In-Person Learning Columbia Public Schools
Frequently Asked Questions for Parents

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.

What will be the procedures for lunch?

The district will need extra precautions in place to start the year. For this reason, students will eat breakfast and lunch in their classroom. School personnel will deliver meals to student classrooms. Food allergies will be taken into account as needed. Cleaning procedures will be put in place. We hope we can loosen these guidelines as the year progresses. We will monitor this and make changes as we can.

What will be the procedures for recess?

We understand how important recess time is for all children. There will still be many opportunities to be outside with peers. Classrooms will visit the playground on a schedule that limits interaction between different classrooms. Consequently, recess times will be spread out throughout the school day. There will be protocols put in place during outside time. These protocols will include cleaning processes and expectations. Individual buildings will communicate changes to parents.

Will kids move to different rooms for PE, Art, Music, and Media?

We will begin the year by keeping elementary students in their homeroom classes for specials classes. In this model, teachers will visit classrooms to deliver instruction. This will allow us to maintain stable grouping in a room and it will allow us to easily track who comes into contact with each classroom. PE can be outside when possible. All students attending in-person CPS instruction in the fall will continue to learn foundational technology skills during the media specials rotation. These lessons, available for face-to-face learning in the students’ home classroom or virtual learning, will be delivered utilizing student-assigned iPads.

What will school counseling services look like?

School counselors will visit classrooms to deliver social, emotional, career and academic lessons. We will continue to provide individual counseling for issues impacting the school environment, as well as
crisis counseling, consultation and referral. We will wait until August to make a decision about whether we will be able to offer group counseling services.

**Will my child be stuck in the classroom all day?**

This is not our intent. It is our intent to keep them in a stable group as much as possible while at school. Elementary teachers are very experienced at ensuring kids have ways to move, they will take students outside for lessons, and they will be very mindful of ensuring our kids have the best experience in a not so traditional way to begin school. There will be a plan for bathrooms, hallways, etc.

**How will you track contacts in rooms and in the building?**

There will be a clipboard outside of every room so that we can track who is in and out of rooms. The same will be done with employees that enter the building. We will know who comes in contact with whom should a positive COVID case be reported. We will address further protocols in our school handbook which will be available in August.

**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.

**Will special education students, EL students, Title students, and others be pulled out of the room for minutes?**

At this time, we plan to either pull kids out for instruction, or teachers will join classrooms to ensure students receive appropriate services.

**Will EEE students still attend weekly classes?**

At this time, in-person students will still take a bus to weekly EEE classes. If your student is enrolled through CPSElementary@Mizzou, parents will be asked to take EEE students to the building for programming, or work with the principal at EEE to make accommodations.

**Will social distancing happen in all settings?**

We will do our best to maintain social distancing when students are not within their stable groups (i.e. walking in hallways, sitting in lines, etc). Inside classrooms, we know it will be difficult to keep children 6 feet away from one another, just as it will be difficult for teachers to support students from 6 feet away. We will do our very best to maintain as much distance as is possible in the building. Parents must understand that sending children to learn in-person will mean a risk in terms of our ability to guarantee social distancing at all times. We will also have information for talking with students about social distancing in our back to school information.
Will the school district continue to offer extended day care programs (before school and after school programs)?

We work closely with Adventure Club and Boys & Girls Club, both of which are active in our schools. They will be expected to follow guidelines set by the district. Should the school close, so will before and after school care.

**CPS Special Education in Elementary In-Person Classes**

How will my student’s IEP services be delivered?

Given current health department guidelines for August, we plan to implement each in-person student’s IEP as written, i.e., if the student’s services were written for the special education environment, we will pull to that setting. If services are written for the regular education environment, we will push in and provide services in the student’s regular education classroom. If the student is in a district classroom and is to join his/her regular education peers for a specific subject, the student may attend. Safety precautions will be taken between groups of students coming in and out of the special education setting. Should health department guidelines change, we may need to adjust these practices; however, all potential changes will be discussed with the parent/guardian.

If CPS has to close my student’s school or the entire district because of health concerns, will my student continue to receive special education services?

Yes, while the amount and location of services may need to adjust based on the need for remote instruction, your student will continue to receive all services identified in their IEP. New learning will occur even in the distance learning environment. Additionally, your student will continue to receive appropriate accommodations relevant to his/her distance learning environment.

Can I still refer my child for special education testing?

Yes. Changes are not being made to the evaluation process. If formal assessment is needed, the student will be pulled to a testing environment. Safety precautions will be taken to ensure a sanitized environment before and after the testing session.

**CPS English Learners (EL) and Elementary 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 elementary buildings that have EL programs (all buildings except Alpha Hart Lewis, Benton, Midway, Ridgeway, Two Mile Prairie).

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

Yes. We are following guidelines from the CDC, the MO Department of Education, and the Boone County Health Department to establish best practices for in-person classes. One of those recommendations is to establish and maintain stable groups among students. Therefore, most of our EL support will be provided by teachers who are pushing into the regular classroom, rather than the typical model of pulling students out of multiple classrooms into small EL groups. We will reevaluate this practice as we go and make adjustments as possible. If the situation with the virus changes to be less of a concern, we will make changes to our EL support services accordingly.
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. 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. For elementary students in EL buildings, the EL teacher will administer the test and report the results to parents/guardians immediately after testing. For students who live in the attendance areas of Alpha Hart Lewis, Benton, Midway, and Two Mile Prairie, or who will attend Ridgeway will need to come to the EL office to complete EL testing prior to starting in-person classes. Students who are enrolling in any of these five schools can make an appointment for testing by calling 573-214-3965.

What will our CPS Preschool Program look like for fall?

● Arrival and dismissal?

Preschoolers will no longer be walked to classrooms by a parent/adult. School personnel may opt to increase the number of entrances used during arrival and dismissal and stagger arrival/dismissal times. 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.

● What will be the procedures for meals?

Meals will be eaten inside of the classrooms like we have always done. However we will no longer eat our meals family style. We want to put extra precautions in place and provide students with individual items. Cleaning procedures will be put in place. We hope we can loosen these guidelines as the year progresses. We will monitor this and make changes as we can.

● What will be the procedures for recess?

We understand how important recess time is for all children. There will still be many opportunities to be outside with peers. Classrooms will visit the playground on a schedule that limits interaction between different classrooms. Consequently, recess times will be spread out throughout the school day. There will be protocols put in place during outside time. These
protocols will include cleaning processes and expectations. Individual buildings will communicate changes to parents.

- **What will PE, Art, Music, etc look like for preschoolers?**

We will begin the year by keeping preschool students in their homeroom classes for specials classes. In this model, teachers will visit classrooms to deliver instruction. This will allow us to maintain stable grouping in a room and it will allow us to easily track who comes into contact with each classroom. If preschoolers have access to PE classes, these classes can be outside when possible.

- **Will preschoolers be stuck in the classroom all day?**

This is not our intent. It is our intent to keep them in a stable group as much as possible while at school. Preschool teachers are very experienced at ensuring kids have ways to move, They will take kids outside for lessons, and they will be very mindful of ensuring our kids have the best experience in a not so traditional way to begin school. There will be a plan for bathrooms, hallways, etc.

- **How will you track contacts in preschool rooms and in the building?**

There will be a clipboard outside of every room so that we can track who is in and out of rooms. The same will be done with employees that enter the building. We will know who comes in contact with whom should a positive COVID case be reported. We will address further protocols in our school handbook which will be available in August.

- **Will preschool 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.

- **Will preschool special education students be pulled out of the room for minutes?**

At this time, we plan to either pull kids out for instruction, or teachers will join classrooms to ensure students receive minutes for services. This may adapt as we follow health guidelines, but we will ensure minutes are served.

- **Will social distancing happen in all preschool settings?**

We will do our best to maintain social distancing when students are not within their stable groups (i.e. walking in hallways, sitting in lines, etc). Inside classrooms, we know it will be difficult to keep children 6 feet away from one another, just as it will be difficult for teachers to support students from 6 feet away. We will do our very best to maintain as much distance as is possible in the building. Parents must understand that sending children to learn in-person will mean a risk in terms of our ability to guarantee social distancing at all times. We will also have information for talking with students about social distancing in our back to school information.
● Will preschoolers 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 do our best to honor and uphold this request. Teachers will be able to help students with their masks on an as needed basis.

● 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 preschool 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 preschool teacher, staff member or school personnel?

We are working closely with the health department to review what happens if a teacher becomes sick at school. We will update this as we are able.

● How will preschool 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 preschool?

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 preschool is closed for cleaning, will students have an online day of learning?

Yes. If school needs to close 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 seamlessly. In some cases with our youngest learners, work may be sent home, depending on when this closure occurs.

Updated June 30, 2020
● Will there be increased opportunities for handwashing and hand sanitizing around the preschool buildings?

Building Services is 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.

What will our Early Childhood Special Education Program look like for fall?

● Arrival and dismissal?

Preschoolers will continue to be escorted to their classroom by ECSE staff. Parents should wait in the lobby for staff. School personnel may opt to increase the number of entrances used during arrival and dismissal and stagger arrival/dismissal times. 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.

● What will be the procedures for snack time?

Snacks will be eaten inside of the classrooms like we have always done. We will continue to use our cleaning protocol before and after snack.

● What will be the procedures for recess?

We understand how important recess time is for all children. Classrooms will visit the playground on a schedule that limits interaction between different classrooms. Consequently, recess times will be spread out throughout the school day. There will be protocols put in place during outside time. These protocols will include cleaning processes and expectations. Individual buildings will communicate changes to parents.

● What will Adaptive PE (APE) look like for preschoolers?

We will begin the year by keeping preschool students in their homeroom classes for special classes. In this model, the APE teacher will visit classrooms to deliver instruction. This will allow us to maintain stable grouping in a room and it will allow us to easily track who comes into contact with each classroom.

● Will preschoolers be stuck in the classroom all day?

It is our intent to keep them in a stable group as much as possible while at school. There will be a plan for bathrooms, hallways, etc.

● How will you track contacts in preschool rooms and in the building?

There will be a clipboard outside of every room so that we can track who is in and out of rooms. The same will be done with employees that enter the building. We will know who comes in contact with whom should a positive COVID case be reported.
● **Will preschool 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.

Evaluations for ECSE eligibility will occur by appointment and will be allowed entry to the building only at their scheduled time. To limit the number of people in the building we request that only one person accompany the child who is being evaluated. We also request that only parents attend meetings in the building when possible.

● **Will preschool special education students be pulled out of the room for minutes?**

At this time, we plan to either pull kids out for instruction, or teachers will join classrooms to ensure students receive minutes for services. This may adapt as we follow health guidelines, but we will ensure minutes are served. ECSE will strive to maintain stable groups at all times.

● **Will social distancing happen in all preschool settings?**

We will do our best to maintain social distancing when students are not within their stable groups (i.e. walking in hallways, sitting in lines, etc). Inside classrooms, we know it will be difficult to keep children 6 feet away from one another, just as it will be difficult for teachers to support students from 6 feet away. We will do our very best to maintain as much distance as is possible in the building. Parents must understand that sending children to learn in-person will mean a risk in terms of our ability to guarantee social distancing at all times. We will also have information for talking with students about social distancing in our back to school information.

IEP teams will consider changes to services and/or placement on an individual basis. District information, along with doctor recommendations, will be used to determine the most appropriate placement for services. Placement may change during the school year due to individual needs.

● **Will preschoolers be required to wear a mask?**

At this time, students will not be mandated to wear masks. Wearing a mask is a decision that is best made with families, teachers, and therapists as it may interfere with therapy. IEP teams will consider all doctor and family requests to wear masks.

● **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.

*Updated June 30, 2020*
● What will be the protocol for a sick preschool 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 preschool teacher, staff member or school personnel?

We are working closely with the health department to review what happens if a teacher becomes sick at school. We will update this as we are able.

● How will preschool 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. We will need multiple WORKING numbers that will be used as emergency contacts. Please make sure you update your child’s teacher when there is a change in either your contact or emergency contact numbers.

● What will be the protocol when a case is confirmed in the preschool?

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 preschool is closed for cleaning, will students have an online day of learning?

Yes. If school needs to close 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 seamlessly. In some cases with our youngest learners, work may be sent home, depending on when this closure occurs.

● Will there be increased opportunities for handwashing and hand sanitizing around the preschool buildings?

Building Services is 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 buses run as normal?

ECSE will continue to transport students whose families are unable to provide transportation. ECSE and Student Transportation of America will collaborate to maintain social distancing and appropriate length of bus rides.
Questions added as of 6-28-2020

● What if we can’t get our children in our school of choice. Will we be able to switch to online learning?

We will work closely with families should we need to discuss a move to a different school. This decision will not be made without much communication. If your family chooses to switch to online learning, we will work with you on this option.

● Will online classes follow the DESE guidelines for class size?

Elementary class sizes are based on a targeted maximum of 23 for K-2 students and 26 for 3-5 students. Of course, this isn’t an exact science, but it is what we aim for as we are calculating need for additional teachers. For online classes, we will target a maximum of 25 students per class.

● What if we want to change from in person to online later in the fall in the middle of the school year?

You will work with your building administrator.

● How quickly can we switch to virtual from in-person if we feel that is unsafe or situations change for us?

Your principal and in-person homeroom teacher will work with your student to complete online coursework until the switch can be made.

● How will testing take place to determine eligibility for EEE?

Some Kindergarten students did not have screening before we had to close in March. We will ensure they are tested in the fall. Our assessment department is working to finalize details. If you have a student in an older grade, please work with your school counselor to arrange testing.

● Will kids in grades 3-5 receive CPS ipads for use in at home learning?

All students will have access to iPads, K-5.

● If the in-person option is deemed unsafe, and CPS goes online district-wide, do students who started in-person then transfer to MIZZOU online?

No. Students who begin in-person learning will shift to an online platform with their classroom teacher. Ipads and hotspots (if needed) will be provided.

● Will we be able to meet the teacher before school starts?

We will do our best to have a meet the teacher night. We know how important this is. We will have to wait until August before having a detailed plan for this.
● What will in person classrooms look like?

If we were to go back today, we would be keeping kids with the students in their classroom as their stable group. Within the room, teachers will do their best to distance as much as is reasonable, supplies will not be shared, and curriculum will be taught with an intention of how to access work via technology. Our lessons will be in an online format so that students understand how to access work through Schoology should we need to move to an online platform due to closure. Specialists will come to classrooms for lessons (Art, Music, Media), and PE will be outside when possible. Recess will be outside and we are still working on plans for that.

● How will elementary desks be situated?

If a room has desks, they will be facing forward. If there are tables, teachers will be thoughtful about placement of children. Principals began working on these scenarios in the spring. Final decisions will not be made until we know more about what August will look like.

● How will teachers encourage distance between kids in person? Will they?

We will to the extent possible. We cannot guarantee 6 feet in the in-person environment.

● If school has to close, what will the curriculum for those who were in-person look like?

We are building our lessons online. That work will begin this summer and will continue through the year.

** If your specific question has not been answered, please email Jill Brown at jbrown@cpsk12.org.