



Lawrence County Schools

Frequently Asked Questions

1. When will school start back?

Students will start back to school on August 12th. At this time, we are carefully finalizing our reopening plan, and we will communicate it with all stakeholders when it is complete.

2. Will students and staff members have to wear masks?

At this time, masks will not be required. However, masks are strongly encouraged. The Alabama State Department of Education has purchased 3 masks for each employee and 3 masks for each student. These free masks will ensure students have access to a quality mask regardless of any financial barriers.

Students may be asked to wear a mask while in healthcare holding areas or at other times deemed appropriate by school personnel. Any policy regarding face coverings will be sensitive to the needs of students and staff with medical issues.

3. Will students have to eat lunch in the classroom every day?

Students will not have to eat lunch in the classroom every day. Each school is different and each cafeteria has a different capacity. At some schools, it may be necessary for students to eat in the classroom occasionally.

We are trying to make sure students are able to leave the classroom as much as possible and as much as is safe for them.

4. Will students have PE next year?

Elementary students will have PE next year. High school students will have PE if their schedule allows. In PE, we will strive to keep students safe, and we will emphasize health guidelines as much as possible.

5. What academic options are available to Lawrence County students?

Children enrolled in our system may choose to participate in traditional, virtual, or blended learning. These options are being made available to meet the needs of all students.

6. What will the traditional school environment look like this year?

The traditional school day will look much as it has in the past. Students will receive face to face instruction Monday through Friday during normal school hours. There will be some noticeable changes to the routine. These changes MAY INCLUDE:

- Designated entrances and exits with traffic flowing in one direction
- Breakfast and lunch occasionally served in the classroom
- Smaller physical education classes
- Social distancing in the classroom
- Teachers moving from room to room to deliver instruction (departmentalized situations)
- Dismissing in small groups/phases
- Assigned desks for students
- One-way hallways
- Adequate space between lockers

7. What is “virtual school” and what ages can attend?

Virtual learning will be offered for K through 12th grade students, and instruction will be delivered completely online. Progress will be monitored by certified Lawrence County teachers. Students are expected to log into programs daily and will be required to return to campus if expected learning goals are not met. High school students will have their assessments administered at a blended campus or monitored by a computer proxy.

8. What does blended learning environment mean?

The blended learning environment means a mixture between the traditional school setting and virtual school. That is, some instruction will occur face to face, and some instruction will be delivered online.

K through 8th Grade

The blended program for K through 8th grade students will require students to be on campus two days per week for approximately 2 ½ hours each day. Generally, students will come on Mondays and Wednesdays or Tuesdays and Thursdays. Students may choose to attend on Friday for extra instruction. The teacher may also require attendance if extra instruction is needed. Students are eligible to participate in athletics and clubs/organizations.

9th through 12th Grade

High school students who choose the blended option may take virtual classes and also take classes on campus. Parental consent will be necessary for students to arrive and leave campus outside of normal school hours. At the proper times, students will participate in all state assessments on campus at their designated school. Again, students are eligible to participate in athletics and clubs/organizations.

9. What does a child do who is in a blended setting and has 7th period athletics every day?

Parents will be responsible for transportation, and transportation will need to be provided for the student to return to campus when it is time for athletics to start. If a student is taking classes during the afternoons, and this student has 7th period athletics, the student would go to their 7th period class just as in the traditional setting. In other words, if a student has early classes, then he/she should leave and return later for athletics.

10. If we decide to do virtual or blended and it doesn't work out for us, can I change my mind?

Absolutely. We understand needs change. Parents and students will be able to transition back and forth between programs as needed.

11. Will the teachers that students will be interacting with online be local teachers or someone from another state?

The teachers who will be interacting with students in the virtual and blended classrooms will be Lawrence County teachers. More than likely, they will be a teacher from the student's home school. We are trying to pick the most innovative and tech savvy teachers we have.

12. If students go to the blended school, will they attend with older kids or kids their age and grade?

Generally, students will be with students their own age. Students from different grades might be present, but there will not be a vast difference. For example, we will likely have students from kindergarten and first grade at the same time. Students will not be grouped with students who are vastly older or younger.

Our goal is to have all students of one grade level come at the same time. We may not be able to completely meet this goal since we will also be trying to meet parent schedule needs.

13. Will a teacher be periodically monitoring students if they choose virtual school?

Teachers will be checking regularly on them. Our goal is for interaction to happen multiple times each week. We want to ensure students understand the content and lessons.

14. Will our blended school be at our local school? Or a different location?

Our original plan was to have the blended school at a different location. Judging by the response we have received, it will likely be at a student's home school. If this is the case, elementary blended school students will arrive and depart at different times than traditional school students. Elementary blended school students will rarely interact with traditional school students if the blended school program is housed on a school campus.

We are also working to establish blended school programs away from home schools for those who are medically fragile, are high risk, or have family members who may be high risk. Many blended school decisions are based on attendance numbers, and they cannot be determined until more is known.

15. Will blended and virtual school students be allowed to participate in athletics?

Yes. Blended school and virtual school students will have the same athletic opportunities as traditional school students. As always, we will operate under guidance from the AHSAA.

16. Will blended school students receive lunch?

Our plans are for elementary blended school students to meet 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM or from 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM a couple of times each week. These times will allow us to offer lunch to the morning and afternoon sessions.

17. What days/times will blended school meet?

Our plans are for elementary blended school students to meet 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. or from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. a couple of times each week. These times may differ slightly depending on school size and demand.

For grades 9-12, blended students will report only to the classes they choose to take on campus. They will report to these classes at their designated times/dates as determined by each high school.

18. Will virtual school be live classes with a teacher at a specific time?

No. All virtual classes will have instruction delivered through an online learning management system. Students will work at their own pace, but they will also be expected to keep up with the pace of the class. However, virtual school students will have access to a

regular classroom teacher. This classroom teacher will also monitor instruction and provide extra help if needed.

19. Will IEPs have to be re-written?

Yes. If a student with an IEP chooses to participate in the blended school or virtual school, a change of placement meeting will have to occur. However, the main content of the IEP should not change.

20. What would be the process to change to a different option?

If a student wishes to transition to a different school setting, the student's parents will need to contact the school principal and/or counselor. We understand this school year will be much different than past school years. If a student wishes to change settings, we will try to make this change happen in a timely manner. We will stress health, safety, and academic instruction in these changes.