

Frequently Asked Questions:

Why did IPS decide to move to all remote learning?

- Delaying in-person learning will allow more time for the number of COVID-19 cases in Marion County to decrease to a less dangerous level.
- IPS maintains the pledge to remain flexible and respond to the changing data from state and local health and government officials.
- Based on the rising number of COVID-19 cases, we initially made the decision to delay the start of the school year by two weeks.
- As the cases continue to rise, we've responded again with the decision to delay in-person learning by at least several weeks to promote a safer return to in-person learning in the fall.
- Promote the physical safety of IPS students and staff.
- Meet the academic needs of IPS students.
- Prioritize the needs of our most vulnerable students/families.

How will the two-week delay in starting the school affect the school year calendar?

- Fall break will be converted to a week of remote learning.
- The first week of spring break will be converted to a remote learning week.
- Teachers will no longer report to school the week of Aug. 3.
- Classified (10 month) staff will report the week of Aug. 3 to support device organization/ deployment if needed and attend PD virtually.
- All staff will attend district-led professional development (PD), along with school-based PD the week of Aug. 10.

What does the remote learning instructional model look like?

- Instruction will be delivered daily by a student's homeroom teacher, content area teacher, teacher of record, or related service provider via Microsoft Teams.
- Student attendance will be taken daily or every period (for middle and high school students). Attendance will be verified by the student's presence on Microsoft Teams.
- Students and teachers will follow a daily schedule created by the school leader.
- The master schedule will be conducive to allow teachers and service providers the appropriate time to provide IEP/504/ILP service minutes on a daily basis, or as written in students' individual plans. Lunch and recess/brain breaks should be scheduled at the same time each day.

How are teachers being prepared, and will continued to be prepared, for this transition into the school year?

- The district will provide five half-day afternoon sessions the week of Aug. 10.
- Principals have the flexibility to determine morning sessions.
- Professional development content will include the following:
 - Alignment around the vision for full-time remote learning and expectations for providing high-quality instruction online.
 - Building skills to assist with utilizing digital platforms.
 - Beginner/advanced strands depending on teacher capacity.
 - Both optional and required sessions.

How will meals will be distributed to families districtwide?

- Meals will be served at many locations, including each of the four high schools.
- All meals will be prepackaged.
- Service will happen Mondays and Wednesdays from Noon to 3 p.m. and on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to noon.
- Families will receive two days' worth of meals on Mondays and Tuesdays and three days' worth of meals on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Will all students have a device (Chromebook or iPad) for the school year?

- All students will receive a device to participate in high-quality, robust academic programming. Plans for device distribution will be forthcoming from individual schools to families.
- Students in Pre-K–2 will receive an iPad.
- Students in Grades 3–12 will receive a Chromebook.
- A MiFi mobile hot spot device will be available to families who don't have access to reliable internet service.

Where will teachers work from when school starts?

- Teachers may work from home or their respective classroom; students will receive the same level of instruction and support.

What IPS buildings open? Who is allowed to be in the buildings?

- Teachers, administrators, staff are allowed to work from their respective school building as school begins August 17. Any staff, student, or visitor must adhere to all social distancing and personal hygiene (face coverings and hand washing) while on IPS property.

How will staff be kept safe while in school and administrative building?

- All IPS staff will maintain CDC recommended cleaning protocols.