

# **Wakulla Innovative Education: A Distance Learning Program**

## **Superintendent Pearce Outlines Safely Reopening Schools and Distance Learning Plan**

On Monday, during an open School Board Meeting adhering to CDC guidelines, Superintendent Bobby Pearce presented his School Reopening Plan.

This plan was developed considering ever-changing circumstances and guidance from community health partners and safety and risk management professionals. It is a dynamic plan which we will modify when the need arises. The reopening plan and safety guidelines are available on the district website at [wakullaschooldistrict.org](http://wakullaschooldistrict.org). The plan includes information about what returning to school will look like and what protocols are in place for student safety while reopening during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our district has created this parent guide which outlines the district educational options families can choose from for the 2020-2021 school year: Traditional Classroom Instruction at their school's site and distance learning through Wakulla's Innovative Educational Approach program. The new Wakulla Innovative Educational Approach program is focused on remote learning for K-12 students. The information below can all be found in the School Reopening Plan.

**Note: The deadline for the Distance Learning Agreement, which allows you to choose the Wakulla Innovative Educational Approach distance learning program, has been scheduled for August 13th. If not received on or prior to the 13<sup>th</sup> students will be enrolled in their brick or mortar school site.**

## **ALL ABOUT DISTANCE LEARNING**

### **A Distance Learning Overview: The Wakulla Innovative Educational Approach**

- Distance Learning students will be placed in Wakulla County's Innovative Education program upon receipt of the distance learning agreement and will maintain enrollment in their brick and mortar schools;
- Distance Learning students will attend school online following Wakulla County Schools weekly pacing, they will follow a standard school schedule and will use their school site as a touch stone, they may participate in school extracurricular and co-curricular events.
- Teachers will teach asynchronously with students utilizing the district learning management system Canvas;

- Students are asked to commit to completion of one full semester and can return to their school campus second semester if they choose, or if they are not demonstrating adequate progress virtually;
- Electronic devices will be available for students by contacting the Wakulla County Schools District Office, if needed.
- Distance Learning courses will be designed to ensure standards and pacing matches the traditional classroom setting;
- The course offerings will cover those required for student progression with limited elective offerings, it is possible more offerings will follow second semester.
- Courses will be taught by employees of Wakulla County Schools.

## **What's Expected of Students Who Choose Distance Learning**

- All students will be expected to complete and submit assignments as determined by the assigned teacher;
- All students will follow the assessment calendar and participate in all local and state assessments;
- Each week, students are expected to complete course content and engage in innovative instruction within the designated schedule and pacing that matches instruction delivered in the classroom;
- All students will be expected to demonstrate responsible attendance, log in, and attend to class content and assignments;
- Students will access their curriculum and assignments via the Canvas Learning Management System;
- Students will utilize Microsoft Teams for viewing any teacher scheduled live-lessons, meetings, or small group instruction.  
Parents are expected to serve as the learning coach and to facilitate the learning schedule;
- Typically, elementary students require daily guidance from their parent or guardian, while middle and high school students need guidance on a weekly basis;

## **Some Considerations for Parents of Distance Learning Students**

- Make sure your student understands the expectations for Distance Learning;
- Maintain a daily routine around school and schoolwork;
- Keep in touch with teacher(s) on a regular basis and let them know if your child is experiencing specific challenges;
- Do check-ins with your child regarding academics. This includes checking their Canvas course to ensure the option chosen for your child is appropriate;
- Seek assistance from school staff for emotional or mental health if needed.

# **TRADITIONAL (FACE-TO-FACE) INSTRUCTIONAL DELIVERY**

## **Traditional (Face-to-Face) Classroom Overview**

- Utilize district adopted curriculum with lessons developed and taught by classroom teachers;
- Student will remain enrolled in their 2020-2021 assigned school and keep their school choice seat;
- Traditional, in-person, face-to-face instruction for grades PK-12 learning following the student schedule and student calendar and bell times;
- Follow and adhere to all 2020-2021 WCSB school building health and safety protocols and Code of Student Conduct.

## **What's Expected of Students Who Choose Traditional Learning**

- Students will physically come to their school for their learning;
- Assignments, activities and classroom-based assessments will be developed and conducted by their teachers;
- Code of Student Conduct and traditional school expectations remain in effect;
- All students will follow the assessment calendar and participate in all local and state assessments;
- Students and families must observe wellness protocol to ensure students are healthy and symptom-free prior to coming to school each day;
- Collaborative activities may look different or be lessened to ensure the safety and well-being of the school community;
- Classroom spaces will be arranged to maximize social distancing and minimize any shared items;
- Lunch schedules will be modified to maximize social distancing, Elementary Schools will participate in lunch by classroom, Middle and High Schools will move to three scheduled lunches;
- Large group gatherings will be reduced;
- Parent meetings and/or conferences will be scheduled to occur virtually, until it is deemed appropriate to have larger number of individuals on campus.

# **EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION FOR SCHOOL REOPENING**

Exceptional education students will continue to receive a high-quality education in alignment with a learner's Individual Educational Plans (IEPs). The Wakulla County School Board Department of Exceptional Student Education is committed to addressing the individual needs of students with disabilities (SWD).

Our district will provide training, resources and tools to support IEP teams in determining the needed services.

For families choosing Distance Learning, the IEP team will meet to ensure that the district's online program is individualized for each student in the Distance Learning environment. Special education and related services as identified in the IEP during Distance Learning 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.

## **Our district will take the following actions to ensure the needs of our ESE students are addressed:**

- Teachers and administrators will review a student's baseline data in order to determine present level and learning gaps;
- Educators will review student's progression toward IEP goals and objectives;
- Determine any need for additional supports or services to remediate gaps;
- Ensure delivery of services and supports through extended learning opportunities as necessary;
- Progress monitoring assessments may be conducted utilizing diagnostic assessments and curriculum-based measures;
- Schedule and hold all meetings and complete all evaluations that were postponed due to requirements of social distancing for in-person meetings;
- Provide ongoing communication and collaboration with parents;
- Hold IEP team meetings, including parents and all appropriate IEP team members to conduct annual reviews, revisions and eligibility staffing. These may take place utilizing Microsoft Teams or telephone conference calls. Teams may meet in-person if CDC guidelines allow;