

Reopening Task Force FAQs

If my family travels in August, can my child return to school immediately or must he/she quarantine for 14 days first?

The Arkansas Department of Health recommends self-quarantine after travelling to any COVID-19 [hot spots](#).

If my child commits to virtual learning this semester, can she still return to her zoned school spring semester?

Yes. We will continue to follow our normal enrollment process which will allow any student to return to his/her zoned school.

What is virtual school going to look like?

We have a detailed description [HERE](#) to help you better understand what you can expect in our virtual school setting.

Is there a charge for virtual school?

No, there are no fees associated with virtual school.

Will I be allowed to have lunch at school with my child?

No. Parent and guardian visits to school will be limited to essential activity.

Do I have to provide my own computer?

No. All students in Bentonville Schools are provided a Chromebook for use that remains the property of the school district. Families are required to purchase Chromebook insurance, which is available through the District for \$20. Payment may be made at mypaymentsplus.com.

Will an alternating digital and traditional schedule be an option this fall? Or a half day schedule?

No. There are no plans to schedule alternating days for students.

Will face coverings be mandatory?

Face coverings will be required to be worn correctly by adults and students fourth grade and older. Face coverings should not be used on children younger than 2 years old; anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious; or anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance.

Can children K-3rd grades wear face masks to school if the parent chooses that for their child?

Yes.

Will my high school student still be able to participate in the Ignite Professional Studies program?

Students choosing remote learning at home in the Virtual School model can attend Ignite in person.

Can all teachers use the same platform for digital learning?

We've refined our student and parent online platforms to provide a more seamless transition this fall.

How will children socially distance in their classrooms?

In accordance with Arkansas Department of Health directives, efforts will be made to limit close contact between students. We will limit contact through the following actions:

- Arrange classrooms and other areas to maximize spacing between students and teacher to the extent possible.
- Amend schedules to conform with social distancing guidelines (e.g. stagger lunches, minimize transitions, teachers may go to students).

What will school plays, concerts and performances look like in the fall?

The Arkansas Activities Association will release guidance for all AAA activities but large group gatherings will be limited.

Will students in virtual school be allowed to attend field trips?

We don't anticipate many field trips in the upcoming fall semester but, should an opportunity present, virtual students will attend field trips with their virtual classroom. Virtual students will not attend with their traditional school classmates.

Will my child still receive speech in a virtual classroom?

Yes. Speech, physical therapy and occupational therapy service will be offered virtually.

If staff and students are required to wear masks, how will they learn phonics?

A clear plexiglass shield will be used when teaching phonics so students can see their instructor's face.

Will clubs, athletics and extracurricular activities continue for virtual students?

Students sixth through twelfth grades will be able to participate in athletics, clubs and extracurricular activities on campus.

Will there be bottle filling stations for the refilling of water bottles during the day?

Some schools have water stations while others do not. You will need to send water bottles filled for the day. In emergency situations, your child may refill his/her bottle.

Will teachers and staff who are high risk or don't feel safe returning to work be allowed to keep their jobs?

We want and need you back at work. If there is a specific reason why you believe you cannot or should not return to work, please let us know so we can address your concern.

If you need leave under the FFCRA, please consult the poster/notice we have provided. As per that poster, an employee is entitled to take leave related to COVID-19 if the employee is unable to work, including unable to telework, because the employee:

<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. is subject to a Federal, State, or local quarantine or isolation order related to COVID-19;2. has been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine related to COVID-19;3. is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and is seeking a medical diagnosis;4. is caring for an individual subject to an order described in (1) or self-quarantine as described in (2);	<ol style="list-style-type: none">5. is caring for his or her child whose school or place of care is closed (or child care provider is unavailable) due to COVID-19 related reasons; or6. is experiencing any other substantially-similar condition specified by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
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Generally, employers covered under the FFCRA must provide employees: Up to two weeks (80 hours, or a part-time employee's two-week equivalent) of paid sick leave based on the regular rate of pay:

- 100% for qualifying reasons #1-3 above, up to \$511 daily and \$5,110 total;
- 2/3 for qualifying reasons #4 and 6 above, up to \$200 daily and \$2,000 total; and
- Up to 12 weeks of paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave paid at 2/3 for qualifying reason #5 above for up to \$200 daily and \$12,000 total.

A part-time employee is eligible for leave for the number of hours that the employee is normally scheduled to work over that period.

If you take FFCRA leave after a mandatory recall, due to any of the reasons above, you will be ineligible for unemployment because the District is legally bound to pay you the formulas listed above.

Can you guarantee the safety of your students and staff?

No. Every risk cannot be mitigated, but we will do all we can to ensure the safety of our staff and students. The well-being of our students, teachers and their families is our top priority.

How do you intend to provide a safe, sanitized environment?

We will work with our custodial staff to comply with sanitation and safety directives from the Arkansas Department of Health. Those actions include the following.

- Janitorial services should distribute wastebaskets, tissues, and CDC-approved hand sanitizer (see cleaning guidelines) to every office and classroom so that these materials can be used upon entry and exit into any discrete location and during transit between sites.
- Signage about frequent handwashing, cough etiquette, and nose blowing should be widely posted, disseminated, and encouraged through various methods of communication.
- Janitorial staff should follow guidance from the ADH about the use of face masks and other PPE needed when performing cleaning duties.
- Janitorial staff will use the [CDC guidance](#) on cleaning.

Will students on school buses be required to wear a mask and socially distance?

Yes. All students fourth grade and older are required to wear a face covering at all times while on the bus. It is recommended that students younger than fourth grade wear a face covering where practical, due to the bus being a confined area where physical distancing is not feasible. This does not imply that students should be denied transportation due to not having a face covering. There may be exceptions for students with health, sensory, or other conditions. This should be addressed on a case-by-case basis. Students should maintain a distance of 6 feet apart while waiting on the bus to arrive.

If my child chooses virtual school, may I still serve on PTO?

Yes. Your child's zoned school will still be your PTO.