High School Education
Alternative Learning Frequently Asked Questions

When do you expect our students will return to school?
Columbia Public Schools (CPS) is a member of the community’s incident command structure. The school district will continue to follow local and state directives and restrictions. We will keep families updated as pertinent information on this topic becomes available.

What if a student would like to drop a course for no penalty?
This plan eliminates the need for students to drop courses. If a student were to choose to leave a mark as NC, the result would be the same as dropping with no penalty.

What about middle school courses for high school credit?
This plan applies to high school level courses at the middle school.

Since my child’s courses were not completed, will they be at a disadvantage in next year’s courses?
CPS will design the 2020-2021 curriculum to reflect the changes to the spring 2020 courses. No student should be at a disadvantage due to lost content.

How will a mark of P be determined?
A “P” will equate to 60% or higher on the March 10, 2020, IPR.

If there is evidence between the March 10 IPR reporting and March 13 that a student’s grade would have raised above or fallen below 60%, the teacher can make the determination. If a student’s grade has risen above 60% after the closure through March 31, the grade determination would be P.

For students whose grade is not a P before March 31, the remainder of the semester will be used to help the student reach a P. This can be done through the completion of work not handed in, if allowable by the teacher’s retake policies, engaging in reteaching and review, and showing mastery of the concepts presented and assessed prior to the March 10 IPR. These assessments can be determined by the teacher and could include, but not be limited to online quizzes and tests, oral quizzes and tests, writings, or other evidence of learning.

What about PLATO Credit Recovery Courses?
Students can access PLATO from home and must complete 50% of the content with 60% or greater mastery in order to earn credit. The student’s PLATO teacher or another school official will be in contact with them to facilitate course completion.
The elimination of letter grades concerns me. How do we justify this for our students and won’t this put them at a disadvantage in competition for college admissions, etc.?

We understand the attainment of grades and the opportunity to maintain or improve cumulative GPA is important for many reasons, not the least of which are the implications for higher education admission, scholarships, honors, and awards. The abrupt change to the education system in Columbia Public Schools, our state, and our nation due to the Coronavirus Pandemic has created a situation in which equitable opportunities for the improvement or advancement of a GPA is not possible. It is clear that institutions at every level across the country are making similar decisions regarding the elimination of grade reporting. CPS high school students will be on a level playing field moving forward. The NCAA, Ivy League colleges and universities, the University of Missouri, and hundreds of other institutions are among those who have stated they will be monitoring and adjusting requirements in response to the COVID-19 crisis.

What if my child is enrolled in an online course?
The high school plan applies to online courses and the same rules apply. The extended learning for online courses will be to continue in and potentially complete the course. The online teacher will communicate the expectations for the student that would equate to the March 10 cutoff date.

What is the expectation for course engagement after the student has a P in any course?
Some students will gain credit for the course and determine they will no longer engage. Some will continue to engage. It is our expectation and encouragement that students remain engaged with their teachers and school until the end of the semester, but there is no punitive action for those who choose not to.

What happens when we return to school?
If we are able to return to school before the end of the school year, the current grading plan will remain in place. We will adjust the instructional plan to align with the regular school day.

What can I expect from School/Teacher communication with my child?
For all courses, teachers will have one day a week to instruct. The daily assigned content areas are:

- Monday: Math, Fine Arts, & English Learners
- Tuesday: Language Arts, PE/Health, Gifted & AVID
- Wednesday: Science, Practical Arts, Career Center, & Special Education District Classrooms
- Thursday: Social Studies, World Languages, & Special Education Non-Core Content Areas
- Friday: Fun Day Club Day (A time when clubs, athletics, and activities can check-in; this is not required!)

** Exception: AP and dual credit classes are still continuing to prepare students to receive college credit. Students will likely have to work throughout the week, and not just on the subject’s designated day, to complete the requirements for college credit and/or prepare for the AP Exam.

On the assigned days, you can expect to have communications to students and maybe families about the course content and expectations. Zoom meetings, Google Hangouts, etc. might be used for real-time instruction and connection. On “off” days for any given course, teachers can
have individualized communication with students and families. Teachers will also hold daily office hours for student support.

If my student ends the semester and has an NC in a course, will there be a credit recovery opportunity in Summer School 2020? While it is our intention to offer credit recovery during the summer of 2020, the method of course delivery and the schedule has not been determined.

If my family needs access to food beyond the Grab and Go, how do I get help? A list of resources is available on the CPS COVID-19 website: [www.cpsk12.org/COVID19](http://www.cpsk12.org/COVID19).

My child appears anxious and/or depressed. If my family needs mental health support, how do I get help? A list of counseling resources is available on the CPS COVID-19 website. Families can also access the counseling resource guide directly here: [https://www.cpsschoolcounseling.com/covid19.html](https://www.cpsschoolcounseling.com/covid19.html).