

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Educational Options for in-person or online schooling provided by WL-S.

Last Update: July 24, 2020

Survey

Are the surveys sent out last Friday, July 17th, binding, in relation to which option we choose at this time, or is there a separate deadline/form for committing to an option?

No, the survey is not binding. In mid-August, WL-S will request all families to make an official decision for your children.

In-Person Instruction (Regular School at WL-S)

If a student were receiving in-person instruction, and had to become quarantined, would they still be able to receive instruction and/or do their schoolwork?

Yes, a student receiving in-person instruction that had to be quarantined would continue to receive assignments from the school district to complete at home that will keep them on track with their classes at school.

Will masks be required at school all day for students at WL-S who attend in-person, regular school?

Students, in grades 3-12, will be required to wear a facial covering all day under the current Mask order by the Governor and the Champaign County Health Department. This will remain until the order is lifted and Champaign County is no longer an Orange County (level 2).

Children in Grades k-2 will be highly encouraged to wear a facial covering all day, especially when in transition in the hallway, restroom, and when social distancing is not possible.

What will the regular, in-person, school day look like?

The regular in-person school day will look as much like normal for all grade levels as possible, however, there will be policies and procedures in place to help prevent the spread of COVID among individuals. Some things that will look different.

At the Elementary level;

- Grades 3-5 will eat lunch in their classrooms to provide more social distancing for younger students in grades k-2 in the cafeteria.
- Students will have traditional recess, but only about half the number of students will be sent to the playground at one time.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in multiple locations inside the building and on the playground. It will be available to students each time they travel from one location to another or want to sanitize their hands.
- Desks and chairs will be cleaned throughout the day by students and staff each time they are finished at a location and are moving to a new location or desk.
- Students will meet parents outside once the parent has reported that they are ready to pick up their children. This is to eliminate unnecessary visitors in the building.
- Until the pandemic is lifted, volunteers/visitors will not be allowed in the building.
- Teachers that share students in a grade level will change classes and students will remain at the same desk in the same classroom for most of the day. This will include special teachers (Music, art, PE, computer) when possible.
- Students will not be able to check out library books if Champaign or Logan counties is listed at level 2 (orange) or higher.
- Face Coverings will be required for students in grades k-5 in hallways, restrooms, and at any time social distancing cannot be achieved. In Level 2 (Orange) or by Health Order, all students will be encouraged to wear masks at all times. In grades 3-5 it will be required. Facial covering breaks will be provided by staff when possible by taking students outside.

At the MS/HS Level;

- Students will utilize both the cafetorium and the small gym as lunchrooms to provide more distance between students while eating.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in multiple locations inside the building. It will be available to students each time they travel from one location to another or want to sanitize their hands.
- Desks and chairs will be cleaned throughout the day by students and staff each time they are finished at a location and are moving to a new location or desk for each period.
- Some changes may occur to stagger the release of students at the end of the day to avoid congestion in the hallways, etc.
- Students will be able to access their locker before school, at lunch time, and at the end of the day, only.
- Until the pandemic is lifted, volunteers/visitors will not be allowed in the building.
- Teachers that share students in Middle School by grade levels will change classes and students will remain at the same desk in the same classroom for most of the day. This will limit the amount of exposure for each student to other students in the building and will occur at Level 2 (orange) or higher.
- Students will not be able to check out library books if Champaign or Logan counties is listed at level 2 (orange) or higher.

- Face coverings will be required for all students and staff throughout the day at level 2 (orange) or higher. At level 1, students will be able to remove masks in classrooms when they are able to social distance unless the Governor has issued a statewide mask order.

Where will children be waiting after school for pick up?

Children will either be waiting outside or in the cafeteria after school during dismissal with staff members. Parents will report to the main entrance, under the canopy, to sign their child out.

What are the plans for band/choir?

Students will either practice outside, when weather is acceptable, or students will use various locations within the building, (Gym, cafetorium) to practice and spread out.

If school is closed down due to a higher level of pandemic, will the classroom kids be moved to the SchoolsPLP online program or will WLS teachers be teaching online as they did at the end of last school year?

For students participating in regular, in-person instruction at the school, WL-S teachers will teach students when we would move to remote learning. This would look similar to last school year, with improvements made, based on our experience.

What has been decided about recess? What will that look like?

Recess will look similar as it does now. Hand sanitizer stations will be available on the playground for students to use after they use shared equipment like slides and swings.

If we initially decide to send our children to school do we have the option to change to online learning instead? Will there be a deadline for that transition?

A student may switch to online instruction, but this may only take place at specific times in the grading period. Once a student switches to online curriculum, they must remain in the online instruction program for the remainder of the semester.

Are children allowed to wear the face shields or does it have to be the masks?

A student may wear a face shield or facial covering of their choice. It must cover their nose, mouth, and chin.

How many children will be in each classroom? Will there be plastic dividers in the classroom? Can we get visuals of what a classroom may look like?

Class size will vary by course and grade level, but we do not anticipate more than 25 students per classroom in most situations. In many cases it will be 20 or less. We are still determining what options will work best, but shared tables will most likely have a clear plastic divider to help protect each student.

Online Instruction (SchoolsPLP)

What program would the school use for the online instruction?

WL-S will use a learning platform called SchoolsPLP. This platform will provide all core courses (Math, English, Social Studies, and Science) offered by WL-S and electives to HS students that are the same and some courses in addition to what WL-S offers.

How will the online remote learning option work and what is SchoolsPLP software?

WL-S remote learning is all-virtual instructional option using software provided by the vendor SchoolsPLP. SchoolsPLP is available for students in grades K-12, covering Ohio's Learning Standards. Students who elect to enroll in remote learning will access their courses online through a weblink that will be provided, using a unique username and password.

- Students in grades K-5 will be assigned English language arts, mathematics, science and social studies courses that will be accessible when they login.
- Students in grades 6-8 will be expected to work through English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, and the special that would typically be assigned to them each grading period (art, health, physical education, or computers).
- Students in grades 9-12 will be assigned the courses that would be on their schedule if they were attending in-person schooling.

Remote learning will require students to login to their SchoolsPLP account daily and complete, at least one lesson per day, per subject. This would be similar to in-person learning. The length of time estimated to complete each remote learning lesson will vary based on the grade, subject, and the student. The lessons are self-paced with instruction provided, opportunity to practice or apply the learning, and lesson conclusion. There are also built in assignments and assessments that students will be required to complete.

Although both in-person and remote learning options ensure instruction meets Ohio's Learning Standards, there will be a clear difference between the two. Instruction will look different and may follow a different sequence in the remote learning option, as compared to in-person learning. Students participating in remote learning will not necessarily follow the same order of topics and will learn using the SchoolsPLP software. In-person learning will be teacher led and will not use the SchoolsPLP software.

WLS will have a school employee assigned to monitor SchoolsPLP and to be a resource for each enrolled student. Students will be monitored for daily online attendance (designated by logging in and/or completing lessons), communicated with, to support their progress and learning, and provided support, as needed. However, selecting the remote learning option for a student, implies greater independence and responsibility by the student and their family due to the omission of a teacher providing and leading the instruction that one would typically receive with in-person instruction.

Students enrolled in the remote learning option will remain WLS students. Registration forms and current contact information will be completed, attendance will be recorded, assignment completion will be expected, and grades will be issued by WLS. Communication between the school, student and family members will remain critical to ensure success.

If students do online remote learning, are they allowed to participate in co-curricular (band/flags/VoAg) or extra-curricular (football, show choir, etc.) if parents can bring the student to school for those activities?

Yes, student who do the online, SchoolsPLP, program through WL-S can participate in extra and co-curriculars. However, students would have to attend the period of school associated with the co-curricular and be around students during the extracurricular activity. This would increase the risk of exposure for a student and may defeat the purpose of not attending school during the regular school day. You should check with a medical professional if you child has health concerns that place them at-risk.

Can my student be a member of the marching band, choir or FFA if they are enrolled in online learning?

In order to be a member of the marching band, choir or FFA, students must be actively enrolled in the corresponding WLS class. Since these courses cannot be duplicated on SchoolsPLP, a student would need to attend the in-person band, choir or FFA related class to be a member of the marching band, choir, or FFA organizations. Students who wish to attend the in-person class so they can be a member of the organization will need to contact the school to make arrangements by 8/24.

Can my student take one or two in-person classes at WLS and complete the rest through remote learning (SchoolsPLP)?

This is possible. For example, as explained above, if a student would like to be a member of a student organization that requires enrollment in a corresponding class (marching band, choir, FFA), then the student could attend an in-person WLS class while completing other courses remotely through SchoolsPLP. Other scenarios can be discussed on a case-by-case basis.

If my child were to choose the remote online learning plan, would he/she still be a student of WLS or could he lose his spot in the open enrollment?

Yes, your child would still be a student at WL-S. He would not lose his place at WL-S for open-enrollment for participating in our online program during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Students typically have school fees. Will my student have fees this year if they enroll in remote online learning through Schools PLP?

Yes – school fees help to cover a small portion of the expenses for that student (for example - cost of supplies, workbooks, technology subscriptions, etc.). Students enrolled in remote learning will be using a subscription based platform called SchoolsPLP. School fees will still be assigned to remote learning students to assist in a portion of the expenses associated with educating in this manner.

How will 504 and IEP Plans be handled if a student chooses to do online learning?

For any student on a 504 or IEP plan, you are encouraged to attend regular in-person schooling if possible. If the online program is determined to be a good fit for your child, 504 accommodations and IEP Goals will have to be reviewed with the family on an individual basis to ensure we meet the specific needs of your child.

Will online schooling be set up like the end of last year where students are sent assignments through Seesaw or Schoology by the student's teachers?

No, the online instruction will utilize Schools PLP and will not involve your regular teachers here at the school. The curriculum is developed by the company and follows the Ohio State Standards but is not developed by West Liberty-Salem. You will have a teacher that will supervise student progress and, in some cases, provide support, but completion of the curriculum is independent of the regular WL-S course teacher.

Will a student receive an iPad if choosing the online option?

Students who choose the online option will be provided the opportunity to lease an iPad from the school or they may use their own technology. If a student participates in one class at WL-S for in-person instruction, they will be required to lease a school issued iPad.

Can content be accessed anytime or is instruction/interaction expected at specific times of day/days of the week?

Instruction is expected daily, but students are able to work ahead. Students may not fall behind or skip a day of instruction or they will be considered absent from school.

How many hours a day is anticipated the students will spend in front of the screen?

Students will be expected to complete one lesson per day per subject. The same as if they were in regular school. The amount of time it will take the student will vary since lessons are self-paced. School staff monitoring student progress will be able to see the time spent on a lesson for each student and will be able to compare that time to the recommended time to complete a lesson to determine that the student is on track.

Is there opportunity for parents to interact with the online teachers?

Each student will be provided a teacher that will monitor their progress and attendance. The student or parent will be able to communicate with this teacher, but the student is expected to work independently on the online curriculum.

Is there opportunity to customize or individualize the education plan for students that are more or less advanced than the average student?

Yes, the scope and sequence of the lessons can be modified to some degree.

Do students work in groups (group projects) with other online students?

No, work is designed to be completed independently.

Is socialization encouraged in the online format? Are students encouraged to interact and work together?

No, students should work independently and take advantage of social distancing.

How many students do the online teachers have? Do these teachers only teach one subject or a combination of several?

The online curriculum is computer-based and there is no direct instruction from an in-person teacher. Instruction is built into the lessons.

Will school supplies list be different for children online learning vs in school?

Yes, but students will still be expected to pay school fees to help offset the additional cost of SchoolsPLP software. More details will be provided soon.

What materials, if any, will I need to provide for my student to complete remote online learning?

A computer or tablet will be needed (phones are not recommended) and a reliable internet connection will be needed. Students will need access to basic school supplies (varies based on grade and courses enrolled in). A printer may be needed occasionally.

If I enroll my student in remote learning and we don't like it, can we switch to in-person learning?

Students enrolling in remote learning are committing to online learning for the first semester. At the end of the first semester, students can remain in remote learning or switch to in-person learning. Extenuating circumstances may be considered prior to semester time.

COVID Information

For Non COVID illness, did the time change from 72 hours to 24 hours fever and symptom free before a child can return to school?

Yes, this changed last week and will be updated in our plan. Please remember that information is changing rapidly, and it is likely that information may become quickly outdated. We will do our best to keep literature current.

If one child in a family is ill, do other children in the family stay home even if they feel fine?

Yes, it is likely that the Health Department would determine the children have all been exposed if they all live in the same household and everyone in the family will be quarantined. This decision would be made by the Health Department of your County residence and not by WL-S

Will the school monitor students to ensure they are wearing face coverings when required?

Yes, the school will monitor and remind students to place their facial covering on when it is required. This will depend on the health order or level of our counties at the time.

Will students be disciplined if they do not have a facial covering on?

No, students will simply be reminded to put their facial covering on if they have forgotten to do so. For younger grade levels it is likely the teacher will remind the group of students when transitioning from one class to the next or at the beginning of a class period to ensure everyone has a mask on.

What if a student is not able to wear a mask or facial covering?

If a child cannot wear a mask or facial covering due to a medical condition, the district will have a medical waiver that the child must have completed along with a doctor's order regarding their ability to wear a face mask.

What if my child refuses to wear a face mask at school?

If your child refuses to wear a face covering at school, when it is required, and does not comply to school personnel when reminded to put his/her mask on, than there may be disciplinary consequences, however, it is not the desire or intention of the school district to make mask wearing a behavioral or discipline offense. We suggest that you work with your child to find a type of facial covering that is comfortable to them. There are many different styles of masks, neck gaiters, and face shields that a student can wear.

College Credit Plus (CCP)

Is College Credit Plus/Dual Enrollment still an option during COVID?

Yes, CCP/Dual Enrollment is still an option. Courses can be taken through the school at WL-S or online through the university. Edison State is WL-S primary partner.

My student is planning to take a CCP class directly through Clark State, Edison State or other college. They have other WLS courses they also are planning to take. Can they take their WLS courses through SchoolsPLP and still take the CCP course?

Yes – CCP courses can be taken in addition to high school based courses. For the 20-21 school year, WLS has two approved high school based course options: in-person and remote/online. Either option would allow a student to take CCP courses through a college. Students will need to follow the state guidelines for the number of courses allowed in total per school year (this is referred to as Carnegie Units) and should be discussed with the guidance counselor.

Bus Transportation

When riding the bus will students be required to wear a mask?

Yes, students will be required to wear a mask when riding the bus.

Will students have assigned seats on the bus?

Yes, students will have assigned seats for all regular bus routes, and they will also have assigned seats for extracurricular and co-curricular trips.

Will busses be cleaned between routes?

Yes, busses will be cleaned with vital oxide cleaner between each bus route. This cleaner is PH neutral, kills 100% of microorganisms, and is safe for schools/children.

Can the children be dropped off at a different location than where they were picked up?

Yes, but for this school year the district will only pick up at one address and drop off at one address. Parents will not be able to call in and request changes. If the situation would arise that the child(ren) could not be picked up or dropped off at their regular location, the parent would need to drop off or pick up the child(ren) at the school. This is to limit exposure of students to COVID and to allow the health department to do tracking of exposure more effectively as cases develop. Exceptions will be made for an emergency only, as determined by the school district.

Athletics

Will there be fall sports?

As of July 23rd, OHSAA is planning to move forward with fall sports.

Does my child have to miss athletic practices and/or school if they vacation in a state that is under quarantine?

Yes, if your child returns to Ohio from a state that has been listed, by the Governor, as a State with higher numbers of COVID cases, than you will need to self-quarantine for 14 days before returning to school or practices. This is an Advisory by the State of Ohio.