

Digital Learning in PVSD

The answers to frequently asked questions that we have received regarding digital learning are answered below.

How will the Digital Learning Academy model or distance learning due to school closure work?

Students will receive daily synchronous (live, on Zoom or Google Meet) instruction from their classroom teachers.

In grades TK-5, teachers will set up a daily schedule that has consistent times for synchronous instruction. Synchronous learning will be followed by offline independent work that reinforces instruction.

In grades 6-8, students will follow a period schedule. Students will have direct, synchronous instruction followed by independent work for each class period. Teachers will be available for office hours while students are completing independent work.

What is the difference between the Digital Learning Academy and distance learning?

When a student is enrolled in the PVSD Digital Learning Academy, that is their school placement. Distance learning will occur for all students when schools are physically closed. When the school(s) reopen students in distance learning will return to their physical campuses. Students in the PVSD Digital Learning Academy will remain in the digital model.

How will I know what is happening and where to find materials?

Teachers will provide an overview to orient families and students each week.

To ensure a consistent platform and communication, teachers in grades TK-1 will use the Seesaw platform to communicate content. Teachers in grade two will have the option to select Seesaw or Google Classroom as the digital learning platform. In grades 3-8, all teachers will use Google Classroom as the learning management tool.

Assignments and schedules will be posted regularly through these platforms.

What curriculum will be used in digital learning, and will my student receive workbooks/textbooks

Whether in a face-to-face, modified traditional, or digital model, the district's adopted curriculum will be used. Students in both the Digital Academy and in distance learning will have access to their textbooks and/or consumable workbooks.

How will the content standards be covered through digital learning?

Teacher teams have worked to identify priority standards. While some standards are included as additional material in textbooks, others are essential and necessary for students to succeed in future learning. For example, in mathematics, this work has been defined through the Achieve the Core project. Click [here](#) for more information.

Will tests be administered in the digital environment?

Assessment of learning helps teachers determine next instructional steps and is a necessary part of the cycle of instruction. Some assessments are more informal, like using anecdotal notes based on observed responses, while others are more formal such as tests from the curriculum publisher. A combination of classroom assessments will be used to monitor student progress.

How will grades work in the digital environment?

Unlike the crisis distance-learning of the spring, the grading model will more closely mirror the traditional grading process, unless state guidance calls for alternative grading practices.

Will my child have access to a device for digital learning?

PVSD will issue Chromebook devices to students in grades TK-8. Distribution and collection of technology devices will be coordinated with school site leadership and specific information will be sent out to families prior to any distribution or collection activity.

What technology support resources are available for students and families?

[Links to helpful support guides and other information](#) are kept up-to-date on the Technology Services FAQ page of the PVSD website. The student's teacher (or principal) is the best initial point of contact for individual support. If more advanced support is needed, the student's teacher can submit a helpdesk request to the Technology Services team on the student's behalf. Please note that support for personal devices is very limited, should families choose to utilize their own technology.

If necessary, on-site device-swap is available for damaged student devices after following the support steps outlined above. Typically on-site device swap occurs on Tuesdays and Thursdays by appointment only. Updated details will be posted on the PVSD Technology Services FAQ page throughout the year to keep families informed of the latest support options and procedures.

How are students kept safe while using technology? What role do I play as a parent/guardian?

PVSD makes student privacy and the security of our technology a priority. Because it is important to us that our teachers and students are able to use technology as a great learning tool, we strive to do everything we can to keep everyone safe. This includes ensuring that internet pages are filtered, protocols and expectations are in place for proper behavior, and students are taught specific Digital Citizenship lessons at the beginning of each school year that are geared toward their grade level.

It is important to remember that keeping students safe and teaching them proper "technology etiquette" is not only the responsibility of PVSD, but parents play a critical

role as well. To the best of our ability, PVSD teachers and staff monitor and instruct students while using technology in the classroom or online. We have systems in place to help monitor students using 1:1 devices off-campus, but parents are responsible for properly supervising their student's technology use outside of school. No technical software or security device is 100% effective and today's students are very savvy with technology. This is why it's important for us to understand that it "takes a village" to actively participate in raising up the next generation and teaching them how to become good digital citizens.

Since my child is in school almost seven hours each day, why won't digital learning be the same amount of time?

Through SB-98, the California Legislature has recalibrated instructional minutes for the 20-21 school year, since students may be going in and out of distance learning. While students are traditionally in school for many hours per day, these hours also include nutrition and lunch breaks as well as independent practice time in the classroom. The entire class period is not direct instruction in the traditional classroom. An hour for hour equivalent in screen time would not be developmentally appropriate. An insightful article on screen time can be found [here](#).

Instructional minutes will be met through a combination of daily synchronous instruction and reinforcement independent activities.

Below are the mandated instructional minutes for the 20-21 school year:

Grade	Daily Minutes Required
TK/K	180
1-3	230
4-8	240

What training will teachers receive to provide online instruction?

Teachers will be offered professional learning opportunities to become more familiar with technology tools such as Google classroom, Seesaw, Zoom, Flipgrid, and other online tools that support effective online instruction.

As part of the mandated beginning of the year training, teachers will receive specialized health screening training as well as training on how to identify students in need of social-emotional support in an online setting.

All teachers will receive a copy of the book *The Distance Learning Playbook*, which provides step-by-step guidance on how to provide a quality digital learning program for students.

Will there be training for parents on the platforms that teachers are using?

Teachers will be providing onboarding for parents on how to navigate their specific distance learning classrooms.

Additionally, the district will provide parents with a repository of video tutorials on the various platforms being used in digital learning.

What if my child needs counseling support? What is being done to address students' social-emotional needs?

The Digital Learning Academy has an assigned counselor who will provide social-emotional support. Additionally, the counselor supports the Second Step social-emotional learning curriculum.

During times when all students are learning at home, the counselor assigned to their school will continue to provide support.

Will middle school students be taking all six periods or will it be a modified schedule?

Students in the digital academy will take three courses during quarters one and two and three courses during quarters three and four. This will provide consistency with the traditional modified program model.

What will the schedule look like in a digital model?

In grades TK-5, teachers will develop a daily schedule that includes synchronous lessons. Also included in the schedule will be opportunities for small group instruction and independent work time.

In grades 6-8, Instruction will follow a period schedule. Each period includes a synchronous lesson, time for guided practice, and independent work time. During independent work time, teachers will provide office hours.

How will special education services work in this model?

Special education, related services, and any other services in a student's IEP with the necessary accommodations, will be implemented to ensure that the IEP can be provided to the maximum extent possible, in a digital environment. A schedule for the provision of services (specialized academic instruction, speech, occupational therapy, counseling, etc.) will be created by providers at the beginning of the year, as is done during a traditional school year, and will be communicated to parents. IEPs will continue to be held virtually in this model.

How will English Learner support be provided in this model?

English learners will be provided with integrated and designated English Language Development (ELD). During lessons, teachers will provide supports to assist in making content accessible for English learners. In a small group setting, English learners will

receive language focused instruction on how English works. Using a variety of assessment methods, teachers will monitor ELD progress for each English learner in their class, identify areas for additional support, and provide targeted instruction.

How does attendance work in the online digital model?

As stated above, students must have a minimum number of daily minutes in which they are both instructed by a teacher or completing work the teacher certifies. For example, a kindergarten teacher may provide daily synchronous lessons for 90 minutes (three 30-minute sessions). In addition to this, students will be assigned independent work that the teacher certifies takes 90 minutes to complete. This work could be related to the synchronous lesson, or it could be independent work practicing previously learned skills. If the student participates in the 90 minutes of synchronous lessons and completes all of the independent work required for the other 90 minutes, then the student will be considered attending for the full day. In addition, daily attendance will be recorded as it is during the traditional year.

All families will sign a master agreement agreeing to complete the independent work. It is very similar to the Independent Study Agreement families use when being absent from school for five days or more due to a trip, or a once in a lifetime opportunity.

Questions Specific to the PVSD Digital Academy

Who will teach my student in the digital model?

Once we have firm commitments from families and know how the classes will be configured based on enrollment numbers, we will be able to determine how many teachers will be needed for the Digital Learning Academy. The positions will be opened for transfer following our collective bargaining agreement (also known as the teacher contract) guidelines. Current PVSD teachers who are familiar with our instructional program and materials will apply and interview for the available positions. After the interview process is completed, teachers will be selected and assigned to one of the Digital Learning Academy positions. The deadline to pre-enroll in the Digital Academy is August 7, 2020 at 4:30 pm. The link to pre-enroll can be found [here](#).

Am I able to transition out of the digital learning model if conditions become safer?

No. If you enroll in the Digital Learning Academy it would be for the entire school year, because students are enrolled with their specific teachers for live instruction. Teacher staffing cannot follow students in and out of the digital program. Therefore, students must stay in the model they chose at the beginning of the year. The exception would be if the Digital Learning Academy model is not working for a child and they are becoming very disconnected from school. Depending on space available at the grade level, we would consider allowing the student to transfer to a class vacancy (not necessarily at their neighborhood school) in the Modified Traditional model.

Will I lose my spot at my school if I am in the Digital Learning Academy?

Students who are enrolled in the Digital Learning Academy remain enrolled as a students at their school. Much like students are assigned to different classrooms, their assigned status will be to the Distance Learning Academy rather than to a traditional classroom.