



WCS Reopening Framework FAQ: Classroom and Facilities

Will the desks in the classrooms be rearranged to support social distancing?

Yes. Student furniture will be moved so that all students are facing the same direction and are socially distanced as much as possible.

Will furniture be removed from the classrooms?

Yes. Unnecessary or excess furniture will be removed to create more room for social distancing and to reduce the daily cleaning requirements.

Will rugs be allowed in classrooms?

Students will be discouraged from gathering on rugs in the classroom.

Will my child be sharing supplies with other students?

Students will not be sharing materials/equipment without sanitation.

Will my child stay in the same class or class group all day?

Elementary classes will be able to stay in the same group and classroom for most of the day. Middle and high school students will follow their regular class schedule.

Are we adequately staffed and able to have school if teachers become sick? Do we need substitutes?

Yes, our staffing has remained the same as previous years but we are always looking for teachers and substitute teachers.



How are we supporting our staff members?

Staff members were surveyed on their level of comfort in returning to campus. Those who are uncomfortable will be part of our Online Learning Program. Additionally, we spoke often with the Williamson County Association and heard from teachers while developing our plan.

Has the requirement for schools to conduct fire drills been suspended for the COVID-19 Pandemic?

No, but the State Fire Marshall's Office has directed that social distancing should be observed during fire drills.

Is there going to be signage inside the schools directing traffic flow and encouraging good hygiene?

Yes. Each school has developed their plan for student flow through the building as much as feasible. The wearing of cloth face coverings is a significant mitigation measure in areas where flow path options are limited in our buildings. Links to CDC prepared signage options for cloth face coverings and other good hygiene practices have been provided to the schools.

I have noticed some plexiglass shields at the front office of my child's school. Will all schools have such shields?

Yes. While the supply of plexiglass has been scarce over the past three months, we have received some supplies and have placed such barriers in the front offices and have provided some to our special education programs for use when in close proximity of students. More barriers have been ordered. It is important to note that these plexiglass barriers are a supplement to cloth face coverings, not a replacement. Cloth face coverings should still be worn when conducting business in our front offices.

Has WCS considered plexiglass dividers between students in classrooms instead of students wearing masks? Face shields?

The Department of Health does not consider plexiglass alone to be as effective as masks. Face shields are not mentioned in the Department of Health guidelines.



What changes to ventilation systems are being put in place for COVID-19?

In consultation with our HVAC support contractor, we have been analyzing opportunities for increasing air flow in the schools as much as possible. We will be monitoring ventilation effectiveness by measuring CO2 levels, temperature and humidity levels and adjusting outside air intake as much as feasible. As we find opportunities to increase air flow, while not causing other humidity issues inside the schools, we will do so.

Does WCS have HEPA filters in the HVAC systems?

No. Putting HEPA filters into our HVAC systems is a much more involved process than just pulling out the old filter and putting in a HEPA filter. HVAC systems are designed for a certain air flow capacity. By design, a HEPA filter creates much more resistance to air flow in the system by nature of their high filtration rating. If the fan motors in the HVAC system have not been sized appropriately to push the air through a HEPA filter then you can get close to 50 percent reduction in air flow (or reduced ventilation), which presents issues in trying to keep the space temperature and relative humidity within limits. A solution for that is to increase the horsepower of the fan motor. But there may not be room for the larger HEPA filter package nor the larger motor in the HVAC unit, and the evaporator coil may not support the increased air flow. Such conversions would take detailed engineering design and installation work. It is not something that we can change quickly.

Has WCS looked at other filtration methods for the ventilation system?

Yes. With our HVAC support contractor, we have looked at bi-polar ionization and UVGI filtration systems. But like HEPA filters, neither one of those systems is something that we can change quickly. We have had good success in past flu outbreaks with the air filters we have been using which do have a biocide layer in them to deal with various impurities in the air.

Is there only recirculation of indoor air or is there some outside air in our ventilation systems?

All HVAC systems in WCS are code compliant with the proper amount of fresh outside air mixed into the classrooms with some recirculated air. All this air is filtered and conditioned (heated or cooled) before being supplied to the spaces.



Should my child's teacher prop open the fire exit door in the classroom to improve ventilation?

No. While propping an exterior door open may appear to provide more ventilation, it works against the code compliant HVAC system that is trying to maintain healthy temperature and humidity levels in the classroom.

Should my child's teacher open windows in the classroom to increase ventilation?

No. Most WCS classrooms do not have windows that open.

Can I provide a fan to my child's classroom to add more air flow circulation?

Yes, but it needs to pass an electrical inspection by our WCS Electricians to ensure it is electrically safe.

Have all assemblies and field trips been cancelled for this school year?

All elementary school field trips and assemblies have been cancelled. Middle and high schools will only be conducting essential field trips and assemblies where social distancing can be maintained.

Will outside groups be able to use our buildings if we are in Remote Learning mode?

No.