

JACKSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS RETURN TO LEARN



2021-2022

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Students in grades pre-K-6 offered a virtual learning option from **Sept. 2-Dec. 21**

INTRODUCTION

Jackson Public Schools will continue to employ in-person learning as the primary mode of instruction for all students. However, we are offering parents an opportunity to choose a virtual option for scholars in grades pre-K through sixth-grade who cannot be vaccinated. Additionally, we have adjusted [Board Policy IAAA - Distance/Online Learning](#) to support virtual learning. We will continue to encourage families of scholars 12 and older to obtain the vaccination. **Virtual learning will begin Thursday, September 2, and continue through Friday, December 21, which marks the end of the first semester.**

Below is a general Q&A covering our procedures for 2021-2022. For details about our shift to a virtual option for our scholars in pre-K through 6th grade, please see our [Virtual Learning FAQs page](#).

1. Will families have a choice of learning options?

Beginning August 25, the District will offer virtual learning as an instructional option for scholars in grades pre-K-6 who cannot be vaccinated.

For more information, see our [Virtual Learning Options FAQs page](#).

2. In what conditions or circumstances will we move to virtual instruction?

We are prepared to move to virtual instruction for any emergency provided scholars and teachers have uninterrupted access to the internet and power. Additionally, scholars in grades pre-K-6 who opt for virtual learning may do so for the first semester which ends December 21. Students in grades 7-12 may participate in classes virtually only during quarantine.

3. How will the District handle future inclement weather days?

In the event of inclement weather that impedes safe travel to and from school or school infrastructure, such as insufficient water supply, the District will move to virtual instruction provided there is not widespread power or internet failure as a result of the conditions.

4. How will the District accommodate scholars with an illness or experiencing COVID-related quarantine?

Schools will provide live virtual instruction to students who are well enough to work during COVID-related quarantine. Students must provide medical documentation in order to receive a virtual link to instruction during their quarantine period. Following the quarantine period, students will be expected to return to in-person instruction.

5. Will students be expected to wear uniforms?

Yes. Students will be expected to follow the Dress Code of their school. Elementary and middle school students are expected to wear uniforms.

6. What are the advantages of having eligible scholars (12 years and older), teachers, and staff fully vaccinated?

Two weeks after the second dose in a two-dose vaccine or two weeks after a single dose vaccine, robust vaccine participation:

- Keeps the learning environment safe for in-person learning.
- Lowers the risk of transmission and reduces the severity of illness if infected.
- Limits school disruptions to in-person learning and extracurricular activities.
- If exposed to COVID-19, no quarantine is necessary for fully vaccinated individuals unless symptoms develop, keeping students and staff fully engaged.

7. Do fully vaccinated students have to quarantine when exposed to COVID-19?

If exposed to COVID-19, no quarantine is necessary for fully vaccinated individuals unless symptoms develop, keeping students and staff fully engaged.

Letter from Dr. Greene

Our number one
priority is your
child's **safety.**

Greetings JPS Community,

On August 25, 2021, Jackson Public Schools and the Board of Trustees held a special meeting to introduce a virtual learning option for our pre-K through sixth-grade scholars.

Safety remains our top priority in JPS, followed closely by providing our scholars and families the educational services that they need. Guidance by the Mississippi Department of Education, stakeholder feedback, and the alarming data related to COVID cases among our youngest scholars have led us to provide more flexible options for our scholars who are not vaccine eligible.

In addition to evolving guidance from national and state health and education leaders, we must consider the varying needs of our scholars and families for educational content and delivery, child nutrition, transportation, technology access, and more. As we consider more flexible options for our scholars, we will stress the importance of adhering to all applicable policies and program requirements such as attendance, engagement, and course performance.

Just as the State Board of Education has already signaled, we will continue to monitor data and determine the extent to which these options remain or need to be adjusted. We have many more details to consider and logistics to work through but our JPS community needs to know that we hear them, we've been out front in terms of our mitigation strategies, and we continue efforts to meet their needs as they evolve. After weathering the previous school year through virtual, hybrid, and in-person instruction as a result of the pandemic, we felt it was time to **Return to Learn** and reopen our schools fully to in-person instruction for the 2021-2022 school year.

While many families were looking forward to the opportunity for scholars to return to school in person, some also had questions about safety, including protecting their families from exposure to the virus and how schools might contribute to transmission in communities. As outlined in our Smart Restart plan, we remain committed to the following safety protocols which we have carried over to our **Return to Learn plan**:

- Ensuring that schools have adequate supplies of personal protective equipment, such as face coverings, as well as cleaning supplies and hand sanitizer.
- Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces daily.
- Screening scholars and adults (including visitors) as they arrive at schools.
- Communicating our procedures and expectations at entrances and throughout our buildings.
- Requiring scholars and team members to wear face coverings for the fall of 2021. (We will evaluate the face-covering mandate in December.)

We are committed to operating our schools with protocols and procedures that prioritize public health and protect our scholars and team members.

We understand the need for transparency, so we have created [a dashboard to help track COVID-19 cases](#) within the District. The data provided includes the number of lab-confirmed positive COVID-19 cases and quarantine numbers. More information about our plan and the COVID-19 dashboard can be found on our website at www.jackson.k12.ms.us.

Again, the health and safety of JPS scholars, team members, and the community continue to be our top priority. We are committed to providing world-class learning experiences in clean and safe environments where scholars can learn and grow together. We welcome all JPS scholars and team members as we **Return to Learn!**

Sincerely,

Errick L. Greene, Ed.D.
Superintendent



Virtual Learning Option FAQs

Why just Pre-K-6th grade students?

We are offering families with a pre-K through 6th-grade scholar a virtual instructional option because these students are currently ineligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. Children 12 and older are eligible for the vaccine.

Will my child be able to retain his/her current teacher if I switch to virtual learning?

We cannot guarantee that your child will be able to retain their current teacher if you switch to virtual learning. Classroom placement decisions will be based on the number of families at each school who select the virtual option.

When will virtual learning begin and end?

We are planning to begin virtual learning on Thursday, September 2, 2021. We anticipate this option being available to pre-K-6th grade scholars through the end of the first semester (December 21, 2021).

How do I change my learning option?

Families who wish to change their scholar's learning option to virtual will need to complete a two-question survey indicating their desire to switch to virtual instruction and whether or not they will participate in the school lunch program. Families who do not wish to change their option do not need to take any action and will remain in in-person learning. The survey will open on Wednesday, August 25, 2021.

In-person instruction is working for my family. Can I continue?

Yes, we will continue to offer in-person instruction for all grade levels (pre-K-12).

What is driving this change in the Return to Learn plan?

We are offering this virtual option in response to the rise in COVID-19 rates locally and the revised guidance from the Mississippi Department of Education.

Will teachers be teaching virtual and in-person students at the same time?

We are working to limit the use of simulcasting where teachers instruct in-person and virtual scholars at the same time. We plan to assign teachers to teach either virtual classes/instructional blocks exclusively or in-person classes/instructional blocks exclusively.

How will the needs of students with special needs be met within the virtual environment?

Students with special needs will continue to receive instructional supports that meet the requirements of their Individualized Education Plans (IEPs). Some related services may need to occur in person.

What is the schedule for virtual learning?

The district will provide a full day of virtual instruction. The district follows Mississippi Department of Education guidelines which require at least 330 minutes of live instruction. Live instruction is teaching that occurs during the school day with a teacher (synchronous).

Is virtual learning an option for students 12 or older?

Virtual learning is not currently a primary instructional option for students in grades 7-12. Students needing to temporarily quarantine due to a documented COVID-19 exposure may be instructed virtually during their quarantine period.

Virtual Learning Option FAQs, cont.

What are the requirements for making the shift to virtual learning?

Parent/guardian's responsibilities are as follows:

- In the event that a family selects online learning, they will sign a commitment that acknowledges receipt and acceptance of this board policy IAAA - Distance/Online Learning;
- The family will provide reliable internet connectivity in their home or indicate the need for support with connectivity to their child's school;
- The family will ensure the student's regular attendance throughout the full instructional day;
- The family will ensure the student's compliance with the policies and procedures outlined within the Student Code of Conduct;
- The family will ensure the student's attendance on campus to meet course requirements, state assessments, and district interim assessments;
- Any other responsibilities approved by the Board or the Superintendent.

How will attendance be taken during virtual learning?

The initial attendance for students will be taken by the teacher during the homeroom block. Teachers will code attendance in the system indicating any absences. Teachers may also take attendance during each class period to ensure that students are present and actively engaged during instructional time.

When will my child receive a device and instructional materials?

The district will set up the device and instructional material pick-up dates during the week of August 30th. If you have not returned your device from last year or the device has been damaged, it must be returned or a deposit paid before a new device will be issued.

Will the district assist me with internet connectivity?

The district has a limited number of wireless hotspots that will be offered to families without internet connectivity.

Can virtual learning scholars participate in in-person field trips, afterschool programming, and/or athletics?

Virtual learning scholars are not eligible to participate in in-person field trips, afterschool programming, or athletics.

MDE also allows for the hybrid model to decrease the number of students in the classroom and school at one time. Why not allow middle and high school students to learn on a hybrid schedule?

While we recognize that this is an option, we've found the hybrid model to be less effective instructionally, and challenging for families to support on a consistent basis. We encourage all JPS staff and scholars who are eligible to be vaccinated to do so.

When will JPS host the next vaccination events? Where can my scholar be vaccinated?

The next opportunity for vaccinations will be during the week of August 31-September 3, 2021. Second dosages will be administered to students at the 7 high schools during this time. Other staff and students will have an opportunity to receive their first dosage as well. Scholars may be vaccinated at their local pharmacies (i.e. Walgreens, CVS, Kroger, Wal-Mart) as well as healthcare providers.

Virtual Learning Option FAQs, cont.

My child is too young to be home alone and I have to work. Can my 7th grader be virtual and be home with my 4th grader?

Virtual learning is only available to scholars in prekindergarten through sixth grades at this time. Families who select this option should ensure that their young scholar remains in the supervision of a responsible adult.

What happens after the first semester? Are we back where we started if the MDE does not extend?

Just as MDE has indicated, we will continue to monitor our COVID data and determine if virtual learning options for our pre-K-6th grade scholars are still needed and allowable. Our decisions will be informed by the data about whether to extend the virtual option beyond the first semester which ends December 17, 2021.

Will virtual learning scholars have access to school meals?


Child Nutrition will offer a pick-up service to virtual scholars beginning Wednesday, September 1. JPS Child Nutrition will provide five breakfasts and five lunches for virtual scholars. Families will be able to pick up these meals each Wednesday between 4-6 p.m. at Kirksey Middle School, located at 5677 Highland Drive in north Jackson, and Bates Elementary, located at 3180 McDowell Road Ext. in south Jackson. Meals are for school days only and will consist of non-perishable items. Families with scholars at multiple school sites may pick up their meals from one school site with their MSIS number (Mississippi Student Identification number).

How will virtual scholars participate in mandatory state and interim assessments?

The Mississippi Department of Education has several required assessments and virtual learners are not exempt from participation in these exams. Virtual scholars may be called back to their home schools in order to participate in mandatory state assessments and interim assessments. Schools will inform parents and families of these required assessment date windows and will practice social distancing to ensure safety during testing.



Safety Measures

 **VACCINATIONS** are available for adults and children ages 12 and up. We encourage vaccinations and will share opportunities to obtain them with our scholars and staff.



ENTRY SCREENING

Parents are urged to check scholars' temperatures before leaving home. Scholars will present school-issued IDs at biometric scanner devices where they will stop for screening as they enter school.



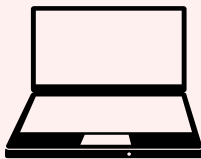
INCREASED HAND WASHING

Regular handwashing and hand sanitation breaks will be provided throughout the school day.



MANDATORY FACE COVERINGS

Facial coverings will be required from the boarding of a school bus or arrival on campus through the end of the school day. Scholars will be provided two washable and re-usable facial coverings for grades 3 through 12 and 1 face shield for grades pre-K through 2.



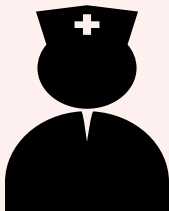
LAPTOP DEVICES

Each scholar will receive a device along with training on how to navigate activities & properly disinfect the device. Classwork will be conducted using technology. Instruction will be conducted in-person with integrated technology.



ISOLATION ROOMS

Students experiencing symptoms will be quarantined in designated isolation rooms until a parent/guardian arrives to pick them up.



NURSING & WELLNESS

Scholars and staff will be continually monitored. Nurses will be in regular contact with administration should anyone become symptomatic. Parents will be notified if their child becomes symptomatic with recommendations concerning further actions.

Routines & Procedures



DAILY CLEANING

All buildings will have daily cleaning. Restrooms will be checked and disinfected throughout the school day.



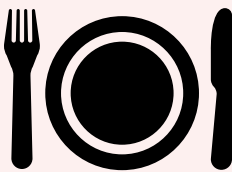
VISITORS

All visitors will be subject to temperature checks and health screening at entry. They must follow the school’s mask and other safety guidelines throughout their visit.



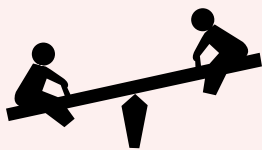
SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

Drivers will be masked and gloved. Scholars will be required to wear face coverings. Buses will be disinfected daily.



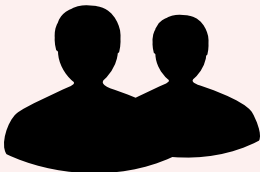
FOOD SERVICE

Scholars will have lunch in cafeterias.



SCHOLAR MOVEMENT

Schedules will limit large indoor gatherings of scholars and staff. Outdoor activities and "unmasking" breaks will be integrated into the academic schedule.



SOCIAL WORK

Educators and staff will monitor scholars and each other for emotional distress. School counselors will assist with implementation of social-emotional learning and counseling sessions. Staff members may access support through the Employee Assistance Program.

Registration Requirements

Registration for the 2021-2022 school year for all JPS students is open. Registration for returning students is even easier through the JPS mobile app.

Register Your Returning Student

Registration for returning students can be completed through the ActiveParent portal accessible online at www.jackson.k12.ms.us/SchoolRegistration or via the JPS mobile app.

On the JPS mobile app, simply tap the ActiveParent icon. If you don't have the mobile app, download it in the Apple App Store or on Google Play. Look for it by searching for Jackson Public Schools MS.

Register Your New K-12 Student

Registration for new students is by appointment only, please visit our School Registration page at www.jackson.k12.ms.us/SchoolRegistration to get more information and to schedule a registration appointment.

Register Your New Pre-K Student

If you are registering your scholar for pre-kindergarten, please visit our Pre-K page at www.jackson.k12.ms.us/PreK to schedule an appointment. We offer pre-K classes at 20 campuses located in the north, south, east, west and central areas of the city, including a state-of-the-art pre-K-only facility at the Van Winkle Early Childhood School.

Required Documents

The following documents are required for parents of all new students to complete registration during your appointment:

- Parent's Government-Issued Photo I.D. or Driver's License
- Student's Original Long-Form Birth Certificate
- Student's Mississippi Immunization Form 121
- Two Proofs of Residency
 - One of the following:
 - Copy of mortgage document
 - Copy of filed homestead exemption
 - Copy of property deed
 - AND
 - One of the following:
 - Current utility bill
 - Voter registration card showing residential address
- Notified Affidavit of Shared Residency (if applicable)
- Non-Parental Affidavit (if applicable)
- Withdrawal Form and Report Card from Previous School (Transfer Students)

Student Device Expectations

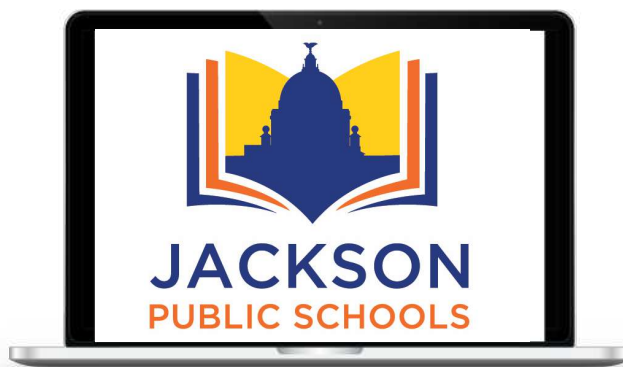
Students who have completed registration and will be attending the same school the following school year are eligible to keep their JPS issued device over the summer and into the following school year provided the following conditions are met:

- The device and the charger have been brought to the school, has been visually verified, and they are both in working condition. Non-working devices cannot be kept over the summer. Devices that are brought in without working chargers cannot be kept over the summer.
- The student has registered and will be attending the same school the following year. Students who register to attend a different school the following year must check out a device from their new school.
- Parents/guardians must complete a Summer Checkout and Hand Receipt.
- Students leaving grades pre-K, 5, 8, and 12 are ineligible to keep their device for the summer and must return their device to the school.
- Students transferring to a new JPS school during the summer must return their device to the original school and must receive a clearance letter from the sending school before the student can receive a device from the new school.

Additional Information About Student Devices

- Students are not required to keep their devices over the summer.
- All devices and chargers must be returned to the school before the end of school to be visually inspected regardless of whether they will be kept over the summer or returned.
- Students who fail to produce their device or charger for visual inspection or fail to return their device or charger should not receive a report card, transcript, or final appraisal per JPS policy JIAB and JBK. Written notification of the reason reports are being withheld will be mailed to the parents or legal guardians per policy JBK in lieu of final report cards.
- Fines and fees will not be charged for devices issued in 2020-21. Parents/guardians must sign the new hand receipt acknowledging the fees and fines that will be charged for all students beginning in school year 2021-22.

Please refer to the [Technology Handbook](#) for more Student Device policies and procedures.



In Person Only

ELEMENTARY
(Grades PK-5)

Monday-Friday
7:30 a.m.-2:45 p.m.

MIDDLE SCHOOL
(Grades 6-8)

Monday-Friday
8:00 a.m.-3:20 p.m.

HIGH SCHOOL
(Grades 9-12)

Monday-Friday
8:40 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Exceptional Education: Support services including **Exceptional Education and Gifted** (Open Doors) will follow one or more models:

- Staff wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) will “push-in” by providing services to scholars in the classroom.
- Staff wearing PPE will pull a scholar out individually or with classroom peer scholars to provide services.
- Staff will pull a scholar out with non-classroom peer scholars. All staff and scholars will wear PPE and social distance as much as possible given room constraints.

Athletics & Co-Curricular Activities

While on the heels of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Athletics Department will continue to be diligent in maintaining a safe and healthy environment for all scholar-athletes, employees, and extended community. Spectators at outdoor sporting events will not be required to wear masks or adhere to seating assignments. Please understand that the current decisions may be adjusted to provide the safest environment for all involved. The following new or revised policies will be in effect for the fall sports season:

- Clear bag policy will be enforced at all athletic events
(Only clear bags will be allowed in athletic events)
- Only electronic tickets will be sold for athletic events
(NO cash will be exchanged at ticket gate)

The following JPS passes for athletic events may be purchased in the Athletic Office:

- Employee Pass \$30
- Middle School Sports Pass \$50
- High School Sports Pass \$75
- All Sports Pass \$100



Shared Responsibilities

Working together,
we can promote
learning and safety.



| TOPIC | FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES | JPS RESPONSIBILITIES |
|---------------------------|---|---|
| PPE & SUPPLIES | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launder/clean face coverings. • Replace unserviceable face coverings. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide 2 face coverings (Grades 3-12) and 1 face shield (Grades PK-2) for all JPS scholars. • Provide hand sanitizer, soap, gloves, and disinfectants to custodial teams. |
| HEALTH CHECKS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check your child's temperature each morning. • Keep your child at home when sick. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check temperatures for scholars and all staff/scholars at entry of schools. |
| TECHNOLOGY | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide internet connectivity for child's device OR indicate need for support with connectivity. • Inspect scholar's device monthly and alert school of damage or loss. • Become familiar with Technology Handbook requirements. • Keep your device charged overnight. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an internet-ready device for all JPS scholars. • Provide technical support to parents and scholars. |
| REGISTRATION | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register your returning scholar for school online through ActiveParent. • Register your new scholar at Poindexter Complex by appointment (601) 960-8850. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer online registration support to families. Streamline new scholar registration appointment process. |
| COMMUNICATION | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate any symptoms or illness to your child's teacher/school. • Provide updated contact information in event of a move or life change. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide frequent and timely updates on our mobile app, website and social media channels (Facebook, Twitter, & YouTube). |

School Reopening Advisory Committee

In November 2020, our district leadership team engaged the support of a School Reopening Advisory Committee that worked tirelessly to develop the Smart Restart plan that balanced the safety of our scholars and team members and provided those who opted to do so the chance to return to in-person learning. This team included academic leaders, health professionals, parents, scholars, and community members. We would be remiss if we did not acknowledge their ongoing efforts and valuable contributions to the well-being of our schools.



CHILD NUTRITION

(601) 960-8910

CLIMATE & WELLNESS

(601) 960-8705

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE

(601) 956-4816

PARENT & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT CENTER

(601) 960-8945

MSIS

QUESTIONS ABOUT DEVICES & TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT

CALL YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL

Download our online directory at

www.jackson.k12.ms.us/DistrictDirectory

CONTACT YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER

Communicate with your child's teacher via SchoolStatus.

COVID DATA

www.jackson.k12.ms.us/COVIDDataDashboard

VACCINATION INFORMATION

1-877-978-6453 or covidvaccine.umc.edu

JACKSON SCHOLARS MENTAL HEALTH WARMLINE

(601) 713-4358

Connect With Us

 @JacksonPublicSchools

 @JPSDistrict

 @JPSITV

Download Jackson Public Schools MS on the Apple Store or Google Play





Core Values

At Jackson Public Schools, we believe in the importance of equity, excellence, growth mindset, relationships, relevance, and positive and respectful cultures.

EQUITY

Our vision of equity, put simply, is “all means all.” We ensure equity by celebrating each scholar’s individuality, interests, abilities and talents; providing each scholar in each school with equitable access to high-quality instruction, courses, and resources; and holding high expectations for all scholars to graduate college-ready and career-minded. Similarly, we recognize and value the individual abilities, experiences and talents of our staff; providing all staff with equitable access to opportunities for development and growth; and ensuring that such opportunities are provided through clear and transparent processes.

EXCELLENCE

High expectations for our scholars help to prepare them for college and career paths. High expectations from and for all adults foster ownership, consistency, and transparency. Every member of our district performs with an attention to detail and the quality that each task demands in order to achieve great outcomes.

GROWTH MINDSET

Our leaders—scholars and staff—thrive in environments where belief in their abilities is affirmed. Everyone in the organization embraces the ideal that effort and perseverance lead to success.

RELATIONSHIPS

It is essential to develop relationships through mutual respect of culture, social context, and community. This allows us to create a community of safety, trust, productive vulnerability, and genuine connection as we celebrate successes and value opportunities for constructive feedback.

RELEVANCE

Scholars experience relevant education that is engaging, motivating, and inspiring, leading to a lifelong commitment to learning. Our scholars must learn to connect with each other, the larger community, and the 21st-century world, ultimately developing agency to contribute to positive change in Jackson, in Mississippi, and in the world.

POSITIVE AND RESPECTFUL CULTURE

Scholars and staff thrive in learning environments where growth and achievement are the highest priorities and climates are safe, positive, and respectful. These environments engage and excite all scholars, leaving them hungry for more knowledge. All adults contribute to a positive and respectful culture allowing them to experience more productivity, increased retention, and joy at work.





jackson.k12.ms.us



[@JPSDistrict](https://twitter.com/JPSDistrict)



[YouTube.com/JPSITV](https://www.youtube.com/JPSITV)



[Jackson Public Schools](https://www.facebook.com/JacksonPublicSchools)



Jackson Public Schools

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