



## **Return to Learn 2020 Frequently Asked Questions**

### **How will FSSD determine which scenario or schedule to use?**

Our goal is always to have students in school who are attending according to a traditional schedule when possible. Keeping our school learning environments healthy and safe is our top priority. We recognize that any alternate schedule or school closures have a significant impact on our students, staff and families.

However, the decision to shift to an alternate schedule or close FSSD schools may need to be made to prevent further spread of COVID-19 or in response to high absenteeism among students and/or staff. The director of schools will make closure decisions in consultation with the FSSD Leadership Team, the Williamson County Health Department (WCHD) and local public health organizations, CDC recommendations, as well as other school district leaders in our region.

Possible School Closure Trigger Points:

- Student and/or staff absenteeism
- Spread of COVID-19 in the community
- Confirmed case(s) of COVID-19 in one or more schools

### **What will be the biggest changes to in-person school in the fall?**

In order to reopen our schools, we will be implementing some new procedures for safety and health. These procedures will impact how we live, learn and work together in the school building.

Based on guidance from health officials and feedback from parents and staff, these new procedures have been built around the following priorities:

- K-8 students and FSSD staff wearing cloth face coverings at school and on the bus
- Increased cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces throughout the day
- Monitoring symptoms and temperatures at home before attending school
- Going through screening and temperature checks upon arrival to school
- Maintaining social distancing whenever possible; keeping students in small groups and limiting the mixing of groups; coordinated movement throughout the building
- Hand hygiene practices and education, including scheduled time for frequent hand washing and access to hand sanitizer throughout the building and on the bus
- Increased circulation of outdoor air when possible
- Rearranging furniture to allow for social distancing whenever possible
- Cleaning buses between routes, opening bus windows to increase air circulation, encouraging parents to drive children to/from school if possible
- Adjusting large events, activities and gatherings for social distancing
- Limiting the presence of visitors in FSSD buildings

The two most important strategies to reduce risk and exposure are:

- Maintaining social distancing between yourself and others
- Wearing a face covering

Building these important habits into our routines will be our greatest opportunity to build and maintain a healthy community for our students and staff.

### **What will social distancing look like at school?**

In the classroom, seating will allow for social distancing. Non-essential furniture will be removed to allow for extra space and seating will be rearranged. Classrooms with group tables will be modified to allow appropriate distancing of students. Your school will communicate additional details.

Extra care will be taken to keep students' belongings separated. Frequently touched items will be cleaned regularly. Additionally, the sharing of materials such as school supplies, electronic devices, books, toys and equipment will be avoided.

### **Will FSSD provide adequate supplies to support health and safety precautions?**

Yes. FSSD has ordered and will regularly replenish sanitation equipment for protection against COVID-19. These supplies include (but are not limited to) cloth face coverings for staff, disposable face masks, personal protective equipment (PPE) for nurses, face

shields, disposable gowns, disinfectant and cleaning supplies for classrooms, hand sanitizer, infrared thermometers, disposable gloves, and signage to communicate safety procedures and precautions.

### **What happens if a student or staff member who has attended school is diagnosed with COVID-19?**

Parents and staff will be notified immediately if they have had close contact with anyone who is diagnosed with COVID-19. HIPAA guidelines will be followed to maintain confidentiality as well as the guidance of public health authorities in making decisions to close classrooms or schools, or to quarantine specific groups of students or staff.

All reports of a positive COVID-19 case, whether self-reported or reported to the district by the local Health Department, will be directed to the designated school/building COVID-19 Response Coordinator. The School/Building COVID-19 Response Coordinator will promptly notify the District COVID-19 Response Coordinators (District Safety Supervisor and District Nurse) of a positive case in schools. The FSSD Response Coordinators will notify the Williamson County Health Department (WCHD), school principal, and the Director of Schools.

All areas of the building that were impacted by the positive case will be closed and remain closed until sanitization, per CDC guidelines, is completed. The need to close a school or building for contact tracing, sanitization purposes, or due to multiple reported cases within a school will be determined by the Director of Schools in collaboration with local public health officials. Students or staff who are quarantined due to a positive test or due to a known exposure will be provided with information of available resources they may need during quarantine. FSSD Coordinator of School Health and the district social workers will be available to direct families to resources during the quarantine period.

### **Will students or staff who have been in contact with a person who has tested positive need to quarantine? Will the school/classroom close?**

We will be in close consultation with the Williamson County Health Department to make decisions about the need for individuals or groups of people to be quarantined or tested for COVID-19, depending on the exposure. The FSSD Health Services team will take responsibility for surveillance and follow-up with parents and staff.

Our response and subsequent immediate action steps will be dependent on the situation. For example, the Health Department might recommend a school closure for 2-5 days for cleaning, or they might recommend quarantine for 14 days for a small group of people who had close contact with an infected person. Close contact is

defined by health officials as an individual who has been within six feet of an infected person for more than 10 minutes of time (cumulative).

### **What health screenings are in place for students, staff and visitors?**

Staff are required to complete a daily health screening prior to coming to work. A screening station is also on site for temperature checks.

Parents are asked to monitor their child(ren) before they leave for school. We ask that parents check them for **fever, a sense of having a fever, chills, a cough, sore throat, headache, new loss of smell or taste, or new muscle aches**. Not all children who have COVID-19 will have a fever, so parents should check their children closely for any of the other symptoms.

Anyone, staff or student, with a fever of **100° F** or higher should not attend school.

If any of the COVID-19 symptoms occur, please take the following actions:

- Keep your child at home
- Call your child's school to report the symptoms your child is experiencing
- Call your child's health care provider for advice on managing the illness

We will take students' temperatures when they arrive at school with a non-contact thermometer. Students who have a temperature of 100F or greater will be supervised in a designated room where their temperature will be taken again with an ear or oral thermometer. Anyone who fails to meet the screening criteria or has a temperature reading of 100F or greater will not be allowed to enter the building or participate in any activities or meetings on campus. Students who do not pass the second screening process will be supervised in a designated room until a parent/guardian can pick them up. Parents/guardians should plan in advance for a designee to pick up children if needed. Children who do not pass the screenings must be picked up promptly (within the hour).

Visitors who do not pass the initial screening will be asked to leave the campus, and staff members who do not pass the initial screening should notify their supervisor or program director. To minimize potential exposure, only authorized visitors are allowed entrance past the front office. School staff will receive students at screening stations to prevent unnecessary adult entry into the building. Visitors are restricted from entering the building during the school day unless the visit is deemed essential. Your temperature will be checked if you are planning to stay on campus. If you are not

staying on campus and are just making deliveries or pick-ups, you will not require a temperature screening.

**How much notice will be given if FSSD moves to a different schedule (ie Level 2 or all virtual?)**

These decisions will be made based upon guidance from the Williamson County Health Department and take into consideration a number of factors, such as community spread, absenteeism of staff and students and clustering data. We will provide as much notice as possible while ensuring that safety is the first priority; however, this may require an emergency shift in schedules. When the district must move to a shift in learning scenarios, all stakeholders will be notified as soon as possible.

**Will recess be available?**

Yes! Outdoor physical activity is very important for students. We will be encouraging students to engage in physical activity that allows for physical distancing while playing outside.

**Will the playgrounds be open? Will all students go to recess at different times?**

Yes, our playgrounds will be open for students to use during recess and we will be encouraging opportunities for students to go outside. It will be necessary to coordinate groups of students on the playground in order to maintain social distancing whenever possible. Students will be instructed to wash their hands after recess.

**Will students need to wear masks while outside?**

When social distancing is possible, students will not be required to wear a mask outdoors. When students are interacting closely with others, face coverings will be required. FSSD staff members will direct students when a face covering is not needed.

**What are the plans for bus transportation?**

All school bus drivers have been instructed to stay home if they don't feel well or exhibit symptoms of COVID-19. All drivers will receive daily temperature screenings. Any driver with a fever will be referred for further screening, and an auxiliary driver will be assigned to that route. All drivers will be issued cloth / disposable face coverings and are required to wear them for the duration of each run. As part of their back-to-school professional learning, Transportation Team members will receive training on COVID-19 protocols such as enhanced cleaning procedures, recognizing signs of illness, and health privacy concerns.

Student riders will be expected to use hand sanitizer each time they board the bus. Hand sanitizer dispensers will be available on each bus. All riders will be required to wear a face covering for the duration of their bus ride. This requirement may be modified as developmentally appropriate. Students will be expected to provide their own face covering. Students will be assigned to no more than two riders per seat. All riders will be expected to follow all guidance and directions from their bus drivers, especially as it relates to assigned seating and physical distancing requirements. Siblings and members of the same immediate household will be directed to share a seat. Willful failure to abide by any of these guidelines may result in the suspension of bus privileges.

Parents and guardians are asked to reiterate the importance of these safety measures to their children. Parents and guardians are asked, when it is feasible and reasonable, to decrease the school bus load by driving their children to school and picking them up in the afternoon.

All active buses will receive sanitization on a daily basis, including high-touch surfaces after each route, using CDC/EPA registered sanitization products specifically approved for use against coronavirus.

### **How will school arrival and dismissal look with more families driving to school?**

School arrival and departure times will remain the same. Arrival and dismissal can provide a challenge with large numbers of students congregating, making it difficult to physically distance. Therefore, schools will communicate a plan that allows for multiple entrances and assembly prior to the first bell that are safe for students during arrival and dismissal.

### **What can I do to help minimize the risk for my children on the bus?**

Every student should wash their hands before getting to the bus stop in the morning and afternoon. Hand sanitizer will also be available on school buses. Please ensure your child has a cloth face covering.

### **What will athletics and activities look like this year?**

Sports may continue or resume at the discretion of state guidelines and/or conference requirements. Programs will be offered when FSSD is open in either Level 1 or Level 2 scenarios and when conference officials determine a sport is open.

Clubs and fine arts groups may continue or resume when safety and social distancing protocols can be implemented.

**What health precautions will be in place for athletics and activities?**

Face coverings and social distancing will be expected. Additionally, a thorough screening will take place prior to activities.

**Will spectators be allowed at athletic events?**

Yes. Spectators will be allowed while following FSSD guidelines, including being screened, practicing proper social distancing and wearing a face covering.

**If a student athlete or coach tests positive for COVID-19, will activities be canceled or postponed?**

If a potential COVID-19 exposure is identified, FSSD COVID Response Coordinators will consult with the Williamson County Health Department to determine next steps, which will likely include cancelation of practices and games for a period of time. Families and coaches will be notified of any potential exposure.

**Will MAC be open?**

Yes. MAC will be open when FSSD is open on a full or part-time schedule. MAC will follow the same health protocols as the schools to promote safe practices. MAC will communicate additional information with families.

**Will FSSD allow visitors and volunteers at school this year?**

Nonessential visitors and volunteers will have restricted access to our buildings this year. Plans may vary during the school year, depending on the level of community spread illness. Visitors will be required to wear a mask and to complete a health screening questionnaire.

Parents/guardians who come to school to drop off or pick up a student will not enter past the school reception area. Each school will communicate the specific procedure for this process.

**Will schools be closed on election day this year?**

Yes. FSSD schools will be closed to students on November 3. Schools that are used as polling places will be cleaned and sanitized before school starts the next day.

### **Are adjustments being made to ventilation in classrooms?**

Prior to student and staff occupancy, the HVAC systems in all facilities will be inspected for air quality, including the installation of new filters where applicable. Improvements to climate control systems, and operational schedules will be implemented to minimize transmission. This will include pre-occupancy flushing and air exchanges, consistent ventilation and temperature settings during occupancy, and post-occupancy flushing.

### **Will students have more outdoor activities and learning?**

Teachers are encouraged to use frequent outdoor activities and learning to the degree possible.

### **Will my child be provided a device for use at school and/or at home?**

FSSD will provide students with one-to-one access to devices for the 2020-21 school year to support learning.

- Students in K-2 will have 1:1 Chrome Tablets in the classroom. The devices will be sent home with these students in the event of alternate schedules or virtual learning.
- Students in grades 3-8 will have 1:1 Chromebooks they can take to and from school.
- Students enrolled in FSSD Virtual Learning full-time will receive a Chrome Tablet (preK-2) or Chromebook (3-8) for use at home.

### **If parents need access to reliable internet, how will this be supported?**

FSSD is committed to providing an internet connectivity plan for all students. Schools will contact families during the first week of school to ensure they have internet connectivity. Schools will work with families that need support in this area.

### **How will technology, devices and/or internet access be supported when children are learning at home?**

The first step when families run into technology related problems at home is to let the child's teacher know. The teacher will facilitate communication with a technology integration specialist or the FSSD Technology Department to troubleshoot the issue.

### **How will breakfast and lunch be conducted?**

Schools will identify spaces for students to eat while maintaining social distancing. Some students may eat in locations that are not in the cafeteria. Each school will communicate specific details.

Many items purchased at school will be pre-packaged to expedite the lunch line and to provide less handling of food. We will share more information on meals and menus in the coming weeks.

### **Will meals be provided to students on the Virtual Learning plan at home?**

Students enrolled in the Virtual Learning plan at home may come to a designated school site to pick up lunch to eat at home. If a student is on the free and reduced price meal program, that will be honored; however, those forms need to be completed annually. Free and reduced meal forms are available in Skyward. We will continue to share information on which sites are designated pick up sites for virtual learners.

### **How will lunch time be handled for students with food allergies?**

Schools will identify students who need special accommodations due to food allergies and will work to ensure that each student has their own dedicated space for eating (either in the classroom, cafeteria, or other location), and surfaces will be cleaned after each use.

### **Will specials and electives be offered for In-Person Learning? Are there any courses that cannot be offered?**

Elementary students will participate in art, music and physical education with modifications to maximize health and safety for students and staff.

The majority of middle school elective courses will continue to be offered. Some classes will be modified based on our need to maintain social distancing and sanitization practices. A small number of courses, including choir and band, are still under review to determine whether they can be offered while following health and safety recommendations.

### **Can I change my child's learning plan in the middle of the semester?**

You may change your child's learning plan only at the end of a semester. Teachers and staff are assigned based on student enrollment in each learning plan. Changes in enrollment mid-semester could adversely affect students by causing a shortage of staff

in a given area (either in a school or in the Virtual Learning plan). For this reason, your choice must remain in effect for the duration of a semester.

**If my child is sick or quarantined at home, will they move to all virtual until they can return?**

If a child is ill for an extended period the parent or guardian should work with the school principal to determine if moving to Virtual Learning is the best option for the child at that time. If the principal and parent agree that it would be in the interest of the child to do so, they will be enrolled at that time and they will not have to wait until the end of a semester.

Typically a child will continue to learn remotely from home, remaining under the supervision of his/her in-person classroom teacher.

**I am concerned about the amount of screen time for my child. How will this be addressed?**

State Board policy requires 6.5 hours of direct instruction for students (grades 1-8) in the Virtual Learning plan and 4 hours of direct instruction for kindergarten. Because we also are concerned about screen time for students, we will implement measures to limit their screen time.

While there is scheduled time dedicated for particular learning, that does not mean students will always be on their device the entire time. Teachers will provide both real time (eg, Zoom) and recorded learning opportunities for students (via Google Classroom), and lessons will include whole class, individual, and small group work.

**What kind of schedule can students expect when learning in FSSD Virtual Learning?**

Unlike the emergency shift to remote learning in the spring, students attending FSSD Virtual Learning will follow a defined schedule with more live instruction, interaction with teachers and classmates, and a variety of learning experiences.

FSSD Virtual Learning utilizes both real-time (synchronous) and pre-recorded (asynchronous) learning. These terms are widely used in education, but may be new for many students and parents.

When learning is synchronous, all students are learning together doing the same thing at the same time. Think synchronized swimming when the team is all together. This can include live video conferencing, chatting, and live streaming lessons. Live instruction from teachers will be recorded for students to view at a later time, but the class

progresses as a group at a pace set by the teacher.

Asynchronous learning happens when teachers and students are doing work at different times. During asynchronous learning, teachers provide lessons, assignments, activities, etc., that students will be required to complete at their own pace on their own time. Asynchronous learning permits more independent learning at times most convenient for the student to complete assignments, homework, etc.

Please refer to the sample schedules in the Return to Learn 2020 plan (p. 27-28). The State Board of Education requires 6.5 hours of daily instruction for students in grade 1-8 and 4 hours of daily instruction for students in kindergarten. Instructional delivery will vary by grade level and subject area. Virtual teachers will be required to contact each student a minimum of three times per week through virtual meetings, assignment feedback and phone calls, as needed.

### **Can families move back and forth between FSSD Virtual Learning and other FSSD schools?**

You may change your child's learning plan only at the end of a semester. We make staff assignments based on student enrollment in each learning plan. If the enrollment changed during the semester in any learning plan, it could adversely affect our carefully planned distribution of staff. For this reason, your choice must remain in effect for the duration of a semester.

### **Will students who enroll in FSSD Virtual Learning be on their computer all day?**

No. While virtual classes have scheduled time, students will not need to be on their computer for the entire school day. Teachers will provide both real-time (synchronous) and pre-recorded (asynchronous) learning opportunities for students, including whole class, individual and small group work. Example schedules are included in the Return to Learn 2020 plan.

### **Can FSSD Virtual Learning students participate in athletics and activities at their home school?**

Yes. Students who choose FSSD Virtual Learning also will be enrolled at their home school, allowing them to participate in athletics and activities there.

### **Can students who have an IEP or 504 enroll in FSSD Virtual Learning?**

Yes. Once parents choose the Virtual Learning option for their child, school teams will meet to review the student's IEP to determine how to provide services virtually. A plan

then will be created to implement the student's services to the maximum extent possible.

**Will students in the FSSD Virtual Learning have access to a counselor or other related support?**

Yes.

**How will teachers manage grading in FSSD Virtual Learning?**

As with all courses in FSSD, teachers will use the Skyward gradebook to keep track of student grades, and parents will be provided information on accessing the gradebook to view their child's progress through Family Access in Skyward. Students will take assessments, receive grades and have other evidence of their learning reported as grades. Final course grades will be posted to Skyward for inclusion in student transcripts.

Elementary students enrolled in FSSD Virtual Learning will receive progress reports at the same time as students enrolled in other learning plans.

**What platform will we use to deliver instruction in FSSD Virtual Learning?**

FSSD Virtual Learning teachers will use Zoom and Google Classroom through the Clever learning management system to engage students with their content and learning activities. Other technology tools will be utilized, but Google Classroom will be the hub for all instruction for students.

**Will attendance be taken in FSSD Virtual Learning?**

Yes, each school will take attendance daily. Teachers will take attendance for each virtual class using a variety of metrics. The district will issue procedures for how attendance will be entered into Skyward upon receiving guidance from the Tennessee Department of Education.

**What is the parent's role in monitoring: work, attendance, engagement, assessment?**

Parents will be required to:

- provide an academically appropriate environment, including a quiet, clean space for daily study.

- monitor student progress daily by checking my child's academic work, new learnings, successes, and concerns.
- be involved with my child's progress and mastery of the academic standards through Google Classroom, district-supported digital resources, and/or conversations with the teacher.
- help with course navigation or technology, including being available to help my child with logging on, finding materials, following instructions, etc.
- provide appropriate internet access to fulfill virtual commitments in the agreement.

### **What kind of professional development have teachers been offered in preparation for Virtual Learning?**

Since the closure last spring the FSSD has been dedicated to development in virtual learning. This included hundreds of learning sessions taught by dozens of incredible educators. Over the summer, FSSD professional learning focused on the following areas:

- Building an online community of learners
- Best practices in synchronous (live) online learning
- Best practices in asynchronous online learning
- High quality feedback and assessment in an online space
- Leveraging FSSD's online tools

Professional learning around virtual learning for teachers will continue throughout the school year.

### **What curriculum will be used in FSSD Virtual Campus?**

FSSD Virtual Learning will deliver the state curriculum in an online format with the same learning goals and outcomes as in-person courses.

### **How will grading be handled for each learning plan and learning schedule?**

Grading and expectations will be the same regardless of the learning option families choose and will stay consistent even if we have to move between plans.

### **Will the curriculum be the same for each learning experience?**

Yes. Curriculum goals, outcomes for students, grading and student expectations will remain the same, regardless of which option families choose or which scenario FSSD implements.

### **At the end of the semester, if a family decides to transition from the Virtual Learning program to In-Person Learning, what would be involved?**

The Virtual Learners will follow the same pacing and curriculum as the in-person students, which will allow for a consistent reintegration in January. Upon reintegration to the In-Person Learning environment, children will be assigned to a classroom teacher at his/her zoned school based on the principal's discretion and class size.

### **Why should students and staff wear a cloth face covering at school?**

In order to maximize the health and safety of all, staff, students and visitors will wear cloth face coverings at school. The decision to implement mask-wearing includes the following benefits for both children and adults in our schools:

- Wearing face coverings limits the spread of illness, allowing students to be in school and helps keep our schools open. This will help meet our goal to provide maximum in-person learning and schedules in the traditional classroom.
- Wearing of cloth face coverings is consistent with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).
- FSSD is committed to caring for all students and staff as part of our mission. We show care for others when we wear our face coverings at school. Wearing a face covering helps protect our classmates and teachers/staff who are more at-risk. Wearing face coverings allows everyone to participate in school.
- Wearing face coverings offers an added layer of protection when young students, who are developmentally drawn to each other, do not maintain social distancing recommendations. Children will be able to play together in a more age-appropriate way with this added insurance.

Mask breaks can be provided by supervising staff when the opportunity exists, such as outside, inside during lunch, or inside when children can be appropriately distanced.

### **What if a student or staff member is unable to wear a cloth face covering?**

We recognize that some students and staff will be unable to wear a cloth face covering due to medical conditions, social-emotional needs and/or when the risk of wearing a mask would outweigh the benefit. We will work with students to educate them on the benefits and proper wearing of masks and/or develop a safe alternative when needed and possible.

### **How often should cloth face coverings be cleaned?**

Cloth face coverings should be cleaned at home after use each day.

## **What will be done to address the social and emotional needs of students at school and at home?**

Now, more than ever, FSSD understands that students will need emotional and social support to manage the challenges that life brings. We know that students have come to us with diverse experiences and therefore have unique needs. To that end, we are prepared to provide various layers of support in the following ways.

We have partnered with a range of professional organizations in order to gain a deeper understanding of trauma informed care. All staff members will have access to training modules on this topic before and during the school year.

School counselors will continue to support all students through the counseling curriculum by providing classroom lessons. They also are available for one-on-one or small group sessions for students, as they normally are. If you suspect your student is struggling and needs additional help outside of school, our counselors can make referrals to outside agencies and are a good first step in getting additional support for your child. Families will receive mental health tips from the school district via weekly/monthly communications.

School social workers will be available to help students and families with accessing basic needs that may have been disrupted during the pandemic. They can help with access to food, clothing, shelter, transportation and school supplies. Additionally, they are available to make home visits if necessary.

District counselors are available to students. They will continue to run various student groups, one-on-one and small group sessions.

## **How will students with special needs, IEPs and 504s receive support?**

Students identified as having a disability under IDEA will be provided with the necessary accommodations and modifications to ensure they can access a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE), regardless of the manner in which the education is being delivered. Special education services, including social-emotional supports, included in a student's IEP will be provided to the maximum extent possible.

Students identified as having a disability under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act will be provided with the necessary accommodations and supports to ensure they have equal opportunity to access and benefit from public education services, regardless of the manner in which the education is being delivered. The 504 plan may be implemented as written in a virtual environment. Adaptations to the 504 plan accommodations/supports will be done as needed when a 504 team member (teacher,

parent, student, etc.) alerts the 504 case manager to concerns with the student's disability symptoms impacting their ability to access and/or benefit from the public education offerings.