

This page is being continuously updated.

All new/updated information is highlighted throughout this FAQ. Updated 5/12/21

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General

What does Phase 1, 2, and 3 refer to in the LPPS Start Strong document?

Phase 1, 2, and 3 refers to the Louisiana Governor's *Reopen Louisiana* guidance during the COVID19 Pandemic. Guidance in the LPPS Start Strong document is based on the guidance received from the [Governor's office](#), the [CDC](#) and [Louisiana Department of Education](#). Our plan is connected with the Phase the state is currently in at the time of opening.

Where do I find the guidelines used by LPPS to reopen schools?

[Louisiana Department of Education](#)

[Louisiana Department of Health](#)

[Center for Disease Control](#)

[Livingston Parish Public Schools](#)

Home-base school websites

How will information be communicated to parents?

www.LPSB.org

School Websites

School Messenger sent from the district and schools

Remind 101

District and school social media accounts

Do students have to wear face coverings inside the classroom? What if they can't be six feet apart in their classroom?

Adults and students (3rd grade and up) must wear face coverings during transition times, inside and outside of the classroom, and other times when they cannot observe social distance recommendations.

Do students in Pre-K through 2nd grade have to wear face coverings?

While inside the school facility and on LPPS school busses, students in grades prekindergarten through second grade may wear a face covering.

Are students required to wear facial coverings on a bus?

All adults (as able) must wear a facial covering while engaged in the transportation of students. Students (3rd grade and older) must wear facial coverings to the maximum extent possible while being transported. Additionally, K-2 students should be encouraged to wear facial coverings when possible on school transportation.

What if your child forgets his/her face covering?

The school will have a mask available.

What are the guidelines for face coverings?

Students are allowed choice of color, design, and pattern. Face coverings may reflect student's name or monogram. Should be free of wording, slogan, advertisement, or inappropriate graphics. School logo, name, and/or mascot graphics are allowed. Gaiter-style masks are allowed. No bandanas. The school will have a mask available as needed.

My child has a medical condition that prevents him/her from wearing a covering. What documentation is needed?

A form will be available at the home-based site and posted at www.lpsb.org and have it completed by a physician.

If teachers are six feet away from students, can they remove their face covering?

Yes

Am I required to wear a face covering when entering school offices to check my child in/out or handle other business?

Yes, wearing a face covering is required to enter the office.

What is the procedure if my child is ill?

Please keep your child at home and contact your physician. Ask the physician to provide guidance as to the ability of your child to return to school. Please contact your school administration when the information is available. Keep your child at home if sick with any illness.

What extra precautions are being taken in the classrooms?

- Detailed information about extra precautions are outlined in our LPPS Start Strong Plan on the LPPS website.
- High-touch surfaces (e.g., desks, doorknobs) are cleaned before and after each group's use.

- Handwashing or using hand sanitizer is required at arrival, multiple times per day, before and after eating, before and after using outdoor play equipment.

What should I do if my child tests positive for COVID-19?

If your child tests positive for COVID-19, you should report it to the principal of the school immediately. We encourage sick students to report symptoms, stay home, and follow CDC guidance. Your child should not report to school until cleared by a physician. Keep your child at home if sick with any illness. Positive COVID -19 tests are reported to the Region 9 administrator at the Department of Health and Hospitals by the physician or group that records the positive test.

What happens when a student or teacher is diagnosed with COVID-19? Are the teachers and other students going to be expected to remain absent until they are tested and their results come back?

When an individual tests positive and has been in the classroom setting, the Region 9 administrator at the Department of Health and Hospitals will be contacted for a plan of action that will be shared with stakeholders that were in close contact with the individual.

Will I have to pay the full student fee for my child if he/she is receiving instruction 100% online?

Yes, the schools will still need to supply the students what they need to succeed. Online students will still receive packets from the school and other instructional materials.

Are school uniforms required for students?

The normal dress code policy will be followed while students are on site.

What is the guidance for classroom holiday celebrations during modified Phase II and/or Phase III?

Medical professionals have recommended that holiday celebrations be minimal this year and should be in accordance with facial covering and physical distancing guidelines. Additionally, the inclusion of outside guests is not recommended.

Attendance

Will student attendance be mandatory?

Attendance at school will be mandatory for this school year. Attendance will be taken as normal for in-person days and attendance for virtual instruction will be recorded through on-line participation.

Are virtual learning days required?

Yes. Face to face instructional days and virtual days will count towards attendance.

In Phase 2 - if a student who is registered in the Hybrid Model (A/B) instruction and is not able to attend school on a day that he/she is to be at the school site, can he/she log in for attendance, not be counted absent, and utilize the virtual (distance learning) instruction for that day?

The student can log in and complete the virtual assignment however the student will be marked absent. Student attendance is taken based on the student's assigned schedule.

[A/B Schedule / Virtual Learning](#)

Explain the groups of students attending on the assigned days during the hybrid model.

Using the Phase 2 LDOE guidelines, the school system would only be able to physically accommodate half of the students on campuses on any given day due to restrictions. In this phase, we are following an A/B model to provide in-person instruction to half of the students on alternating days. Students have been grouped into 4 groups during this phase.

- Group A students will attend school on Mondays, Wednesdays, and every other Friday.
- Group B students will attend school on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and every other Friday.
- Group C consist of students that have elected to participate in the 100% virtual option.
- Group D students will attend schools five days a week. These groups include Pre-k to 2nd grade, students with significant disabilities participating in alternate assessment, students attending the ELEC Center and employee's children. Our employees are considered essential workers, therefore the necessity to have them present is essential in our ability to provide a quality learning environment for all our students. Under phase 2 guidelines all employee's children will be placed on a five-day schedule unless the employee chooses the hybrid or virtual scheduling options

Is there a possibility to bring in another grade level or group of students five days a week during the Phase 2 hybrid model if it can be accommodated while abiding by the restrictions?

Our goal is to offer face to face instruction five days per week to as many students as we can accommodate while abiding by the restrictions. If possible once we start if we can add students to the five-day schedule, we would look at potentially adding ascending grades beginning with grade 3 for the reasons listed below.

- Younger students are less feasible to limit close contact
- More feasible to maintain static groups
- Greater need for in-person and group-based instruction with close contact support
- Social-emotional and academic development

When will hybrid students return to campus?

- Grade 3 will return full time to campus, beginning Wednesday, Sept. 2
- Grade 4 will return full time to campus, beginning Thursday, Sept. 3
- Grade 5 will return full time to campus, beginning Friday, Sept. 4
- Grades 6 and 9 will return full time to campus, beginning Wednesday, Sept. 16
- Grades 7 and 10 will return full time to campus, beginning Thursday, Sept. 17
- Grades 8 and 11 will return full time to campus, beginning Friday, Sept. 18
- Grade 12 will return full time to campus, beginning Monday, Sept. 21

Will there be an alternative learning model for my child if I choose not to send my child back to school due to COVID-19?

LPPS will follow strict guidelines from the CDC and LDH to maintain the safety of all students and offer a quality education while allowing them to have the social interaction that is needed for students. We will also have an alternative learning model if students cannot attend school during the pandemic. Parents will need to reach out to the home-based school to discuss this option. Please note that students choosing this model will be committing to this type of instruction for an entire grading period.

Who is in charge of students that are in the virtual learning environment?

The classroom teacher of record is responsible for lessons and grading just as they are for all students on their roster. A virtual learning coach/facilitator may assist in this process.

Will students have set hours for virtual learning days?

Student hours will be synchronous and asynchronous, meaning some will have the opportunity to join live instruction as well as view a **recorded** version posted in Google Classroom.

Are virtual learning days for enrichment only?

No. Students will receive 5 days of instruction regardless if that is face-to-face or virtual.

How will parents be notified about whether their child will attend on A or B day? If school starts while the state is in Phase 2 we will run AB schedule for grades 3 through 12. Group (A) will attend school on Mondays, Wednesdays, and every other Friday. Group (B) will attend school on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and every other Friday.

Students will be notified by the home-based school by July 31st. Parents may also visit Power School Parent Portal starting on July 27th. <https://lpps.powerschool.com/public/>

I have children at more than one school, will they all be assigned on the same A/B schedule?

Schools will work to ensure siblings are assigned to the same group in order to attend school on the same day. If students are not assigned on the same day, contact the home-base school once the schedules are released.

If my child and his/her friend are not assigned on the same A/B schedule can I request a change?

No

If my child is on a virtual day, how does he/she receive a meal?

LPPS will offer drive thru meal service daily for virtual students. Drive-thru meal service times will be posted on your child's school website or via school and district social media accounts. Drive thru meal service will begin **August 17th**. Students receiving meal service through the *Meals to You* program will continue to receive meal service through August 15th.

How do I access the instruction available for my child?

All teachers will have instructional material pushed out via Google Classroom or Microsoft Teams.

Will students have set hours for virtual learning?

Instruction will be a combination of synchronous learning (teacher-led) and asynchronous learning (self-paced).

If a child chooses to be a full virtual student (“C” Student) can they participate in athletics and other extracurricular activities?

No. Students participating virtually due to exposure to COVID-19 will not be allowed to participate in athletics or other extracurricular activities.

Will students attend classes at the Literacy & Technology Center if the schools are on the A/B schedule?

Students enrolled in a course that is held on the Literacy & Technology Center campus will report **daily** for face to face instruction.

Will the classroom teacher or the virtual support person be responsible for assessments and grades in Power School for virtual students?

The classroom teacher, who is the teacher of record, will be responsible for the grading.

Technology

Will students be provided computers?

Each individual school site will provide loaner devices to students in need as determined by the school administration.

What has LPPS done for students without Internet access?

- Expanded Wi-Fi access at all schools to cover the parking areas.
- Partnered with various community sites to install Wi-Fi access points.
- Purchasing hotspots that will be available as a last resort for families in most need of Wi-Fi, pending availability due to limited supply.

How can students check out a computer?

Each school will establish procedures and times for distribution. Parents must sign the *LPPS Computer Usage Agreement* in order to receive a device.

What do I do if my child is having technical issues while participating in virtual learning?

Technical issues should be reported to the student's teacher.

If a student is having an issue logging into a digital resource what is the process to resolve the issue?

Login issues should be reported to the student's teacher.

Do you have information on options for reduced cost internet?

Visit the link below to view potential options:

http://www.lpsb.org/digital_help/internet_access_information

Personnel

Will employees have their temperatures screened every day?

Yes. All employees will utilize an online form for reporting their temperature daily.

How are substitutes' temperatures screened before coming in to work?

Substitutes will have their temperature screened upon arrival to their assigned site.

Will teachers write SLTs? Will blended or virtual learning students be included in their SLT scores?

Guidance on SLT development will come after further information is received from the state. All Compass information will be addressed at a later date.

Will employees continue with the current dress code?

Yes, we expect all employees to dress professionally as per the Livingston Parish Employee dress code policy.

Daily Procedures

Will students' temperature be checked each day?

Yes

Will students and teachers remain in the same classroom all day?

- Young students will maintain static groups **as much as possible**. We understand the importance of social interaction and exercise; therefore, we will ensure students are allowed time during the day for this.
- If grade levels are departmentalized, the teachers may rotate to the maximum extent possible.
- Older students will maintain 6 ft. distancing from one another, to the greatest extent possible, during any transition. Transitions will be minimized to the maximum extent possible.

Will students be able to have PE and recess outside?

Each school will work to ensure students have access to physical education opportunities outside as weather permits and within safety guidelines. Students will not be able to dress out in locker rooms for physical education in Phase 1 or 2. Students will be able to dress out in locker rooms for physical education in Phase 3.

Will students be served breakfast on campus?

All students on campus will be offered breakfast upon entering the campus. Students will eat in their classroom or in other areas of the school as determined by the principal.

Can students bring water bottles?

Students may bring their own water bottles since some water fountains will be turned off. Water bottles may be refilled at school. Schools have been instructed to strategically use designated water fountains for refilling bottles.

Can band and choir occur during Phase 3?

- LDH recommends that outdoor band and vocal music activities be practiced outdoors to the greatest extent possible

- When band and vocal music classes are unable to practice outdoors during phase 3, class may be held indoors in accordance with [National Federation of State High School Associations and the National Association for Music Education Guidance](#) which has physical distancing, masking, and instrument covering provisions.
- Outdoor activity should have appropriate physical distancing measures taken

SPED/504

If a student has an IEP, how will LPPS meet the requirements of their plan? If they choose virtual, who services the students? If they are blended, and they have an IEP, how will we have enough specialized teachers (art, talented theater, OT, APE, gifted) to be at their campus on the day they are at school?

The Special Education department has worked extensively on related service plans in our virtual platform. Each student's IEP committee will meet to ensure services are provided as identified.

How will students needing interventions receive this service? Will those interventions be acceptable to pupil appraisal when students go through the process for a referral for 504 or Special Education?

Interventions will be administered through teacher assistance, online programs, and built-in technology tools. Pupil Appraisal will work in collaboration with schools to align documentation for referrals.

Will speech and other related services be offered to 100% virtual students?

Students will continue receiving services utilizing teletherapy if needed.

Does a student receiving Special Education services have to receive instruction from a certified Special Education teacher in a virtual environment?

The minutes dictated by the student's IEP will have to be taught by certified Special Education teacher.

Pre-K

Can a parent choose to have their child conduct their Pre-K screener virtually?

All screeners will be conducted face-to-face. Schools are equipped with table shields that can be used during the screening process. Children will be screened individually with one adult during a scheduled appointment time.

Will I be allowed to walk my child to class on his/her first day of school?

To maintain state health guidelines on our school campuses, we must respectfully deny parents the opportunity to walk their child to the classroom.

What precautions are being taken specific to Pre-K?

Pre-K children are not required to wear face coverings or remain socially distant inside the classroom. They should maintain static groups with a maximum number of 25 people in that group (Phase 2). However, teachers will space children as much as possible when conducting whole group instruction in the class and encourage the wearing of face coverings should they be sent to school with one.

To be proactive in maintaining as minimal contact as possible, teachers may consider assigning “center buddies”, as well as assigning the days/times of the day specific children visit a center. Children will be asked to sanitize/wash hands prior to joining and after leaving a center.

My child was accepted to enroll in a Pre-K class. Is virtual instruction an option?

Pre-K instruction will be offered virtually only in the event that we cannot continue face-to-face instruction 5 days a week and maintain the state health guidelines. A Pre-K class includes lots of social interactions while teachers lay the foundation for preparing the children for kindergarten. Therefore, parents who have elected to apply for Pre-K and accept a seat, should plan to have their child receive face-to-face on campus instruction 5 days a week while in Phase 2 and greater.

Can a child with an IEP who has applied and been accepted in a "traditional" LA4 Pre-K class receive instruction virtually?

LA4 Pre-K students who have an IEP may receive special education services in the home (virtually) if determined by the IEP team.

[2021-22 Start / ESSER](#)

What guidelines/restrictions can I expect for the start of the 2021-22 school year?

LDOE is expected to give preliminary guidance by the end of May with more detailed information to come in late June.

I have heard about ESSER funding, where can I find more details?

[Achieve! Priorities-Based Planning Guide for School Systems \(ESSER II and ESSER III Funding\) PDF](#)

What are the estimated ESSER II and III amounts?

[Achieve! ESSER II and III Estimated Allocations PDF](#)

What are the main state and LPPS focus areas with ESSER funds?

[Click here to review](#)

If you have a question or comment related to LPPS ESSER funding submit your question/comment by [clicking here](#).

If you have a question related to the *LPPS Start Strong* plan that is not addressed in the FAQ document submit your question by [clicking here](#). Questions will be answered the in the FAQ document.