

Answers to these questions are based on current information provided by the Alabama State Department of Education, the Alabama Public Health Department and other public health officials. Information is subject to change.

Autauga County Schools

Part 1: Virtual Learning Classrooms FAQ

Who can enroll in the virtual learning classrooms?

Students in Grades K-12 who are zoned for and enrolled in Autauga County Schools may choose the virtual learning environment.

Will internet be provided for virtual learning classrooms?

Parents or guardians are responsible for providing their own Internet service.

Will students receive a device for virtual learning classrooms?

Parents or guardians are responsible for providing their own computer. A limited number of laptops may be available for households that request and are approved for a technology hardship exception. Any computer equipment supplied by the school is on loan during enrollment and must be returned upon withdrawal, graduation, or at the request of the school.

How will attendance be taken for virtual learning classrooms?

Virtual students must “attend” class daily in accordance with Autauga County Schools’ calendar. Students fulfill attendance requirements when they log in to their classes daily. Autauga County School students are required to abide by district and state attendance policies and procedures.

How will instruction be given in a virtual classroom setting?

Certified teachers from Autauga County Schools will provide daily instruction via our virtual learning management systems. Students will access their daily lessons through Schoology and/or ACCESS. Teachers will interact with students during live and prerecorded sessions. Students will complete assignments and send them electronically through the virtual platforms. Students and parents will be able to contact teachers during regular school hours as needed. Parents may also request to speak with teachers after school hours if necessary.

How much time will students spend on the computer?

It is expected that students in the early grades will spend approximately 50 percent of their time on the computer. Students will also utilize numerous print books, workbooks, and instructional materials. Older students could spend about 75 percent of their time working on computer-based activities with the remainder of the time being spent on project-based learning activities.

Are there times when virtual students will be required to go to school?

Yes, students will be required to go to either their base school or a designated site within Autauga County to take state assessments, benchmark assessments, end-of-course tests or other necessary assessments. The times, dates and locations will be communicated well in advance.

Can virtual students participate in athletics and other extracurricular activities?

Virtual students may participate in extracurricular activities and clubs at their base schools. Students must meet membership criteria as set by the base school organization in order to qualify for participation in the club or activity. Virtual students may participate in athletic programs at their base schools. If a base high school requires its athletes to take specific athletic or weight training classes, then participating virtual students will be required to take these classes on campus as well.

Can virtual students participate in band?

Yes. Students will attend band classes daily at their base school. They will also be required to participate in mandatory practices.

Will parents be allowed to change their child's learning environment at any time throughout the year?

Yes, but we will make every effort to have students continue in the same learning environment until the end of a grading period. Transferring from one learning environment to another in the middle of a grading period could adversely affect a student's grade and overall success. School leadership teams will consider all requests to change learning environments and determine the best course of action for each individual student.

Are students required to complete virtual learning assignments daily?

Students are expected to work a full school day. This could include online classes with teachers and classmates, as well as, offline projects and required readings.

Will students be assigned to one teacher for virtual learning or will there be multiple teachers?

The grade level of the student determines the number of teachers each student will have. Younger students may have one or two teachers while older students (particularly high school students) could have multiple teachers for various content areas.

Will there be tutoring options for virtual learning students?

Yes, if a student has a grade below 60%, they are strongly encouraged to go to tutoring. Times and locations of tutoring will be communicated as needed.

How will a virtual student receive help if they are falling behind or if they do not understand certain concepts?

Students' needs will be evaluated on an individual basis. If a student falls behind in the virtual setting, school leadership teams will evaluate the student's capacity to be successful in the virtual learning environment and make recommendations as needed.

Will teachers be available daily for virtual learning?

Yes, teachers will be available daily during regular school hours. Some lessons may be interactive with teachers, and some lessons may be recorded. Teachers will not be required to provide *live* instruction after the regular school day ends.

Will work/paper packets be available for virtual learning?

No, paper packets will not be provided as they were during COVID-19 virtual learning. Students will be provided with textbooks and other learning materials, but there will be no weekly delivery of paper packets, etc. In the event that schools are forced to close again due to COVID-19, paper packets could be available if needed to those students who do not have a device or internet.

How will virtual students take tests?

Virtual students can take quizzes and unit tests at home. State mandated tests, mid-year exams, and end-of-year exams must be done in person at a designated site in Autauga County Schools.

Will virtual students have to participate in state assessments?

Yes, that is an absolute requirement for each student as we are part of the public-school system.

How will virtual students submit assignments?

Assignments will be submitted through the virtual learning management systems. There may be times when projects or other assignments are submitted in a different format, but that will be based on the individual needs of students.

How will virtual students be graded?

Virtual students will be graded on submission of assignments and on course mastery content. Grades will be given on daily assignments, tests, projects, etc.

Can virtual students participate in classes at the Autauga County Technology Center?

Yes.

Will seniors who participate in virtual learning classrooms graduate and receive a diploma from their zoned school?

Yes, students can earn a diploma issued by Autauga County Schools for their base school based upon successful completion and mastery of course content.

Can a student participate in both virtual and traditional classrooms?

No, students must be registered for either the virtual learning environment or the traditional learning environment. (ACCESS classes will still be available to students in traditional classroom settings.)

If a student has an IEP, 504 or EL plan, how will they receive accommodations if he/she is a virtual student?

School leadership teams will discuss individual students' needs and make case-by-case decisions for students with IEP/504/IELP plans. It is possible that a student's needs may best be met in a traditional classroom setting; however, all cases will be discussed on an individual basis.

What learning materials are provided to virtual students?

All the textbooks and instructional materials needed to complete the program will be provided to the students.

Will there be field trips for traditional and virtual students?

At the time of this publication, no field trips are scheduled for students in either the virtual or the traditional learning environments due to COVID-19. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

Will a parent be required to be at home with the virtual student during the normal school hours?

Every student, regardless of age and grade level, must be provided with adequate daily supervision and support by a responsible adult or learning coach. The learning coach is the adult in the home who assists the student with completing assignments and tasks. Instruction will primarily take place during normal school hours; therefore, it is essential that parents/learning coaches are available to assist students during this time.

Will virtual students have to log in everyday to complete assignments?

The virtual learning environment can be more flexible than the traditional school setting as students are able to modify the day to suit their strengths. However, mandatory online classes and meetings with the teacher will be held at scheduled times during the regular school day.

Will there be interactive learning with the teachers and students for virtual learning?

Yes, the learning management systems allow for interactive learning with teachers and students.

What equipment and materials are required for virtual learning classrooms?

Required items are: 1) dedicated workspace; 2) proper internet connection; 3) computer (tablets or phones will not be sufficient); 4) printer; 5) scanner or mobile device to capture images of assignments for uploading; 6) headphones, microphone, and webcam to participate in online discussions; 7) student supplies (list distributed by each teacher)

What platform will be used for virtual learning classrooms?

Students in grades K-6 will use Schoology as the primary learning management system. Students in grades 7-12 will use a combination of Schoology and ACCESS.

Will driver's education be available to virtual students?

Yes, students wishing to participate in driver's education must take this course at their base school in the traditional school setting.

Autauga County Schools

Part 2: Traditional Classroom related to COVID-19 FAQ

What safety provisions will be in place for students in the traditional school setting?

Autauga County Schools will adhere to all safety guidelines set forth by the Alabama Department of Public Health, the Alabama State Department of Education and other local health officials. As always, the safety of our students is our top priority. Face coverings for students will be strongly recommended. School personnel will wear masks while transitioning throughout the school building. Hand sanitizer and soap will be available in restrooms and in classrooms, and hand sanitizer stations will be placed at multiple locations throughout the school building. Frequently touched areas such as doorknobs will be routinely cleaned throughout the school day. School supplies will not be shared among students. Social distancing guidelines will be followed to the extent possible. Our top priority is ensuring that proper safety measures are in place and are being properly followed.

Will students be required to wear masks at school?

Based on current health guidelines, we will strongly recommend that students wear face coverings, particularly as they transition throughout the school building.

Will students be required to wear masks on the bus?

Based on current health guidelines, we will strongly recommend that students wear face coverings as they transition on and off the bus.

What screenings will be done upon entering the school?

Home will be the initial point of screening each day. Parents will determine if their child presents any signs of infection prior to sending them to school. Signage will be posted in car lines and in all entrances to the school buildings. These signs will help students and parents assess COVID-19 symptoms they may have and direct their next steps. Teachers and staff will receive training on assessing COVID-19 symptoms and assist in identifying students who may need a referral to the school nurse.

Will the cafeteria be open or will the students eat lunch in their classrooms?

The goal is to have students eat in the lunchroom while adhering to social distancing guidelines. The size of each individual school's lunchroom will determine lunchroom procedures.

Will students participate in PE?

Yes, students will participate in PE. They will not be required to dress-out as they have in the past, and social distancing guidelines will be enforced.

Will temperatures be taken daily upon arrival to school?

No.

Will children be required to wash or sanitize their hands upon arrival to school and throughout the school day?

Yes, hand-sanitizing stations will be placed at all entrances of the buildings.

Will parents be allowed to change their child's learning environment at any time throughout the year?

Yes, but we will make every effort to have students continue in the same learning environment until the end of a grading period. Transferring from one learning environment to another in the middle of a grading period could adversely affect a student's grade and overall success. School leadership teams will consider all requests to change learning environments and determine the best course of action for each individual student.

What will the social restrictions be at school?

Social distancing guidelines will be followed to limit social gatherings. Students will not have their regularly scheduled break. Social gatherings before and after school will be limited. Additional social restrictions will be followed according to guidelines from the public health officials and the Alabama State Department of Education.

Can a student participate in both virtual and traditional school?

No, a student will be registered either in the virtual classroom setting or in the traditional classroom setting. In the event that schools are closed due to COVID-19, we will transition all students to virtual learning.

What safety precautions will be in place for the bus?

Bus drivers will wear face coverings. Hand sanitizer will be available to all students boarding the bus. Students will be strongly encouraged to wear masks as they enter and exit the bus. To the extent possible, social distancing guidelines will be followed.

Will there be field trips for traditional and virtual students?

At the time of this publication, no field trips are scheduled for students in either the virtual or traditional learning environments due to COVID-19. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

Will school personnel be required to wear masks?

Yes, school personnel will be required to wear face coverings as they transition throughout the building. Teachers may remove their face coverings once students are seated and class begins.

If you have additional questions, please feel free to email us at parents@acboe.net