

Fall 2021 Learning Plan

Dr. Steven L. Walts

Superintendent

May 5, 2021



Prince William County

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Fall Learning 2021 - Guiding Directives

1. Virginia State Law (SB1303) – key points:
 - Requires School Board’s offer full time in-person instruction
 - Follow mitigation strategies “to the greatest extent possible”
 - A long as COVID-19 pandemic is in effect, School Board may provide fully remote virtual instruction option
2. School Board Directive – March 17:
 - “...the Division Superintendent and staff to prepare and present to the School Board by May 5, 2021 a reopening plan for the 2021-22 school year which provides for five days a week of full-time, in-person instruction for all students in all grade levels; and further that the plan provide an option for 100% virtual instruction for all students in all grade levels.”



Fall Learning 2021 – Task Force

1. Task Force comprised of 78 members.
2. Teachers, counselors, principals, central office staff, PWEA.
3. Facilitated by Lynn Colón, Director, Office of English Learner Programs and Services.
4. Subgroups Elementary, Middle, and High School.
5. Met weekly with all members together, subgroups met additionally
6. Presented recommendations and considerations to Superintendent's staff.
7. Division-wide parent/guardian survey – preliminary: about 85% plan to return students in-person (as of 4/29).



Fall Learning 2021 – Key Principles

1. Ensuring academic success and social/emotional support for every student.
2. Serving students through their local community school is preferred.
3. Attending in-person is best option for most students.
4. Eliminating concurrent teaching to the greatest extent possible.
5. Reducing complexity and creating ability to easily pivot to changing health guidance.
6. Enhance virtual attendance requirements (such as live on-camera presence).



Fall Learning 2021 – Plan

1. In-person five-day-a-week “default” for all students.
2. Virtual option will be provided at schools for all grade levels.
3. Parents/guardians will have opportunity to opt-into virtual for fall semester via Hub May 24-May 28.
4. Virtual students will be grouped together into virtual-only sections.
5. High Schools may supplement base-school schedules if needed with courses via Virtual Prince William and Virtual Virginia.
6. Counselors/schools will advise parent/guardian/student if choosing virtual selection that may be better served in-person.
7. School-aged child care planned for “normal” 62 elementary locations and select middle school location before and after schools.
8. Meals available at no-cost for all students.



Fall Learning 2021 – Plan

1. Schools will follow “normal” bell schedules.
2. Virtual sections/classes will be embedded in the normal bell schedules (limited exceptions such as Virtual Prince William).
3. Virtual students will follow the same bell schedule as in-person students.
4. Virtual class sizes may be larger than typical class sizes depending on overall numbers.
5. All class size guidelines and Virginia Standards of Quality that apply to in-person classes will apply to virtual and/or hybrid classes.
6. Limited number of classes may not be available virtually (such as certain CTE classes requiring high degree of hands-on work)



Fall Learning 2021 – Plan

1. Eliminating concurrent teaching to the greatest extent possible.
2. Limited exceptions:
 - a. Quarantine may occur - requiring impacted students to have concurrent teaching during that time.
 - b. Scheduling of virtual-only sections will be maximized within schools, and may include students across schools, additionally may require limited use of concurrent teaching in some cases.
3. Teachers asked, or volunteering, to teach concurrent sections or during quarantine will receive additional compensation.
4. PWCS is currently working with other Region IV divisions to determine concurrent compensation plan.



Fall Learning 2021 – Plan

1. Schools will follow mitigation strategies in effect at that time “to the greatest extent possible.”

The following is subject to change:

2. Classrooms – physical distance to the greatest extent possible with a minimum of three feet with face coverings.
3. Buses – students will share seats with face coverings.
4. Cafeteria – students will be separated 6 feet to greatest extent possible.



Fall Learning 2021 – Plan - Caveats

1. Plan subject to change based on directives from federal, state, and local officials (CDC, Governor, Health Department).
2. Dr. McDade may choose to make adjustments.
3. School Board questions will be answered using the approved Q&A process and posted for the public.
4. Communication on Fall Learning Plan will go this week to families.

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