



WCS Reopening Framework FAQ: Online Learning Program

A glossary of terms can be found at the end of this document.

How do Online Learning students get assessed on their classwork?

Assessments online will be delivered through the teacher's chosen learning management system (Schoology or Edgenuity).

What can I expect for my child to receive or work on August 10?

On Monday, August 10, students taking classes through WCS Online should log on to their Chromebooks at the time school starts and access in Schoology the materials that have been provided as review materials for ELA and Math. Below are links to directions for each grade level. Students should complete Monday's work for the appropriate grade level or course for both ELA and Math.

- [Finding the WCS Online Subject Review Materials – Elementary School](#)
- [Finding the WCS Online Subject Review Materials – Middle School](#)
- [Finding the WCS Online Subject Review Materials - High School](#)

Why was the start for WCS Online suddenly delayed?

We underestimated the time it would take to do all the manual data entry to set schedules for WCS Online. When the deadline for commitment to WCS Online was extended to Sunday, July 26, that only gave staff 11 days to place students and teachers, create schedules, train teachers, and work through technology issues. Even then, we anticipated that we would have time to get that work done. However, the placement of over 6500 students with more than 500 teachers, most of whom were only teaching one class in addition to their traditional school schedule, took more time than we had initially anticipated.

Under normal circumstances at the high school level, building student schedules begins in March and continues through the summer months as adjustments are made. For transition to WCS Online, we also needed to restructure many on-campus high school sections to allow for teachers to be assigned particular online sections. This created a need to enter schedule changes for thousands of



students. In our system, each individual class assignment requires two manual entries: entering the class assignment and removal of the prior class assignment. More student schedules were revised than we anticipated, and each schedule entry and deletion has taken more time than we anticipated.

Once the schedules were set, we began the process of connecting the technology platforms, Skyward, Schoology, and Edgenuity (our outside provider we are using for many of our newly offered courses in grades 6-12). Many 6-12 online students are using an additional platform from Edgenuity that students learning remotely or traditionally are not. The process for connecting all of the platforms requires at least four days after students are scheduled. In addition, many teachers needed training on Edgenuity and this platform wasn't available until this week.

Again, while staff worked around the clock, we were not able to finalize all of the details necessary to for all schedules to be fully entered on Friday.

Why were families not notified until Thursday afternoon (August 6, 2020)?

We were still hopeful that we could start full student interaction with their assigned teachers on our first half day, but not all students and teachers have been assigned due to the volume of the data entry in our scheduling system. The time to get that work done was much more than we expected.

How does that impact the 180 days of instruction before state testing? How can the district choose for some kids to start and not others?

The State minimum school year is being met, and WCS had already added to our calendar 10 student stockpiled days above the minimum school year requirement. These are typically added for inclement weather. Those students on campus or remote will have the traditional unpredictability of school calendars based on weather, but WCS online will not have that unpredictability.

Also, State testing begins this year in WCS in April, about 6 weeks before the end of the school year.

I have heard that traditional students will be remote all semester. Is that true?

The traditional school program will be evaluated for a full return to campus with a decision by late next week. Our goal is for those students to be on campus as soon as possible. If a school has a case or cases of COVID, that school may go to remote without other schools in the district doing so. For example, a confirmed case of COVID led to the entire front office staff of Chapman's Retreat being



quarantined, so those students all began the school year remotely.

What can we as parents do to better support our children while they are taking classes through WCS Online? We want to make sure our students receive the same quality education as the traditional students.

Parents can help support their children while they are participating in WCS Online in many ways. The first would be helping children create a designated work area that is organized and free from distractions. Students will need a workspace that has room for their Chromebooks and school materials. They will benefit from having their school supplies nearby so that they can stay engaged in their schoolwork without having to spend time during the school day locating needed items. Parents could also help remind their children to charge their Chromebooks regularly. Students who are most successful in online learning follow a set schedule just as they would in a traditional school setting. Parents could help students in grades K-5 by setting timers or cuing students when it is time to move to the next section of their schedule. Parents could help students in grades 6-12 by determining a clear start and stop time for each class they are taking. Parents can also help their children be successful in online learning by monitoring their daily progress in their classes. Parents could ask students to show them the work they have completed and make a list of activities or assignments that still need to be completed. For parents who have a concern regarding their children's progress, we encourage parents to reach out to teachers just as they would in a traditional school setting.

Why is it that once you choose the online option there is no opportunity to change once the level of concern changes? What is the rationale behind this policy?

Teachers must be assigned to either WCS Online or on-campus. Every class has a mandatory maximum class size, and our annual staffing is based on those State requirements. Once a class is put together, whether online or on-campus, that teacher is committed to that class. WCS does not have the staffing to add additional teachers if some students were to move to the other program in the middle of a semester. For student success, we do our best to keep students and teachers together at least for the semester.



When do we have to decide if we want online or in-person instruction?

July 15 is the deadline to the Google Form to express your interest in the program to begin the conversation with your child's school. This initial request will connect you to the ongoing communications by your child's school for families interested in WCS Online Learning, but please note this is not your commitment to join the program for the fall semester. By completing the Google Form questionnaire, you are triggering a review of your child's fall schedule by your school team to determine if online learning is right for your child. It will also allow us to compile the list of classes and courses students in WCS want to take this fall through the expanded version of WCS Online Learning. We estimate it will take 1-2 weeks to fully evaluate every request at the school level, which is why we ask for the quick turnaround on interest. There are no additional actions needed by parents, and no additional steps to complete in Skyward, at this time.

Is there a certain type of student more likely to excel in Online Learning at the elementary level?

Students who are excited about learning and interested in the content tend to have a higher success rate. Could you provide a sample schedule for online classes?

Sample schedules are available on the [WCS Reopening Framework page](#). Students will work on the online platform daily with some scheduled sessions and some sessions giving students choice on when they are completed.

Will there be Zoom classes for the Online Learning Program? What is the structure for online classes?

There will be some Zoom sessions, but the primary instruction is delivered through an online learning management system with recorded instruction and interactive modules delivered by the teacher.

How many hours per day should the kids expect to be online? Can the kids do their online work any time of the day or are there certain times where they need to be online? Who can they ask for questions?

Each teacher will communicate when they will be available for live feedback and other communication will be through the learning management system. Teachers will also be available to answer questions.



Are all classes taught online, including Advanced Placement (AP), Honors and International Baccalaureate (IB)?

The district currently offers AP and Honors classes online, and expanded course offerings could include Honors and AP. The district does not currently offer IB courses through WCS Online Learning. We are evaluating the guidelines of the IB program so we can determine the availability to deliver these courses online.

What supplies are needed for the online classes?

Supplies are specific to the courses taken, but all required technology is provided by the district.

Will there be a proper separation for online Honors, AP and IB classes or will they be taught together?

Standard, Honors, and AP courses are taught separately, just as they are in a traditional classroom setting.

What if my kids choose to go back for in-person instruction in the spring?

WCS Online Learning ensures that the material is aligned to Tennessee standards, so the return to in-person instruction should be smooth. The district's Scope and Sequence is followed in online classes. However, it is not always covered in the same sequence. Teachers have the opportunity to move the content and personalize it as needed. If a student returns to in-person instruction and has not learned the material in the same sequence, they would receive personalized instruction to ensure they are caught up. Students taking a WCS Online Learning class for the fall will have a choice of continuing in WCS Online Learning for the spring or returning to their zoned school for classes. Students will be scheduled into the available seats of the same course based on availability.

What can parents of K – 5 grade students expect?

Students will not spend the entire day on a computer. There will be a set schedule, but students will not be on Zoom all day. Students will receive the same content they would if they were taking classes in a brick and mortar building. There will be a blend of video conferencing, independent work and virtual work. Students can expect homework, but they may have time to complete the work after each class instead of waiting until the end of the school day. It is important to know that the younger the student is, the more support they will require at home. Enrolling in WCS Online Learning is a full semester commitment.



What can parents of 6 – 12 grade students expect?

Students are committing to a full semester of WCS Online Learning. Middle school students will receive a schedule with subjects starting at a specific time during the day. High school students will take asynchronous courses and complete their work at their own pace. All students will have coursework, assignments and assessments pushed out through a learning management system. In addition, live sessions will allow students to interact with their teachers throughout the week. Students are not being asked to be at their computers all day. However, the work they are given and the instruction will be the equivalent to the hours required to complete a diploma.

What if my student is struggling with Online Learning?

WCS Online Learning has an existing system in place to work with students and ensure students are set up for success. Students will have the opportunity to work with their live instructors virtually and get help. Teachers will reach out to struggling students throughout the semester, though students are always able to contact their teachers. Students will also remain enrolled at their brick and mortar schools, so they will continue to have their counselors, assistant principals and principals as support. Additionally, each student will have a mentor at their building who will check in and keep them connected to the school community.

Who will teach my student?

The district's goal is to always have a WCS teacher instructing WCS Online Learning classes. These teachers are licensed in their subject areas. However, a student may not be assigned a teacher from their traditional school. In rare cases, such as a student requiring a class that does not have an available teacher or enough students enrolled, the district will be able to use a teacher from an outside educational institution. These teachers will be WCS-approved and licensed in Tennessee.

Can my student still receive specials or related arts classes?

Yes, although the selection may be limited. At the elementary level, students will still be able to take specials classes. At the secondary level, related arts courses and certain Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses will be offered through WCS Online Learning. However, not all art or CTE courses are available online, so it's important that parents and students work with their principal to make sure the student's schedule is covering the necessary courses.



Would the instruction all be given in the morning and then time given for independent work, or would they literally be online all day?

Students are not expected to be on their computers all day. Activities may initially be accessed online but ask the student to go complete a task in their homes.

For example, a first-grade student may start the day with a Zoom call from their teacher to begin the day's math lesson. The teacher will make sure the student understands the directions and then present the content. Students will then be given time to practice the lesson on their own and may be able to proceed to the assigned homework. For a related arts course, the student may meet virtually with an art teacher to introduce a lesson, understand the concept and complete the work. In some courses, teachers may be able to create breakout rooms with small groups as students would do in a traditional classroom. Depending on the number of students and the grade level, the teacher may or may not be the same throughout the entire day.

Will foreign language classes still be provided? Will there be resources for conversational aspects? Will the Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages (AAPPL) still take place?

The district will offer world languages online. This year, American Sign Language will be offered through WCS Online Learning in addition to Chinese. Students will not participate in the AAPPL test except under certain circumstances. Students will use audio recordings and video conferences to practice speaking their languages.

Are teachers creating their own materials?

Teachers will not be required to create their materials, but they can personalize the material. A teaching and learning team filled with professionals will collaborate in order to support and create materials for teachers and students.

Will social and emotional learning opportunities be provided?

Students will still have support from their school team and access to their counselors who will check in. The district wants to ensure that students do not feel isolated, so the same accommodations and support offered to students attending in-person will be offered to online students.

How do Online Learning students get assessed on their classwork?



Assessments online will happen through Schoology regardless of student's grade level.

Will online students be able to take the PSAT/ACT exams in the building?

Students may register to take these exams as they choose. Juniors and seniors will also be registered to take the scheduled ACT exams during the year with their peers.

Will I still receive communication from my zoned school even though my student is enrolled in WCS Online Learning?

Yes.

Will my student be able to participate in extracurricular activities?

Yes. Extracurricular activities are open to all students enrolled in WCS, including WCS Online Learning. Their participation would be at their zoned schools. For activities that take place during the school day, contact your principal to work out a schedule for your student. After-school activities, such as marching band, are open to all WCS Online Learning students. Students who participate in the activities will have a designated time to arrive at the school building.

What if I have unreliable Internet connectivity?

Families are able to check out hot spots as needed. These hot spots need cellular connectivity, so if that is an obstacle, please reach out to your school for additional options. All students will receive a Chromebook. Your school will communicate information about pickup times.

Is WCS Online Learning tutoring available?

Once evaluated, we can group students to provide live tutoring during certain days and times. WCS Online Learning teachers will also be available to help students and provide direct instruction and feedback.

Will parents be sent communication on classes and topics?

Yes, parents will receive a syllabus and overview of topics at the beginning of the year. Teachers will also send synopsis of each week and what to expect.



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The Reopening Framework contains the following terms that families will find helpful:

Chromebook – Chromebook is the device that will be distributed to each WCS student in grades K-12 prior to or at the beginning of the 2020-21 school year for use during the school year. The device will be used for on-campus, online and/or remote learning.

ClassLink – ClassLink is the district's Single Sign-On (SSO) Dashboard that is used by students and staff to access digital curriculum/resource sites. This eliminates the need for a user to remember multiple usernames and passwords.

Google Classroom - Google Classroom is the primary Learning Management System for elementary students. It may also be used at middle and high schools.

Learning Management System (LMS) – Learning Management System is a software application that is designed specifically to create, distribute and manage the delivery of educational content. Elementary students will use Google Classroom, and middle and high students will use Schoology.

On-campus School – On-campus refers to the traditional school schedule where classes are held each weekday on a school campus.

Online Learning or Online Program – Online refers to the WCS Online Program in place in WCS. Classes offered through this program are online only. Students do not attend class on-campus. The WCS Online Program is being expanded to all grades this year due to COVID-19, and parents not comfortable sending their child to school may register their child in the online program each semester in 2020-21.

Remote Learning or Remote School – Remote refers to the way instruction will take place if classes cannot be held on-campus. Students will use their assigned Chromebooks to engage with teachers and continue their learning until they can return to class on-campus.

Schoology – Schoology is the primary Learning Management System for middle and high school students.

Synchronous learning – Traditional learning with teacher and student interacting at the same time.

Asynchronous learning – A student and teacher are not interacting in real time.



For example: A teacher records their lesson at 8 a.m. but the student does not watch the video and learn until 3 p.m.