



Tecumseh Public Schools
School Closure Frequently Asked Questions

During this time of uncertainty, we want to keep you informed and answer your questions. With school sites being closed and office staff at home, we know that it is difficult to get the information that you need. If you have a question, other parents or community members may also be wondering the same thing, so we have created this Frequently Asked Questions document to share the latest information that we have with you. Feel free to email questions to Mr. Wilsie and wilsiet@tecumseh.k12.ok.us. We will work to update these FAQs on a regular basis to keep you informed.

Q: How long will the school closure last?

A: UPDATED 3/26/2020 – The Oklahoma State Board of Education voted unanimously on Wednesday, March 25, 2020, to close schools through the end of the school year. Members of the board directed school districts to create a distance learning plan that will begin on Monday, April 6, 2020, and last through the remainder of the school year. Tecumseh Public Schools is currently developing this distance learning plan and will be sharing information with parents during the week of March 30th.

Q: My child left an important item at school. How can I pick it up?

A: Please contact your child’s principal via email and set up a time that you can pick up the item(s) that your child needs from the building. The principals’ email addresses are listed below. School nurses are working now to contact parents whose children have prescription medications at school. Expect contact from them soon to set up a time to pick up your child’s medication.

Tecumseh Early Childhood Center	Tammy Giaudrone	giaudronet@tecumseh.k12.ok.us
Barnard Elementary School	Cindy Horn	hornc@tecumseh.k12.ok.us
Cross Timbers Elementary School	Brandi Burks	burksb@tecumseh.k12.ok.us
Tecumseh Middle School	Sarah Flowers	flowerss@tecumseh.k12.ok.us
Tecumseh High School	Randy Dilbeck	dilbeckr@tecumseh.k12.ok.us

Q: Can students practice or play extracurricular activities during the school closure?

A: No. Unfortunately, all school sanctioned extracurricular activities have been halted during the school closure.

Q: What if this school closure extends beyond the current timeline or even for the rest of the school year?

A: UPDATED 3/26/2020 – Teachers at Tecumseh Public Schools are working hard to develop a distance learning plan that will involve all students in the district for the remainder of the school year.

Q: Why is the school using its buses to deliver meals?

A: State Superintendent Hofmeister and other state leaders have made it clear that our children's nutritional needs must be met during this time of crisis, and they have tasked schools with continuing to provide meals for students. Workers in our district's child nutrition program have agreed to continue to prepare free meals for all students on a daily basis, but we recognize that the majority of our students live outside of city limits. In order to try to provide meals for as many of our students as possible, we have been given permission to run our bus routes to all bus stops to deliver these free meals. Even if your child does not ride a bus, she or he can go to a convenient bus stop to pick up a meal. For more information about delivery times, see the Meal Delivery Plan document on our district's homepage.

Q: What kinds of learning opportunities can I provide for my child during this school closure?

A: We have put together a list of online resources that are free to use and that students can explore for challenging and fun academic activities during this time of school closure. You can access this list on the district's homepage. While this is not an exhaustive list, it should keep your child engaged during this time that we are out of school.

Q: What is COVID-19, and what are the symptoms?

A: Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person.

Patients with COVID-19 have had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of fever, cough, and/or shortness of breath. The Centers for Disease Control believes at this time that symptoms of COVID-19 may appear in as few as 2 days or as long as 14 days after exposure.

Learn more at <https://coronavirus.health.ok.gov/>.

Q: How is Tecumseh Public Schools cleaning school facilities?

A: Tecumseh Public Schools continues to utilize products confirmed by the manufacturer to kill human coronavirus and other viruses. Custodians are cleaning all surfaces in classrooms, restrooms, offices, and meeting rooms regularly. We will continue to clean and disinfect schools

and facilities in alignment with guidance from the CDC.

Q: Can I enroll my child if we have recently moved into Tecumseh?

A: Prior to enrolling, new families who have moved into our district must complete the enrollment process. Since school sites are currently closed, all business will need to be conducted through the district administrative offices located at 1301 E. Highland Street in Tecumseh. Enrollment paperwork can be found on our district's website located at www.tecumseh.k12.ok.us. Parents/Guardians can fill out the paperwork and bring it to the above address to begin the enrollment process. Other paperwork to prove residency may also be needed before a student's enrollment can be finalized.

Please note that school administrators will work with district and community health officials to determine the appropriate registration and attendance plan for students moving to our district from high risk areas for COVID-19. If you are moving from a high-risk area, please call the administrative office at (405)598-3739 during normal business hours and ask to speak to Mr. Kinsey to discuss details.

Q: Will the 2019-20 school calendar be changed or extended?

A: UPDATED 3/26/2020 – After the State Board of Education Meeting on March 25th, the board directed schools to begin their distance learning plans on Monday, April 6th. No extra days will be added to the existing school calendar which has a current ending date of Thursday, May 21st.

New Questions and Answers Updated on March 26, 2020

Q: What is the time-line for distance learning?

A: Our plan, pending Oklahoma State Department of Education (SDE) approval, is that from now until April 6th, teachers will be working to develop two distance learning models for our students. One model will provide distance learning opportunities for students who have access to internet at their home. The other plan will be for students who do not have internet access. Information about both of these options will be available by the end of the day next Wednesday, April 1st through a phone message that will be sent to all students in the district as well as on our school's website. Both distance learning plans will be in effect starting Monday, April 6th and will run through the remainder of the school year. The lessons that will be provided in both plans will be based on the most essential skills that your child has been learning throughout the 2019-2020 school year as well as those essential skills that they would have been taught had we continued with traditional schooling methods.

Q: How much time each day should be spent on distance learning?

A: Each family is different, but there is no expectation that a student should spend 5 to 6 hours on a device or watching lessons daily. We are trying to make sure that lessons fit into a 30-

minute time frame. We will provide two to three lessons each day for elementary students and up to five lessons per day for secondary students.

Q: What if I do not have a device for my elementary student?

A: If you have internet at home but need to borrow a device for students in your home, Tecumseh Public Schools plans to loan a Chromebook for your students to use. At this time, we can loan one device per household for students in your home to share.

Q: What if my child doesn't learn well on a device?

A: Beginning on April 6th, our district will offer two platforms for learning. If your child does not learn well using internet-based instruction, then we would ask that you select the learning packet option which should be completed with paper and pencil at home.

Q: How do I work from home and teach at home?

A: This is an incredibly difficult task that even our own educators are facing as they try to attend to their school responsibilities while watching their own children at the same time. While there is no simple answer to this, we first suggest that you focus on what is realistic and what works for your family. If you are working from home, you cannot do two roles at once. Schedule time that you work and then time that you spend with your children. The content that we are developing for learning will have resources that are ready for your students to use for learning. You don't have to be the teacher. You just need to facilitate. This might include giving your child a choice of three or four activities and getting them started. Then, you can spend some time on your work. This is uncharted territory, and we are empathetic to the plight of many parents.

Q: What if I can't afford Wifi in my home?

A: Many internet providers are offering free internet at this time specifically for families who qualify for free and reduced lunches. To see if you qualify for free and reduced lunch status, thus qualifying your family for discounted services, apply by contacting Cox Cable, AT&T, Verizon, etc. If you do not have internet access in your home, your child can still participate using learning packets that will be developed by teachers on a weekly basis through the end of the school year.

Q: Why should my children participate in distance learning for the rest of the school year?

A: To stop learning now would likely mean a regression in skills that would have to be relearned next year. It will be our goal to provide learning opportunities through distance learning so that students will continue to grow academically and will be better prepared for the start of the 2020-2021 school year.

Q: Since state testing is waived, how will my third-grade student meet the requirements of the Reading Sufficiency Act (RSA)?

A: As a result of the cancellation of the third grade ELA test, the district will be using data collected from screening, diagnostic, and progress monitoring assessments prior to March 12, 2020, to make promotion and retention decisions. For students who do not qualify for automatic promotion based on prior assessments or under a good cause exemption, a Student Reading Proficiency Team (SRPT) will be convened virtually to make decisions about promotion or retention.

Q: I have an 8th-grade student. How will they receive their letter of English proficiency so that they can obtain their driving permit?

A: While Oklahoma law requires students to successfully complete the reading portion of the eighth-grade English language arts (ELA) assessment in order to apply for a driver license or permit, the State Board of Education voted on March 25, 2020, to allow the state to provide a medical exemption for this requirement. At this time it is our understanding that this exemption will satisfy the requirements of the law.

Students wishing to take the driver exam should be aware that the Department of Public Safety (DPS) has instituted the following restrictions: all driving skills tests have been canceled; only 10 customers are allowed in an office at one time, and every customer must have an appointment.

Q: Will free meals continue beyond Friday, April 3rd?

A: Yes, grab-and-go meals will continue to be provided through the remainder of the school year. Please check the district website for locations and times for meal drop off or pick up.

Q: Will my high school junior be required to take the U.S. History test?

A: No, the state Education Department has received a federal waiver for state standardized testing.

Q: Will my child still be able to take the free ACT offered to all juniors?

A: All state-required testing has been waived for this year. No state testing including the free ACT is going to be given. Keep in mind, if you qualify for free and reduced meals, you can qualify for free ACT testing on the National testing dates. If you need more information on this, email your child's high school counselor.

Q: Can concurrent enrollment courses continue?

A: Possibly, depending on arrangements with the particular higher education partner. Concurrent enrollment classes are primarily designed and operated through the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. The State Board of Education decision prohibits instructional activities conducted by or on the property of an accredited public school. This prohibition does not extend to instructional activities by an institution of higher education that is not conducted on the property of an accredited public high school. ***Concurrent students should contact their concurrent instructor for directions on continuing the concurrent course.***

Q: Will classes continue at Gordon Cooper Technology Center?

A: The Gordon Cooper Technology Center Board is meeting soon to make decisions as well. Tecumseh Public Schools cannot answer questions for Gordon Cooper or tell you how they plan to proceed. We will forward any communication we receive from Gordon Cooper to our parents.

Q: What does this mean for my AP Student?

A: College Board has adjusted the AP tests and is allowing students to test online at home. College Board is also releasing resources to AP students on April 3rd. All of this information and more can be found on the [College Board website](#).

AP teachers will be reaching out to AP students directly to guide them to these resources.

Q: Will graduation ceremonies be held?

A: Unfortunately, the traditional graduation ceremony, which had been scheduled to be held at the Firelake Arena, is very unlikely this year due to the predicted lingering dangers of exposure to COVID-19 and current prohibitions against the gathering of large crowds in public venues. Assuming this situation continues into mid-May, conversations are in progress to arrange a unique opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of the Class of 2020. More information on graduation exercises for 2020 will be available soon.

Q: What happens to students eligible for special education services when school is canceled for all students due to COVID-19?

A: The Oklahoma State Department of Education is reviewing issues for students with special education needs and will be providing additional guidance. We will share that when it is available. Our district goal will be to provide our special education students with the best services that we can based on the guidance that we receive and the parameters to work in that the State Board has authorized.

This is an unprecedented situation, and it has required an unprecedented response. We will still take care of our students. Tecumseh is a community that sticks together in challenging times, and we know this experience will be no different.