Secondary (Grades 6-12) Frequently Asked Questions for Parents

CPS VIRTUAL (Online) Option

Please Note: CPS Virtual differs from CPS Online. CPS Online is the program that has been in place for years. It includes courses that are self-paced and asynchronous. Students do not meet with a teacher online in this program.

Will my child have the option to come back to in-person if we choose CPS Virtual?
If a student selects the CPS Virtual option for 2020-2021, they can choose to come back in-person for the second semester.

If we choose the CPS Virtual option, will my child need to sign-up for new classes?
Students submitted course requests in the winter, and those will be used to determine their courses. There will be no need to submit new requests.

Will all the courses my child requested be taught online?
There are some courses that are not effectively delivered online. In specialized cases, students will be offered the opportunity to come to the campus to take courses that will only be offered in-person. If that is not possible, alternative course requests will be used.

What if my child wants to come to campus for selected courses?
That would be allowed. Arrangements for that will be made through the add/drop process in August.

Will CPS Virtual courses be the same as what my child would have had access to in-person?
As much as possible, students who choose CPS Virtual will be in the same courses, with the same curriculum and same pacing as the in-person courses. There may be situations in which students are offered a self-paced option in order to retain their prioritized course requests. Self-paced options will not be the same courses as in-person.

Who will be teaching the CPS Virtual courses?
All courses that mirror in-person courses (CPS Virtual) will be taught by CPS teachers. Most of the self-paced options (CPS Online) will be taught by CPS teachers. Occasionally self-paced options are taught by a certified teacher outside of CPS. These situations are rare.

Will my child still be considered a student at their home school?
Students who choose CPS Virtual will retain their status with the school to which they are assigned. Communications and access to the school’s activities will continue.
Will my child be able to play sports and/or participate in activities if they choose CPS Virtual?
Students who choose CPS Virtual are welcome to participate in activities at their school. They may participate in MSHSAA activities, as long as they meet the academic and citizenship requirements.

How will my student access counseling services?
Students who choose CPS Virtual will retain a connection with either their school counselor at their home school or a school counselor with CPS Virtual.

Will my students participate in district wide assessments?
Yes. Students will be assessed using the iReady assessments at middle school and STAR at high school. They will also participate in the Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) in the spring, which includes End of Course Exams (EOC) for certain courses. All assessments and surveys listed in the Assessment Calendar will be required of CPS Virtual students unless parents have opted out of the assessment. Some assessments are not eligible for opt out.

Will my child still have access to breakfast and lunch if they choose CPS Virtual?
Plans are being made to provide access for students who qualify for free and reduced lunch. More details will come.

What kind of technology will my child need and be provided?
Students who choose CPS Virtual will use their school-issued device to access their courses. Cell phones will not be sufficient. Students should have access to download speeds of 2.5Mbps in order to effectively be a CPS Virtual student. CPS will provide a hotspot or other available connectivity options and make every modification possible in order to give access to a student who wants to choose the CPS Virtual option. In the end, if adequate access cannot be achieved, CPS Virtual would not be an option for that student.

To check download speed, connect your CPS device to your home internet and go to www.fast.com. Wait for the indicator to tell you the download speed. If speed is greater than 2.5Mbps your internet speed is adequate for CPS Virtual courses.

How can I find out about my connectivity options?
Please follow this link for wifi@home options: https://www.cpsk12.org/covid19/technology.

What if my student needs face-to-face technical support?
Technicians will be available each school day at any of our middle schools from 12:30 pm - 2:30 pm to assist any student or family enrolled in CPSElementary@Mizzou or CPS Virtual.

How can I get technical support at any time?
A help desk for students and families will be available for call-in support for students and families in CPSElementary@Mizzou and CPS Virtual. The help desk will be staffed with district technicians 7:30 am - 7:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. on Fridays.

Online chat will also be available for technical support.
What if we have device issues?
Technicians will be at the front entrance to the Aslin Building Monday-Thursday from 5:00 -7:00 p.m. for device support and device repair/exchange.

What if my child already requested an online course? Are they now an “CPS Virtual student”?
Unless a student selects CPS Virtual, accessing self-paced online (CPS Online) courses will be part of the in-person experience, as it has been in the past.

Will my student still have access to EEE?
Students in the EEE program will have access to services. Until we have CPS Virtual enrollment numbers, we cannot yet predict the nature of those services.

Can my student add or drop courses within CPS Virtual?
The add and drop windows will be the same in CPS Virtual as they are in-person.

**Special Education, Section 504, and CPS Virtual**

My child has a 504. Is the CPS Virtual option still an option for them?
Every child’s 504 is individualized. 504 accommodations will be met for all plans, even if those require some limited access to the school campus, if possible. The 504 team will review plans early in the school year.

My child has an IEP. Is CPS Virtual still an option for them?
Yes, a guardian can elect CPS Virtual for any special education student.

When will my child’s services be provided?
All services will be provided during the regular school day. A parent can elect to have their student access the instruction virtually via the assigned CPS Virtual course specialist and/or bring their student into the building for their services during their scheduled special education class(es). Additionally, a parent could elect for their child to receive their related services, i.e., speech-language, physical therapy, occupational therapy, via teletherapy and/or bring their child in for in-person instruction with the therapist.

If I choose CPS Virtual and also choose for my student to receive their special education services in-person in their building, will my child be provided transportation?
No, all students participating in CPS Virtual learning would be required to provide their own transportation should they decide to access their special education services including speech-language therapy, physical therapy, occupational therapy, etc. and/or building activities.
What if my child is in a district special education classroom where the curriculum is based on alternative learning standards (MAP-A) and/or significantly modified to meet his/her educational needs?
This summer, coordinators and educators are developing distance learning curricula to support students should the building and/or district close due to health department guidelines. Parents of students who access alternative learning standards could opt into this CPS distance learning option as an alternative to CPS Virtual classes.

- **What will this distance learning look like:**
  - **Will there be scheduled times all students in the classroom will be expected to Zoom in?**

    Yes, there is the expectation that students participate in a minimum of 30 minutes of the pre-planned lessons. Additionally, there will be assigned daily online times the special education teacher will meet with students to work on skills specific to the student’s IEP goals. These times will be pre-arranged with the family and could be individual or in a small group setting. All special education and related services will be provided during the typical school day.

    - **What if we need a more flexible schedule and can not Zoom in at the designated time?**

      Lessons are pre-planned and scheduled for specific times of the day. If you are concerned about a pre-planned schedule, contact your student’s special education teacher to problem-solve.

    - **Could my child still have access to the general education classroom?**

      All special education students will continue to have access to all available online general education courses as appropriate. A CPS teacher will be available for questions and troubleshooting. In addition, the school media specialist will also be available to assist families with online tools and resources. We are happy to work with families to discuss this further.

**Will my child’s IEP need to be amended if I choose remote learning?**

Yes, when CPS teachers return to work in August, your child’s case manager will contact you to discuss amending the IEP.

**Will my child receive the same amount of services if I choose remote learning?**

While these decisions are made by the IEP team, the amount and frequency of specific services may need revision to provide Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in a remote learning environment.

**English Learners (EL) and Secondary CPS Virtual**

If my student is an EL student, can he/she enroll in the CPS Virtual courses?

Yes. All CPS secondary students, including those who are identified as EL, are eligible to enroll in CPS Virtual.
Will my EL student continue to receive EL support in the CPS Virtual program?
Yes. All students who are eligible for English Learner (EL) support will continue to receive direct and indirect EL support while taking part in the CPS Virtual program. CPS EL teachers and EL administrators will work closely with the teachers who are teaching the CPS Virtual courses to ensure that EL supports are implemented in the courses.

CPS Virtual EL Students will receive direct EL services from a CPS EL teacher through Zoom during regular school day hours. There will be specific times and days that the student will need to log into the Zoom meetings with the EL teacher to receive EL support.

What if I choose for my EL student to not attend the CPS Virtual EL groups for direct EL support?
Parents who do not allow their students to attend online EL sessions must sign an opt-out form that states they are opting out of direct EL services. Students in this category will continue to be identified as an EL student and will be required to take the annual EL test, the ACCESS. CPS Virtual teachers working in the CPS Virtual program will receive support and coaching from the CPS EL department in order to meet the needs of the EL students in the CPS Virtual courses.

If I choose CPS Virtual, will there be specific days and times that my student must meet on Zoom for the online EL sessions?
Yes. Students will be required to join online EL groups at certain times and days each week during regular school hours. This will be determined by the online EL teacher and will be based on the student’s individual English language level and his/her need for language support. Students who participate in online EL support will be required to have access to Zoom and other online resources for their EL groups.

Will there be EL resource classes available online?
Yes. We will provide an online EL resource class that is similar to our in-person resource classes. The structure of this course will depend on the number of EL students who enroll in CPS Virtual. The resource class(es) will meet via Zoom on scheduled days and times during regular school hours. The online EL resource teacher will communicate the times and days directly to the students and families.

If we choose CPS Virtual, will my student continue to work with the same EL teacher who is assigned to our current EL school?
The online EL teacher may or may not be your student’s current EL teacher. Online groups will be created based on the number of EL students who are enrolled in CPS Virtual. If the teacher is not your current EL teacher, your student will work with another CPS EL teacher.

Is the CPS Virtual learning program appropriate for EL students who are just beginning to learn English (newcomers)?
This is a decision that will need to be discussed with the family and CPS EL teachers and administrators. The online environment requires more independent learning and organization, and some students will be very successful in this environment, regardless of English language proficiency. However, there will not be the same level of direct EL support for beginning level students, so that is something the family will need to consider. The EL department will discuss this with your family at any time.

If I choose CPS Virtual, will my student continue to be identified as an English Learner?
Yes. All EL students will continue to be identified as English Learners (EL) until they test out of the program and meet the criteria to reclassify out of EL.
Will the annual EL test (ACCESS) be given to students who choose CPS Virtual?
Yes. All EL students enrolled in CPS Virtual will be required to take Missouri’s annual English language test, which is called ACCESS. EL students enrolled in CPS Virtual will be required to attend an in-person test session. The test dates are set by the Missouri Department of Education and typically occur in January or February of each year. The exact date, time, and place of this test will be determined by the CPS EL department, and we will communicate the schedule and other information directly with families in December 2020.

Will CPS screen newly enrolled students for EL support if they choose CPS Virtual?
Yes. All enrolling students who meet the criteria for English Learner testing will be given the EL screening test during the enrollment process, even if the family chooses to enroll the students in CPS Virtual. All secondary students who are enrolling in CPS must take the screening test at the district office. Students can make an appointment for testing by calling 573-214-3965.

If we choose CPS Virtual, will my student have access to the general education classroom in his/her regularly assigned secondary building?
Students enrolled in CPS Virtual will not have access to the general education classroom in their regularly assigned secondary building; however, students will work with general education students in the online classes in CPS Virtual. In addition, they will work with other CPS EL students through online EL groups. As stated above, students will be able to attend both online and in-person classes for certain specialized courses that cannot be presented in an online environment. (See bullet point #3 on page 1 of this document.)

If my family chooses the CPS Virtual online program and finds that our student needs more direct EL support, can we switch back to traditional in-person school after school has started?
Students who begin the year in CPS Virtual can move into in-person classes in January, when the second semester begins. If you feel that your student needs more EL support than he/she is getting online, please contact your student’s online EL teacher or the EL department to discuss options and the best plan for your student.

How can I contact the CPS EL department?

a. Email - ELDepartment@cpk12.org
b. Phone - 573-214-3965
c. Twitter - @CPS_EL
d. Facebook group - Columbia Public Schools English Learners (ELL)

Fine Arts and CPS Virtual

How will Performing Arts be handled?

- Most performing arts classes within the Fine Arts Department will continue with enrolled students. There are some classes that will be presented only in an online model (ex. Music Theory and AP Music Theory). Other classes will be suspended for this year due to the inability to not offer the course in an effective online manner (ex. Beginning Piano).
- All students regardless of attending in-person or with CPS Virtual will be following the same course expectations, scope, and sequence.
● Students enrolled in performing arts classes who are attending CPS Virtual will have access to all lessons, materials, and class opportunities and will be expected to keep up with assignments and course expectations.

● Students attending CPS Virtual may have to participate in CPS Performing Arts courses through streaming technology (ex. Zoom) to receive instructor assistance and lessons with peers who are receiving in-person instruction when schools are not closed.

How will Visual Arts be handled?

● Most visual art classes within the Fine Arts Department will continue with enrolled students.

● All students regardless of attending in-person or with CPS Virtual will be following the same course expectations, scope, and sequence.

● Students enrolled in visual arts classes who are attending with CPS Virtual will have access to all lessons, materials, and class opportunities and will be expected to keep up with assignments and course expectations.

● Students enrolled in visual arts classes who are attending with CPS Virtual will be asked to supply basic supplies that will allow them to successfully complete class activities and lessons. Specialty supplies and equipment will be provided for students or loaned as requested and available.

● Students attending CPS with CPS Virtual, may have to participate in CPS visual art courses through streaming technology (ex. Zoom) to receive instructor assistance and lessons help with peers who are receiving in-person instruction when schools are not closed. If available and there is enough enrollment, a dedicated online teacher may be provided.

Library Media Services and CPS Virtual

Will my student have access to Library Media Services?

● All students, those attending in-person or with CPS Virtual, will have access to print and digital materials available through the CPS Library Media program.

● All students, those attending in-person or with CPS Virtual, will be instructionally supported by CPS media specialists both online and in-person.

● Limited access to CPS media centers will be available for individual and small groups of students. Social distancing rules will be followed.

● Safety measures will be enacted to clean and sanitize circulated materials.

In-Person Option

Will my child have the option to switch from in-person to CPS Virtual after school starts?

Students who choose in-person and determine later they would prefer to go to CPS Virtual will have that opportunity. Course access will be based on offerings and availability.
What safety protocols will be in place during arrival and dismissal?
School personnel may opt to increase the number of entrances used during arrival and dismissal. This may result in a change of plans for the parent pick-up lines. These decisions will be made on a school-by-school basis, and principals will communicate these plans with families prior to the start of school in August.

Will buses run as normal?
We are still working to clarify expectations for social distancing on the bus. It is highly recommended, if possible, for families to provide transportation to school.

Students will be assigned a seat on the bus. They will be expected to stay in that seat throughout the ride to/from school. They will be required to wait to be dismissed by their driver and school personnel to ensure distance is maintained among students from different families.

Will there be field trips?
All decisions regarding field trips will be made by CPS and reflect the current situation regarding exposure risk in our schools and community.

What will be the procedures for lunch?
Middle Schools are working on plans to reduce the total number of students eating in the cafeteria at one time, which might include more lunch shifts. High schools will consider this option, but also benefit from more flexible seating and open lunch, which would allow for similar lunchtime procedures to a normal school year.

Will students still move from class to class?
In our middle schools and high schools, students will still move from class to class. Where necessary, protocols may be in place to reduce the risk of exposure during passing times.

How will you track contacts in rooms and in the building?
Seating charts will be in use in all classrooms, as well as a log for anyone not assigned to a classroom in a given day. Since we cannot guarantee social distancing (keeping students six feet or more apart) in our classrooms, a student’s stable group will be determined by those who are regularly in their six foot radius for more than 15 minutes in a day.

Will parents and visitors be allowed in the building?
At the beginning of the year, we will not allow parents and visitors into the building. We want to be very proactive in ensuring a tight system of tracing as we re-open. We will continue to monitor and should the environment and/or recommendations from our health partners change, we will loosen restrictions. We prefer to start with tight guidelines and slowly loosen as it becomes safe to do so.

Will social distancing happen in all settings?
Regular reminders about social distancing when at all possible will be commonplace in our schools. We cannot guarantee social distancing will happen in our classrooms and common spaces. Stable groupings will be our aim, as students follow established patterns during the course of a day, and their interactions will be with the same students.
Will students be required to wear a mask?
At this time, students will not be mandated to wear masks. If you prefer your child does wear a mask, we will honor and uphold this request.

Will teachers and staff be required to wear a mask?
Protocols for this are currently being developed.

Will temperature checks be given to students?
At this time, there is not a plan to give temperature checks on a regular basis or before entrance into the building. If a child visits the nurse, temperature will be checked as needed. The nursing department will have infra-red thermometers to use. If school-wide temperature checks become necessary, we will inform parents as soon as possible.

What will be the protocol for a sick student?
We are working closely with the health department to review what happens if a child becomes sick at school. We will update this as we are able.

What will be the protocol for a sick teacher, staff member or school personnel?
We are working closely with the health department to review what happens if a staff member becomes sick at school. We will update this as we are able.

How will families be notified if their child is required to go home?
Schools will be contacting all families before the start of school to gather multiple emergency contact numbers for this school year. It will be imperative that families pick up students immediately who are not feeling well.

What will be the protocol when a case is confirmed in the school?
We are working closely with the health department to review what happens if a child becomes sick at school. We will update this as we are able.

If the school is closed for cleaning, will students have an online day of learning?
Yes. If a school is closed due to a confirmed case for cleaning purposes, learning will continue. In this case, students will move to the online platform with their classroom teacher and coursework will continue as seamlessly as possible.

Will there be increased opportunities for handwashing and hand sanitizing around the school buildings?
We are currently in the process of installing additional hand sanitizing stations in each school building. Additionally, teachers will set a hand washing schedule for their individual classes.

Will CPS potentially close district-wide if COVID-19 cases increase again? What is the plan for learning should this occur?
There is potential for the district to close should cases increase to a level deemed necessary for closure and/or absenteeism reaches a threshold indicating the same. Should this occur, in-person students will remain assigned to their classroom teachers and will transition to an online platform for learning. Academics will continue to progress in this on-line platform.
What if my child already requested an online course? Can they still take it and be an in-person student?

Unless a student selects CPS Virtual, accessing self-paced online courses (CPS Online) will be part of the in-person experience, as it has been in the past.

**English Learners (EL) and Secondary In-Person Classes**

**Will EL students continue to receive EL support if we choose to send them to school for in-person classes?**

Yes. All EL students will continue to receive direct EL support from EL teachers in our secondary buildings that have EL programs (all buildings except West Middle School and John Warner Middle School).

**Will the EL services look different than they usually do for in-person students?**

Students enrolled in in-person classes will receive EL support as they typically do in all school years.

**If CPS has to close my student’s school or the entire district because of health concerns, will my student continue to receive EL support?**

Yes. If CPS has to close your student’s school because of a health concern, the classes will move online. This will include EL Resource, if your student is enrolled in that course in-person. Your student’s EL support will be provided online, as well. Your student’s EL teacher will establish a schedule to meet with your student via Zoom and communicate that information with your family directly. If the entire school district has to close because of health concerns, we will follow the same process and provide EL support online.

**Will the annual EL test, the ACCESS, be given to students who attend school in-person?**

Yes. All EL students will be required to take Missouri’s annual English language test, which is called ACCESS. The test dates are set by the Missouri Department of Education and typically occur in January or February of each year. The exact date, time, and place of this test will be determined by the CPS EL department, and we will communicate the schedule and other information directly with families prior to testing.

**Will CPS screen newly enrolled students for EL support if they attend school in-person?**

Yes. All enrolling students who meet the criteria for English Learner testing will be given the EL screening test during the enrollment process. All secondary students who are enrolling in CPS must take the screening test at the district office. Students can make an appointment for testing by calling 573-214-3965.

**Fine Arts and In-Person Classes**

**How will Performing Arts be handled?**

- Most performing arts classes within the Fine Arts Department will continue with enrolled students. There are some classes that will be presented only in an online model (ex. Music Theory and AP Music Theory). Other classes will be suspended for this year due to the inability to not offer the course in an effective online manner (ex. Beginning Piano).
- All students regardless of attending in-person or with CPS Virtual will be following the same course expectations, scope, and sequence.
• Classes will be reorganized to emphasize social distancing and may require reductions in typical class sizes. This will potentially include alterations to traditional class expectations. Playing instruments, singing, or acting scenes may only happen in small groups while other students complete CPS Virtual course activities and work on other curricular expectations until they can meet with the instructor.
• We will utilize all available digital tools and classroom resources for sectionals or group rehearsals where social distancing is achievable.
• Students will use their own equipment to avoid sharing. When this is not possible appropriate cleaning and sanitizing will take place.
• If CPS has to close a school or the district closes due to health concerns, some students will be allowed limited access to instruments or practice spaces that can not be achieved at home (ex. Percussion students accessing large percussion equipment for practice and skill advancement).

How will Visual Arts be handled?
• Most visual art classes within the Fine Arts Department will continue with enrolled students.
• All students regardless of attending in-person or with the CPS Virtual option will be following the same course expectations, scope, and sequence.
• Classes will be reorganized to emphasize social distancing.
• We will utilize all available digital tools and classroom resources to maximize student learning.
• Students will use their own equipment to avoid sharing. When this is not possible appropriate cleaning and sanitizing will take place. Teachers will demonstrate proper hand washing and cleaning of tools, equipment, and media so that students can properly clean shared items when appropriate. Students will follow teacher demonstration and expectations.

Physical Education and In-Person Classes

How will Physical Education work?
• Classes will engage in outdoor activities as much as possible
• Social distancing will be managed as much as possible
• Students will be provided own equipment for class, when possible and equipment will be regularly disinfected
• Handwashing before and after physical activity will be expected
• Activities will be used which limit close contact with others
• Students may not have access to locker rooms

Library Media Services and In-Person Classes

How will Library Media Services be delivered?
• All students, those attending in-person or with CPS Virtual, will have access to print and digital materials available through the CPS Library Media program.
• All students, those attending in-person or with CPS Virtual, will be instructionally supported by CPS media specialists both online and in-person.
● Limited access to CPS media centers will be available for individual and small groups of students. Social distancing rules will be followed.
● Safety measures will be enacted to clean and sanitize circulated materials.