. The continued implementation of the hybrid model in stages is not guaranteed and is dependent on public health metrics and other factors.

Parents/guardians are also asked to register their plans for using LCPS-provided transportation to and from school. The plans parents/guardians indicate for transportation **are not binding** and will be used for planning purposes only.

PLEASE NOTE: If parents/guardians do not register a choice for their children by 8 p.m. November 20, their children will be assigned to the **Hybrid In-Person and Distance Learning** option.

Instructional Choices

Detailed below is information about how instruction will occur in the two options available to students in the second semester, January 21 through June 15. There are important differences in how Elementary (K-5) and Secondary (6-12) students will receive instruction in Option 1 and in Option 2 that parents/guardians should consider when making choices for their students.

Elementary (K-5) Instruction in Option 1: Hybrid In-person and Distance Learning

As long as conditions allow, elementary students whose families select hybrid in-person learning will attend school in-person two days per week, either Tuesday and Thursday or Wednesday and Friday. On the days when Elementary students are not physically present, they will work on individualized tasks that support the instruction provided during in-person learning. All Elementary students in households with more than one Elementary student who choose Option 1: Hybrid In-person and Distance Learning will be scheduled for in-person and distance learning on the same days.

Elementary (K-5) Instruction in Option 2: 100% Distance Learning

Elementary students participating in 100% Distance Learning will be assigned to separate classes than those participating in Hybrid In-person Learning. Elementary students who participate in 100% Distance Learning will receive synchronous and asynchronous instruction four days per week, and will not receive in-person instruction.

On Mondays, all Elementary students participate in a virtual morning meeting and some receive virtual small group support. Elementary students also will participate in synchronous and asynchronous morning meetings and advisory activities to build connections with classmates and support mental wellness during days they are engaged in distance learning.

More information, including a sample Elementary schedule, is available in the [Hybrid Model in Stages Implementation Plan](#).

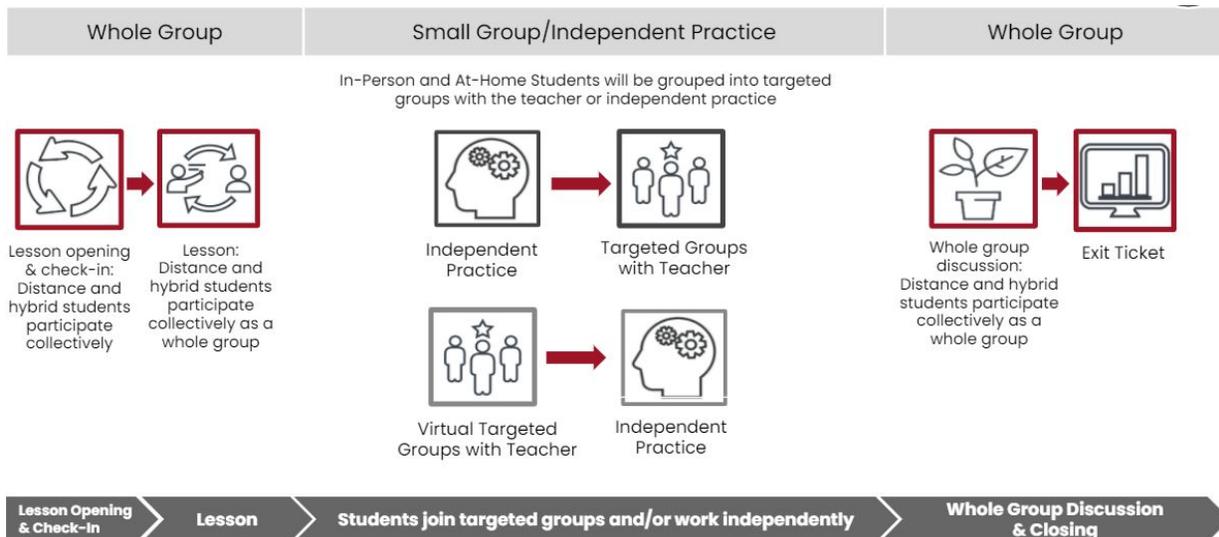
Secondary (6-12) Instruction in the Second Semester

If conditions allow, beginning January 21, all secondary students will participate in Concurrent Teaching. Concurrent teaching occurs when in-person and distance learning students are taught at the same time by the same teacher using digital friendly teaching methods. Concurrent teaching uses both synchronous and asynchronous instructional strategies. This approach is distinct from “livestreaming” classes, because in concurrent teaching all students are participating in interactive and independent learning activities.

Secondary (6-12) Instruction in Option 1: Hybrid In-person and Distance Learning

A lesson that is taught concurrently includes hybrid in-person students, hybrid distance learning students who participate remotely and 100% distance learning students who participate remotely. Hybrid students will receive in-person instruction two days per week, and will participate in distance learning two days per week. All students will engage in asynchronous instruction on Mondays as they are doing in first semester.

The diagram below depicts a sample lesson that illustrates how concurrent teaching will work during a typical class period.



The “Whole Group” opening provides time for the teacher and students to complete and review a check-in, teachers to provide direct instruction, reinforce previously taught material, share a driving question, check for understanding, and/or preview upcoming learning.

Following the whole group opening in this sample lesson design, students participate in small-group, targeted instruction and independent practice. This is similar to the current 100% Distance Learning “Learning Lab.” Students may work through a playlist of differentiated activities, complete a performance assessment, engage in individual practice, or receive feedback from the teacher or from peers. Teachers have touchpoints with small groups or individual students throughout this time. All students engage in a variety of instructional activities during this time, both online and away from the computer. The class reconvenes as a whole group for a reflection and closing activity. Teachers use this time for students to complete a variety of activities, such as an exit ticket or a quick formative assessment, to drive instructional planning for the next lesson. Teachers also review learning from the day, and share announcements to help students prepare for the next class. This is one sample lesson design.

More information, including a sample Secondary schedule, is available in the [Hybrid Model in Stages Implementation Plan](#).

Secondary (6-12) Instruction in Option 2: 100% Distance Learning

If conditions allow, beginning January 21, all secondary students will participate in Concurrent Teaching. For students whose parents/guardians choose 100% Distance Learning, this means they will participate in classrooms operating concurrently with in-person students and hybrid distance students. Distance learners will experience all instruction virtually. All learners will engage in asynchronous instruction on Mondays. The diagram above illustrates how Concurrent Teaching will work during a typical class period.

More information, including a sample Secondary schedule, is available in the [Hybrid Model in Stages Implementation Plan](#).

Physical Distancing and other COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies During Second Semester

Depending on how many parents/guardians choose Option 1: Hybrid In-person and Distance Learning for their students in the second semester, LCPS may need to reduce the spacing between desks in classrooms to accommodate the number of students who select hybrid learning. Whenever possible, desks will be 8 feet apart center-to-center, allowing for 6 feet of separation between students in a classroom. When that is not possible, desks may be placed 6 feet apart center-to-center, allowing at least 4 feet of separation between students. This possibility is dependent on final family choice selections (how many students need to be accommodated in each class) and may be implemented on a school-by-school or even classroom-by-classroom basis. Similarly, on buses, students will be seated on every other row whenever possible; if that is not possible on all routes because more students select Hybrid In-person Learning than 100% Distance Learning, students may be seated one student per seat on some buses. Exceptions will be made for siblings to sit together on the bus. Parents should keep these possibilities in mind when making their decision for the second semester.

In addition to attention to physical distancing, other COVID-19 mitigation strategies will be implemented and monitored. These mitigation strategies include, but are not limited to, the requirement of face coverings for staff, students, and visitors with limited exceptions as recommended by the Virginia Department of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; the daily COVID-19 symptom questionnaire; random temperature checks at school; opportunities for frequent handwashing; reminders and modeling of respiratory etiquette (cover your cough/sneeze); implementation of cleaning and disinfecting procedures; use of the Care Room, separate from the school clinic, to address students who may demonstrate COVID-19 symptoms; and collaboration with Student Health Services to facilitate contact tracing of reported positive COVID-19 cases.

Illness and Quarantining in Second Semester

Students who are identified by LCPS in collaboration with the Loudoun County Department of Health (LCDH) as being a close contact of someone who has tested positive will be required by LCDH to quarantine, which could impact the way they participate in instruction. Students who choose Option 1: Hybrid In-person Learning and Distance Learning, for example, will be required to participate in distance learning 100% of the time while quarantining, rather than participating in in-person learning two days per week and distance learning three days per week.

A key factor in determining whether students will be instructed by LCDH to quarantine after a classmate or teacher tests positive for the virus is whether they have been within 6 feet of the individual who tests positive for 15 minutes or more, cumulatively, during a period beginning 48 hours prior to the onset of symptoms. If 6 feet of physical distancing is maintained, classmates would not necessarily be identified as “close contacts” of the individual who tests positive. If 6 feet of physical distancing is not maintained, individuals identified as “close contacts” will be required by LCDH to quarantine for 14 days from the day after the date of exposure.

Reducing the risk of exposure to COVID-19 in our schools requires that everyone within the community demonstrate care and consistent implementation of the mitigation strategies outlined in this document. LCPS will continue to monitor and seek to enforce these efforts to limit the interruption to instruction that is experienced when staff and students must isolate or quarantine. To the extent possible, LCPS will limit disruptions to instruction by allowing students to participate remotely during their quarantine/isolation period, and support teacher quarantines/isolations with substitute teachers and support staff. More information about physical distancing and other public health mitigation methods that LCPS is implementing to protect the health and well-being of students, staff members, their families and the community is available in the [Hybrid Model in Stages Implementation Plan](#).

Conclusion

This guide is meant to provide basic information that parents/guardians can refer to when considering the choices of instruction available to their students for the second semester of instruction in the 2020-2021 school year. Much more information is available on the LCPS Return to School 2020 website and in the [Hybrid Model in Stages Implementation Plan](#).

In addition to this decision guide, principals will be hosting virtual town hall meetings for parents/guardians to provide additional information. We encourage you to attend those sessions to learn more and ask general questions about the Return to School choices.

Parents who have additional questions can submit them [through this webform](#). The LCPS COVID hotline is also available during regular business hours at 571-252-6499.

As a reminder, parents/guardians must register their choices for their childrens' second semester instruction by 8 p.m. on Friday, November 20. Students who do not have choices registered by then will be assigned to Hybrid In-Person and Distance Learning for the second semester.

Thank you.