



The updated K–12 district procedures commencing now and into the 2021-2022 school year reflect the latest science on physical distance between students in classrooms. CDC now recommends that, with universal masking, students should maintain a distance of at least 3 feet in classroom settings.

- At the elementary school (K-6), all students will remain at least 3 feet apart in classrooms where mask use is universal — regardless of whether community transmission is low, moderate, substantial, or high.
- At the high school (7-12), all students should be at least 3 feet apart in classrooms where mask use is universal — regardless of whether community transmission is low, moderate, substantial, or high.
- If transmission rates become high, all students (K-12) should be at least 6 feet apart, if cohorting is not possible, and possible alternative learning plans will be instituted if necessary.

The Arkansas Arts Academy continues to require 6 feet distance:

- Between adults in the school building and between adults and students.
- In common areas, such as school lobbies and auditoriums.
- When masks can't be worn, such as when eating.
- During activities when increased exhalation occurs, such as singing, shouting, band practice, sports, or exercise. These activities should be moved outdoors or to large, well-ventilated spaces whenever possible.
- In community settings outside of the classroom.

While this helps with spacing in some of our classrooms, the definition of “close contact” from the CDC still states “Someone who has been within **6 feet** of an infected person (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.” As we add more students to our campuses, there will be a greater number of students considered close contacts in the event we have someone on campus who tests positive.

Parents and guardians may still elect to use virtual instruction for their children in consultation with school administration, whether synchronous or asynchronous. The choice of learning plan remains in place until officially changed in agreement with school administration.

These procedures are based upon current information and circumstances and will be revisited if the situation changes. For more detailed information from the state on End-of-Year COVID-19 Guidance for Schools click [here](#)