



DISTANCE LEARNING Q&A

What is the Distance Learning plan for reopening schools in the North Franklin School District?

Due to current COVID-19 case counts and guidance from the county and state departments of health, the NFSD will begin the school year in a “distance learning” model and begin school on August 31st, 2020. **We will start with student and parent conferences/orientations only from August 31st through September 4th and distance learning instruction will begin on Tuesday, Sept 8th. This is to give us the opportunity to meet face to face and make sure each and every student and parent understands the expectations, schedule, and systems we have developed and set us all up for SUCCESS!!!** We will continue to ramp up operations within the first couple weeks, by adding in-person instruction for life skills students, resource room students, English language learners, kindergarten students and first grade students, in that specific order because the county and state has authorized us to provide in-person instruction for academically at-risk students in groups of five or less. Individual buildings will communicate ramp up plans/schedules as they are finalized. If your student is being considered for in-person instruction you will be notified.

NFSD conducted a thorough review of distance learning after our experience in the spring of 2020 and has made numerous changes to the distance learning plan as a result.

The plan includes increased in-person or synchronous instruction for students with disabilities and English Language Learners. Staff will remain on site, delivering instruction and communicating with students and parents from their classrooms unless directed otherwise by the state or county. New instructional content will be offered to all students and student work will be graded. Attendance and a minimum number of hours of student engagement in school activities will be required.

The NFSD is committed to switching to an in-person instructional model as soon as the county and state give us authorization to do so. In that case, we will take approximately 3-5 days to switch to in-person instruction. It is our hope that COVID case numbers continue to decline and this comes sooner rather than later.

Elementary Service Model:

1. Elementary schools will continue to provide learning opportunities and activities for students through packets and/or on-line materials weekly. We will be using chromebooks and Google Classroom down to 3rd grade as soon as we receive the ones we have ordered.
2. Each Grade level will determine the critical learning standards that must be addressed for the remainder of the closure and these learning standards will form the core of the instructional materials.
3. Teachers will engage with students daily, through phone calls, google meets, Class Dojo, and other methods to create a supportive environment and provide direction, assistance, feedback, and encouragement.
4. Teachers will create asynchronous (recorded, not live) videos of instruction as needed
5. Teachers will make and distribute student learning packets as directed by principal
6. Teachers will use Google Meets throughout the week during a closure, to conduct live video group instruction, checks for understanding, answer questions, etc.

7. Buildings will utilize the food distribution system to distribute learning materials as necessary.

Secondary Service Model:

1. Secondary schools will continue to provide learning opportunities and activities for students through on-line materials weekly and will supplement with packets where necessary.
2. Each department will determine the critical learning standards that must be addressed for the remainder of the closure and these learning standards will form the core of the instructional materials.
3. College in the Classroom classes will continue to follow the requirements of the university or college providing the college credit.
4. Core content classes will be prioritized over elective content courses and intervention courses.
5. Teachers will engage with students daily through phone calls, google meets meetings, and other methods to create a supportive environment and provide direction, assistance, feedback, and encouragement
6. Teachers will create asynchronous (recorded, not live) videos of instruction as needed
7. Teachers will make and distribute student learning packets as directed by principal
8. Teachers will use Google Meets throughout the week to conduct group instruction, checks for understanding, answer questions, etc.
9. Buildings will utilize the food distribution system to distribute learning materials as necessary.

What does the “Schedule” look like for distance learning?

That really depends on what grade your student is in. But overall, your student will be expected to “do” approximately 6 hours of “school” a day with up to 2 hours of live video instruction time, 2 hours of off line or “asynchronous” learning activities, and 2 hours of opportunity to contact and get additional help from their teachers. The oldest students in our schools will have very close to a full two hours of live video instruction and the youngest will have some live video instruction, but we don’t expect them to be on for 2 hours.

	8-10 AM	10am -12 pm	1 pm - 3 pm
Live Instruction	CHS/PJHS	OJH	Elementary
Office Hours	Elementary	CHS/PJHS	OJH
Off line Prep/Homework	OJH	Elementary	CHS/PJHS

During “Live Instruction”:

CHS/PJHS and OJHS will have four 25 minute periods each day with 5 minutes of “passing” time between each class. This way they will have all of their classes and advisory within two days.

- Mandatory attendance during live instruction
- Use the time to explain, clarify, answer group or whole class questions and establish/monitor class expectations.

Elementary schools will publish a building specific master schedule that accomplishes core instruction in reading, writing, math, science, social studies, etc

- Mandatory attendance during live instruction
- Use the time to explain, touch bases, assign activities, etc

During Office Hours:

Everyone establishes office hours and maintains them for 2 hours.

If not engaged with a parent or child who contacts them, the teacher uses this time to reach out to all students in a rotational manner.

During Off Line Prep/Homework:

- Teachers are developing lessons, videos, and learning activities
- Kids do homework/asynchronous learning activities
- Special Education staff document services provided

My child attends OJH or CHS - When will I receive their schedule?

OJH and CHS staff are working on individual student scheduling right now and they should be available on Skyward on Monday, August 31st. If you cannot access Skyward, the staff will distribute student schedules during the student's orientation conference between August 31st and September 4th.

What does the district plan for students on their asynchronous day' (Wednesday) during the distance learning model at OJH/CHS?

On the typical Wednesday, a student will be expected to meet the minimum attendance requirements of time engaged in distance learning, participate in a Character Strong lesson, participate in on-line or paper and pencil learning activities, read materials associated with their classes, and be prepared to resume live video instruction on the next day. Wednesdays there will be time built into the schedule for teacher planning and to provide interventions and supports for some students.

Will there be an additional option for Special Education students that need to be at school full-time in order to learn?

There are many factors to consider when determining how a student with special needs will return to school. The decision will be made in the context of a student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) coupled with overall school district schedules for student attendance and space in individual schools. The current guidance from the county and state allows us to provide in-person instruction for up to 5 academically at risk students at a time.

Will the district be providing food/meals for students during distance learning?

School breakfast and school lunches will be provided to NFSD K-12 students only using the traditional system of paid, free or reduced prices and all meals must be accounted for in the traditional manner. The NFSD will distribute school breakfast and school lunch in two ways - drive up meal service at Connell Elementary, Basin City Elementary, and Mesa Elementary from 7:00 am to 8:00 am or delivery by bus to numerous locations throughout the NFSD along main bus routes from 6:30 am to 8:00 am. These routes and delivery times will be published in the coming weeks.

As a parent, is there an alternative to NFSD's Distance Learning Model?

The NFSD is committed to switching to an in-person instructional model as soon as the county and state give us authorization to do so. In that case, we will take approximately 3-5 days to switch to in-person instruction. It is our hope that COVID case numbers continue to decline and this comes sooner rather than later.

However, as part of our reopening planning, the district conducted parent surveys as well as several meetings with parent participation. Families made it clear through this process that they wanted a choice that represented an opportunity to keep their child home while the virus continues to impact our community. As a result, the NFSD decided to expand the district's homeschool partnership, the "NFSD Virtual Academy", to extend services kindergarten through 12th grade.

If I have chosen to transfer to the North Franklin Virtual Academy, will I be allowed to change my student's learning option back to in-person instruction before the first semester ends?

When making a selection, parents are committing to at least one full semester of instruction.

Health and Safety Measures for those students selected for in-person instruction

How will students and staff be screened regularly for symptoms of the virus?

All students and staff will be required to take their temperature and answer some screening questions BEFORE they leave their homes each morning. Upon arrival at school, staff will double check temperatures as students and staff enter the building. We are currently working with the Skyward program (the same program that provides us gradebooks and student data management) to get an on-line form for this purpose, but will use paper forms if necessary.

Are face coverings required when entering school buildings?

Yes. Students, staff, vendors and visitors will be required to wear cloth face coverings or clear plastic face shields on campus. Clear plastic face shields must include a "drape" along the bottom and the top must come in contact with the forehead. Students and staff shall wear these face coverings during all indoor activities, as well as on school buses. Students may remove the face covering during outside recess or outside physical education as long as they remain six feet apart from other students and staff.

Masks provided: Staff members and students will receive reusable cloth masks from the district on the first day of school to ensure each person on campus is following proper safety precautions. Additionally we have purchased clear plastic face shields if a student or staff member prefers. If a staff member or student forgets or loses the mask, a disposable one will be provided for the day.

Enforcement: School administration or staff will be stationed at entry points throughout each campus to remind students to wear face coverings prior to entering campus. In instances where reusable masks are left at home, a disposable mask will be provided for the day. Students who repeatedly do not wear a mask on school grounds will be reminded of their importance while faculty will work to use positive behavior intervention strategies to encourage students to utilize a mask. Each school will have a COVID Point Person to work on compliance issues at the school level.

Can my child bring his or her own mask to school?

Yes, your child can wear a mask provided from home. They must be school appropriate and shall not interfere with the district's dress code policy.

When school reopens for in-person instruction, will visitors still be allowed in schools?

At this time we are planning that visitor access will be limited to critical visitors only. Temperature checks will be conducted upon entry to the front office and there will be a controlled access point in each school to minimize gathering.

How will schools handle COVID-19 positive cases? Will parents of the students and families affected be notified?

The Benton Franklin County Health District and the Washington State Department of Health will provide guidelines for responding to COVID-19 positive cases. This is one of the items the NFSD planning team will be developing with guidance from BFHD and Wa St Dept of Health.

What will be the protocol for allowing children back to school if they or a family member test positive?

We will follow guidance from the Benton Franklin County Health District and the Washington State Department of Health as we develop the protocol.

What are the discipline options if students/staff don't follow protocols?

Our goal is to work collaboratively and engage with parents, students and staff to encourage adherence to all established protocols using the guidelines from the BFCHD and Wa St. DOH. Proactive intervention and support, rather than discipline, will be the focus as we understand this will be an adjustment for all.

How many children will be allowed in a classroom?

Under the current guidelines, the number of students allowed in a classroom is limited to five or less.

How can we keep children apart?

Students will be kept apart to the greatest extent possible by employing social distancing in all classrooms and other instructional areas. Much of this work will revolve around education, reminders, and redirection.

What about assemblies, dances, and other large social gatherings?

Assemblies, dances and other large social gatherings will not take place until the Benton Franklin County Health District determines that they can be held safely.

How will schools handle drop-off/pick-up?

The individual schools are working on procedures and signage that will assist families and students in knowing where to go and what to do as they arrive at and depart from school.

How often will my school be cleaned?

Schools will be cleaned daily, focusing on major touch entry points in common areas such as doorknobs, handles, stairwell railings, light switches and soap dispensers. Custodial staff will disinfect using proper cleaning products.

Routine cleaning: Throughout the workday, the custodial staff will implement a routine of surface cleaning in the major touch point areas discussed such as restrooms. The staff will, in some cases, report at staggered times depending upon hours of operation to ensure consistent disinfection practices while primary building employees and students are present. Latter custodial shifts will apply the full standard cleaning of all areas to be ready for the next day. Additional disinfecting will be performed prior to the arrival of district staff in high-traffic areas such as the front office. Custodial staff will wear face masks and gloves.

Deep cleaning: If a positive COVID-19 case is determined within a school or building, district staff will use a health department approved method to disinfect any area deemed appropriate by the contact tracing processes.

What precautions are you taking on school buses?

- Students will be encouraged to stay socially distanced while at the bus stop. This must be a joint education effort between families and school personnel.
- Students will be socially distanced as much as the physical capacity of the bus allows.
- Students will load the bus alternating from front to back in order to encourage social distancing throughout the bus ride.
- Transportation director, in conjunction with the driver, will establish seating charts with social distancing in mind to the best of their ability.
- Students and drivers will wear masks in addition to social distancing on the bus. Bus drivers will have disposable masks to hand out to students in the event a student does not have his or her mask.
- Drivers will keep bus windows down as much as possible throughout the bus ride, as weather and conditions permit.
- Buses will be cleaned between routes.
- Bus drivers will also wipe down high-touch areas between each route.

Will sports be played this fall?

NFSD will follow the direction of the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association on sports. At this time all sports have been rescheduled for later in the school year. The NFSD is committed to whatever it takes to facilitate the maximum possible participation in extra-curricular activities within the guidelines published by WIAA.

What options are teachers and staff being given?

NFSD employees will work on-site, following the health and safety protocols established by the Washington State Department of Health and the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries, unless directed to work remotely by the county or state. If an employee cannot work, the employee will be required to take leave which may be supplemented by Washington State or federal Covid-19 leave programs.

If parents select the NFSD Virtual Academy, how will supports be provided for students with an IEP or 504 plan, as well as English Language Learners?

Students with disabilities attending NFSD Virtual Academy or participating in distance learning will have access to accommodations and services that naturally occur in the traditional setting. However, specific supports will be determined by the student's IEP or 504 plan and take into consideration the unique nature of a virtual setting. Please note that some accommodations and services may not be possible in the online educational setting.

Schools will establish a line of communication with students and their families to regularly review assignments, curriculum, and other updates to ensure that student needs are being met. Translation technology and interpretation services for families will be in place where needed. The district will assess the accessibility needs of learning platforms and resources for parents and students (language, hardware, internet access, etc.), and provide necessary guidance, instructions, and support to students and their families in their home language.

How involved do I need to be as a parent in the NFSD Virtual Academy option?

NFSD's Virtual Academy requires adult guidance. With the NFSD Virtual Academy, the program is designed around parents acting as a "learning coach". For grades K-5, this means parents will need to provide daily guidance and supervision to their learner. For grades 6-12, the parent will need to check in with the student throughout the week to ensure that activities are being completed at a rate consistent with completion in one semester. Parents are expected to oversee their child's participation and provide guidance in completing assignments and seeking teacher feedback.

Will my child be able to take part in extracurricular activities, clubs or sports if I choose the NFSD Virtual Academy?

Yes, NFSD Virtual Academy students will be able to participate in extracurricular activities, clubs and sports at their normal attendance-area school as long as they maintain the NFSD or WIAA eligibility requirements for that activity.

What steps is NFSD taking to ensure that all students have access to the needed technology for online learning?

We are committed to ensuring all students in 3rd through 12th grade have a digital device at home for the 2020-21 school year by providing them with a chromebook. NFSD will provide a limited number of cellular MiFi's to students who need internet access but do not live within close proximity to one of the wi-fi hotspots that have been developed by the district, the City of Connell, the Mid-Columbia Library or the Franklin County PUD. There is a comprehensive map of the hotspots in our school district on the NSFD website.

If you do not have internet access, please fill out this form and you will be placed on a list to be considered for a Cellular Mi-Fi device depending on your need - <https://forms.gle/kd6xj9Ux9TGavZqs6>

Interactive Map of hot spots with Wi-Fi name and passwords -

https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1DhEwwH3tNW24yN5dUe92VWr2UmdaiRVX&fbclid=IwAR2yifsdR5bOyzZ7KvpHoy25HP_F4iEmrax-VFQRglCgH-WE0GDMvnJFqS4&ll=46.560393743493215%2C-119.01416565000002&z=11

If my child's attendance is poor due to any illness or symptoms of COVID-19 will they lose high school credit?

Attendance is always important for school. However, in order to promote health and safety the district will be relaxing it's attendance policies to encourage parents to keep their children home when they have any illness or symptoms of COVID-19. Depending on the severity of the illness, the student may be able to continue working from home until they are able to return to school.

We will continue to provide updated information as we receive additional guidance and changes to our plans from the health department and/or state.