

REOPENING FAQs

Q: What is the timeline for reopening schools?

A: Prek-5th Currently, the plan is to begin a staggered reopening of Erin Elementary and TN Ridge Elementary on Monday, September 14. Elementary students will attend on an A/B schedule through September 17, at which time a full reopening of PK-5 will occur on September 18 if current health conditions permit.

6th-12th Students in grades 6-12 will continue in a remote format until Monday, September 21, at which time they will attend on an A/B schedule. On September 25, a full reopening of middle and high school will occur if current health conditions permit.

Q: Is my child required to return to in-person learning when their school reopens?

A: Families have the opportunity to continue with their current learning format, based on a pattern of active participation and acceptable performance during the initial remote learning period. Families requesting to remain in the remote learning format need to complete the request form no later than Wednesday, September 9. The link to this form is available on the district website, through schools' Facebook pages, or from your child's classroom teacher. It can also be accessed at this link: [Remote Learning Request](#) If a family does not request to remain in remote learning, their child will be expected to begin attending school as assigned.

Q: If I choose remote learning for my child, may s/he return to in-person learning if circumstances change?

A: Students who choose to remain in the remote learning platform will be encouraged to remain in the program for the remainder of the semester; requests for transfer back to on- campus learning and vice-versa will be considered only as circumstances warrant and must be approved by the program/school administrators.

Q: Will my child be allowed to participate in extracurricular and non-academic activities if they remain in the remote learning program?

A: 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 same- grade classmates. Remote learners must meet the same participation guidelines as their in- school peers, which may include but is not limited to satisfactory academic performance, adequate attendance, and acceptable behavioral standing.

Q: Does my child have to return the school-issued technology device when they return to school? Do they need to bring it to school each day?

A: Students may keep their school-issued technology device in order to be prepared for possible future periods of remote learning that may be necessary due to student/classroom quarantine or school closure. Initially, students do not need to bring their device back and forth to school. If the device becomes necessary for in-person instruction at a later date, classroom teachers will communicate this with students/families and procedures for the safe transport of devices will be discussed.

Q: Will buses run during the A/B staggered reopening?

A: Buses will begin running routes on Monday, September 14 for elementary students and Monday, September 21 for middle and high school students. Students will be assigned seats and are encouraged to wear face coverings while riding the bus. Students may not ride buses to any location other than their permanent pick-up/drop-off spot; no bus notes will be accepted.

Q: Will my child be required to wear a mask on school buses or in school buildings?

A: Staff and students are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings, especially when in close proximity to others or in settings where social distancing is not possible.

Q: How will I know if there is a case of COVID in my child's classroom? In their school?

A: When a case of COVID-19 in school personnel and/or student has been confirmed, the school will contact the local Health Department, who will then take steps to identify who has been within 6 feet of the individual for 15 or more minutes (close contact) within 48 hours of the onset of symptoms until the time the individual left school property. Parents/guardians of these close contacts will then be notified of their close contact and will be required to comply with the local Health Department guidelines.

Q: Will schools close again?

A: We do not know at this time. The district will continually assess many factors within our schools and community, working in conjunction with the local Health Department to determine if/when classroom, building, or district closures are necessary. Our goal is to keep school buildings open in order to continue in-person teaching and learning, with the health and safety of our students, employees, and communities our first priority. During periods of individual or classroom quarantine as well as building or district closure, distance learning protocols will be put back into place in order to provide instruction that is as seamless as possible.

Q: Will my child be safe at school?

A: School staff will be taking increased precautions in order to reduce the risk of COVID transmission in their buildings. Mitigation strategies will include, but are not limited to, temperature checks of staff and students, increased access to hand sanitizer and handwashing for staff and students, increased daily cleaning and disinfection of high touch surfaces, static groupings of students to the extent possible, and social distancing/spacing encouraged as feasible. Parents are encouraged to direct any school-specific questions/concerns to their building administrator.

Q: My child has unique learning needs; will s/he still receive special education services, 504 accommodations, or English-as-a-Second Language (ESL) services even if I choose to remain in the remote learning platform?

A: Yes! Houston County Schools is committed to supporting the learning of ALL students, even when a family chooses remote learning. 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 provided as outlined in their individual plan (IEP, 504, or ILP). Families are encouraged to participate in the development of an appropriate learning plan to address the individual and unique learning needs of their child during periods of remote learning.

Q: May I visit my child while s/he is at school?

A: Visitors to buildings will be restricted and will be allowed only when participating in official school business. Visitors will be required to follow all screening protocols and to wear a face covering when in proximity with others if social distancing cannot be maintained.

Q: Our family has been picking up meals through the school lunch program. How does this change during A/B schedules or if I keep my child in the remote learning program?

A: Grab & Go meals will be available during the staggered A/B schedule for the days your child will be remote learning. Meals will also be available for students who remain in remote learning for the semester. Please contact your cafeteria manager to learn more details or schedule a pick up time for these meals.

EES Cafeteria 289-3348 ariggins@houstonk12tn.net
TRES Cafeteria 721-3751 smahoney@houstonk12tn.net
HCMS Cafeteria 289-3271 trobinson@houstonk12tn.net
HCHS Cafeteria 289-4449 ovann@houstonk12tn.net