



HOUSTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

REMOTE LEARNING FAQs

Q: WILL MY CHILD HAVE TO SIT AT THE COMPUTER FOR 7 HOURS PER DAY?

A: No. "Screen time" will vary depending on the age of your child and the work assigned by his/her teacher. School staff are committed to limiting screen time to be consistent with developmental recommendations and will typically be expecting no more than one (1) hour for PreK-K, two (2) hours for grades 1-5, three (3) hours for grades 6-8, and four (4) hours for grades 9-12. In addition to online learning, students will be provided additional activities that are more experiential and/or hands-on that can be completed based on specific family schedules.



Q: I SIGNED MY CHILD UP FOR THE VIRTUAL LEARNING OPTION. SINCE EVERYONE WILL NOW BE LEARNING REMOTELY, HOW DOES THIS CHANGE THINGS?

A: Once the district is able to move back to any in-person instruction (either in a rotating, small group "hybrid" model or by fully reopening classrooms), all families will have the option of continuing with their remote learning for the remainder of the school year or transitioning back to in-person learning in the school building. This will allow each family to make a choice that best meets your child's learning needs. At that time, if you choose to remain in the remote learning model, your child will continue to be a Houston County student, will continue to be supported by Houston County instructional staff, and would be eligible to participate in any extracurricular activities being offered to their classmates.



Q: WHAT DO I NEED TO DO RIGHT NOW?

A: The best thing to do is to make sure your child is registered at his/her school of zone and that your contact information is up to date so that classroom teachers can begin making contact with you about parent orientations, training opportunities, and technology distribution procedures.



Q: I WORK DURING THE DAY. WILL MY CHILD HAVE TO LOG IN AT A CERTAIN TIME EVEN IF I'M NOT HOME TO HELP THEM?

A: No. Most learning opportunities can be completed within a flexible time frame as long as assignments are submitted by the end of the day (midnight). Teachers will provide a two-week schedule of learning expectations and activities and will work with students and families to address unique situations/scheduling challenges.

Q: WILL MY CHILD'S TEACHER BE ACCESSIBLE IF MY CHILD IS STRUGGLING?

A: Yes. All school staff will be working from their assigned school and will have "office hours" when parents or students can call or email for support. Parents may also contact the teacher to schedule an "in person" meeting for additional support if the need arises.



Q: WHAT IF I DON'T HAVE INTERNET ACCESS OR A COMPUTER FOR MY CHILD TO WORK ON?

A: Houston County Schools is working to ensure all students have the technology they need to fully participate in remote learning activities. Families who need a device will be issued one as current inventory allows, with the district committed to making more devices available throughout the year. Families without internet access will be given the opportunity to have content downloaded onto a school-issued device, with processes put into place to submit work, receive feedback, and receive new content on a consistent basis.



Q: I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT TECHNOLOGY! HELP!!!

A: We are committed to providing ongoing training and support to students and families as we move toward remote learning. Schools will communicate about opportunities for in-person and virtual sessions for families to learn about the technology platform and ongoing support will be available at the school and district level throughout any periods of remote learning. This will include telephone, email, virtual, and in-person support to families as they learn our new technology tools.



Q: MY CHILD HAS UNIQUE LEARNING NEEDS THAT I DON'T THINK WILL BE SUPPORTED THROUGH AN ONLINE PLATFORM. DOES THIS MEAN THOSE NEEDS WILL NOT BE ADDRESSED UNTIL WE RETURN TO SCHOOL?

A: No. Houston County Schools is committed to supporting the learning of ALL students, even during periods of school closure. Supports and services for students with disabilities, students who have English as a second language, and students with other significant academic and/or social/emotional needs will be addressed on a case-by-case basis. Families are encouraged to discuss concerns with their child's teacher, the building administrator, and district supervisors to ensure that plans can be made to address the individual and unique learning needs of our most vulnerable learners.



Q: I'M READY FOR MY CHILD TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL. HOW LONG WILL S/HE HAVE TO KEEP DOING THE REMOTE LEARNING?

A: We do not know at this time. The district will continually assess many factors within our community to determine when we are able to return to school while also providing a safe and healthy learning environment. These factors may include, but are not limited to, the county infection numbers, county rate of infection increase, guidance from the Health Department and local medical providers, recommendations from the Governor/Commissioner of Education, illness rate of our school employees, and other local factors deemed relevant to the safe daily operation of schools. Our goal is to return to the traditional model of teaching and learning as quickly as possible, with the health and safety of our students, employees, and community as our first priority.