

2020-2021
Tipp City Schools
Responsible Restart
Frequently Asked Questions



Subject to changes and updates.
August 14, 2020

OVERVIEW

We believe it is important to maximize all students' in-person interaction with their teachers and staff in a safe manner while also providing a virtual option to families who feel attending in person is not the right choice for their children. At this time, following guidance from the Ohio Department of Health, the Ohio Department of Education (ODE), Miami County Public Health and other local experts, students who return to school in the fall will follow a full-day schedule with additional safety precautions including physical distancing, enhanced cleaning procedures, and masks or face coverings for both staff and students. For parents who do not wish for their child to return to school, we are offering SchoolsPLP, a 100% online curriculum for students in grades K-12.

IN-PERSON

How will classrooms look and how many students will be permitted in each school?

Class sizes will be dependent on the number of students enrolled for in-person instruction. When possible, desks will be placed three to six feet apart, and face coverings will be worn at all times, with set breaks at the teacher's discretion.

Will students be switching classes?

Students in grades K-12 will be permitted to leave their homeroom. At the primary level, that means traveling to some "specials," the cafeteria, gifted classes, etc. At the secondary level, the traditional schedule will be in effect daily.

How will IEP and ETR meetings be held?

The district's preference for IEP and ETR meetings is to hold them remotely. However, we understand circumstances may require in-person meetings. We will consider such requests and do our best to minimize risk.

What is the plan for band and choir classes?

In class, students will be permitted to sing and play instruments. Bell covers will be used for instruments and masks will be worn when singing.

Can we select different options for our children? For example, one goes to school, and one is virtual?

Yes, each child, and their situation, is unique.

FACE COVERINGS

Will each student be required to wear a mask?

Students and staff will be required to wear a mask in school and on the bus. Teachers will provide safe opportunities for students to briefly remove their masks for breaks. The district is following the mandate from Governor Mike DeWine.

How can our children be expected to wear masks without air conditioning? I assume Tipp will be installing a/c if they expect our children to wear masks, right?

Tipp City Schools will require students in all grades to wear a mask as mandated by the Governor. Some students will be exempt from this as outlined in the order. Unfortunately, Nevin Coppock and Broadway Elementary do not have air conditioning. We know how very hot they get. Neither school has the capacity to safely handle AC window units.

Will all schools follow the same mask expectations?

Generally speaking, physical distancing and face-covering requirements will be consistent between all grade levels. Specific building implementation plans may vary and principals will be sharing those details with families directly, when available.

TRANSPORTATION

Also, if you have a child who lives at 2 different homes (moms & dads) are they still able to ride on 2 different busses like in the past?

Students riding the bus need to have one bus stop for both the AM and PM, five days a week.

REMOTE LEARNING 2.0

What is the difference between "remote learning" and the "virtual learning option?"

Remote Learning is for intermittent or temporary absences that are typically not the choice of the student, such as the closing of a building due to the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). If remote learning is implemented during the 2020-2021 school year, it will be similar to the spring of 2020, but more robust given what teachers and administrators learned from that experience. Remote learning will be implemented if the schools are closed due to COVID-19 or a student is absent due to illness.

What happens if Miami County upgrades to a level red? Will the school go straight to online schooling?

We will continue to follow the guidance of Miami County Public Health Health and the state when determining any changes to the district's plan. There remains a possibility that Tipp City Schools will go to Remote Learning 2.0 if the county upgrades to a level red.

How are teachers and staff collaborating to ensure consistent curriculum & instruction if the district has to shift to a remote model?

Taking into consideration the feedback from parents, students, and staff, planning for the possibility of a return to remote learning began back in May. We dedicated professional development time to start building more consistency in the online presence of all teachers. We are working to build out an updated, more robust remote model should we go to Remote Learning 2.0. Teachers will participate in professional development (PD) sessions prior to the start of school. Many have been learning this summer on how to make their remote lessons.

How will this differ from the previous remote learning experience?

Teachers worked this summer to create courses that are more fully developed than what we were able to offer in the spring due to the short timeline. More planning and professional development were designed to better prepare staff to execute an improved remote learning experience for students.

How will gifted education look in the Remote Learning 2.0 model?

Gifted services will be provided by staff from Tipp City Schools.

How will special education look in the Remote Learning 2.0 model?

Services will be provided as indicated on a student's IEP.

How will attendance be tracked? Is daily attendance required?

Students will be expected to log in daily to meet the attendance requirements. It is understood that the timing of virtual schooling may be more flexible, but there are requirements from the state of Ohio for us to be able to offer virtual learning. It will be the expectation that parents/guardians are responsible for the documentation of attendance.

Do students have to document their hours worked?

Students do not have to document individual hours; however, there is an expected time allotted to all assignments and activities.

How can my child receive special education services? Will they be delivered remotely? Can they receive speech or occupational therapy?

IEP teams will convene once a parent/guardian has chosen SchoolsPLP. The team will decide whether to amend the IEP to address the unique needs of this platform. Accommodations and modifications will be implemented as indicated in the IEP. If significant modifications are

required in order for the student to access the content or if the student requires an extended standards curriculum, this will need to be addressed by the IEP team.

My child is on free/reduced lunch. Will I be able to get my meals?

During an extended school closure, all cafeteria managers will continue working. A plan will be developed to provide lunch service to our students. The downtown location that was utilized during the Spring 2020 closure would be utilized as a pick-up location. If permitted, various serving locations will be provided at respective schools.

Will my student have access to school counselors and a mental health therapist?

Yes, School Counselors and Therapists from New Creations will provide services during an extended school closure.

QUARANTINE AND POSITIVE COVID-19 TEST

How will my child continue to receive instruction if he/she tests positive for COVID-19 or is forced to quarantine?

Any student who tests positive for COVID-19 and/or has to quarantine will still be able to participate in school, just as if they would for any absence. Assignments will be available online through Google Classrooms, and our teachers will be available to answer any questions. Students will stay connected to their current teachers and will be able to make progress so that they can return to school on track when they are healthy.

The virtual learning option is a more permanent option chosen by students and families who do not want or cannot have in-person learning. This option is designed to be more independent and requires less direct instruction than the traditional classroom. It is being provided by an outside vendor, SchoolsPLP.

VIRTUAL LEARNING

I am curious if the “online-only” option will provide AP level courses for high school students. It says the courses mirror what THS offers but will time be taken to ensure the same AP classes are offered?

The course selections available to students through the online provider will mirror those offered at Tippecanoe High School. This includes AP courses. Students do not have the option to select any course through SchoolsPLP that is not provided at THS.

So if you choose online schooling do you have the choice to go back to in-person after the 1st semester like other schools are offering?

Yes. Students can return to their respective schools.

Will my child still have a dedicated teacher providing instruction and support?

There will be a dedicated teacher, but students will not be in front of that teacher virtually all day. In grades 6-12, there may be dedicated teachers and content area support, but learning will be much more independent.

Will my child still have access to all the same courses, curriculum, and instructional opportunities in a remote format?

While it is difficult to replicate an entire school day experience, the goal is to provide access to the core curriculum and some of the related experiences.

Do I have to withdraw my student from Tipp City Schools and enroll them in SchoolsPLP?

No, your student will remain our student.

Can I change my mind and enroll in the virtual learning option partway through the school year?

The intent is to have students enrolled for at least the first semester but we understand there may be extenuating circumstances.

Can students come in and out of it during the year?

The district asks that families make a semester commitment.

Is there any cost or tuition?

No. The virtual learning option is free to any student currently enrolled in Tipp City Schools. The district pays the fee for each student enrolled with its vendor, SchoolsPLP.

When will my child actually choose their courses?

Students will have their schedule built by their counselor based on the courses they selected in the Spring.

How will grading function in SchoolsPLP?

The same grade scale will apply to the virtual learning experience as in-person instruction. It will be based on the same factors as in-person instruction.

Will students work at their own pace or sit in front of the computer all day? Does coursework have to be done between certain hours every day?

Students will be able to work at their own pace but there will be some real-time, face-to-face interaction as well. There will be more computer time as students get older but the goal is not to

have students in front of a computer all day long. Students will be expected to log in each day for attendance purposes, but older students will have more flexibility in their school day.

If students move to in-person classes after one semester, will they be behind?

Some of that is dependent on the individual student, but our goal is to keep the virtual students close to the pace of the in-person students.

Can my child still participate in extracurricular activities?

Students enrolled in SchoolsPLP are our students and can participate in extracurricular activities. They would need to abide by all rules and expectations to participate.

Is there somewhere the student or parent can ask if there is a problem getting online or understanding the course?

SchoolsPLP will provide technical support to assist with implementation and user support needs and to ensure prompt issue resolution. Support is provided via phone, email, and synchronous meeting options. Technical support is available from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. EST. The team of support staff utilizes real-time chat, e-mail, phone calls, or text messages.

If all materials are online, how do younger students work on key skills like handwriting? The screen is great, but writing can only be taught on paper. Would these skills be practiced on printouts and then submitted?

SchoolsPLP offers an age-appropriate curriculum that includes videos and step-by-step instructions for handwriting. Students can print off worksheets and submit them via the platform for feedback and grading. There are also guides that offer extensions for further development.

How does PLP work with kindergarten students?

SchoolsPLP is user friendly for young students. Each lesson contains a variety of elements of instruction to support students in learning and engagement that are grade-level specific. Each unit is strategically "chunked" in order for the learning to develop mastery. Online learning allows for flexible pacing as well, so students may have individualized pacing to meet their needs. Unlike upper grades, kindergarten students may need and benefit from some "hand-holding" and adult supervision.

Can the student work ahead in the subjects?

Because this platform offers independent learning opportunities, students can work ahead. However, it is best if students do not get too far ahead!

Can students enrolled in SchoolsPLP still participate in CCP?

Students enrolled in SchoolsPLP can participate in CCP. Students must follow all guidelines established for entrance into the program.

If I choose PLP and the district decides to go virtual after a few weeks or months into the quarter, will I have the ability to switch to the local teachers virtually, or would I be stuck with PLP?

The district asks that parents who enroll students in SchoolsPLP commit to one semester. Last-minute requests for a change may be considered by the district superintendent. Parents need to realize that a shift in remote learning for the district does not mean the district will stay in the capacity. One permitted to safely return to our buildings, we will resume the full in-person schedule.

Other than parent monitoring, are there any different parent expectations with this platform? As in helping with lessons for younger students?

Parents know their children best. We suggest parents monitor their children's progress, grades, and study skills just as they would with a traditional classroom setting. Younger children may need more assistance, especially at the start of the new semester.

I know you said that parents and students will have an orientation, but will parents have access to the course materials in order to prepare printouts before the first day of school?

A virtual orientation session will be offered to each family enrolled in SchoolsPLP before starting the school year.

Are the teachers not Ohio licensed teachers? I saw you mentioned they were certified.

Teachers are certified. However, not all SchoolsPLP teachers have an Ohio license. Each teacher has extensive classroom experience and is an expert at the SchoolsPLP Learning Management System.

Is attendance automatically captured through the platform, or is there anything that parents have to log daily?

Daily Activity automatically timestamps each login session. In addition, students are required to access their courses regularly.

How many schools in the US is SchoolsPLP serving? With 200 employees, are we concerned about their ability to manage this?

SchoolsPLP serves all of Arizona and is actively present in several other states including California, Arizona, and Ohio. Closer to home, 8 districts in Miami County, and eleven districts in Montgomery County are using this vendor. SchoolsPLP is adding more staff to keep up with the demand and maintain the integrity of its service.

Are all materials online, or will students get books?

All materials are online. Students may want to or be asked to print some documents.

How are kids going to take specials like PE and Art?

SchoolsPLP offers all specials such as PE, Art, and Music.

Are there opportunities for students using SchoolsPLP to interact with one another? Are there any resources within the SchoolsPLP platform for social connections or interactions with other students from the same district? Will there be a directory available for those of us who choose the online method?

Because this is computer-based, there is no opportunity for Tipp City students to interact. There will not be a directory at this time. The district may revisit this if the need and requests increase. We will abide by all privacy laws and seek permission before proceeding with any directory.

For high school kids, who grades essays?

SchoolsPLP educators will grade all work.

One slide mentioned additional fees for AP courses—will the district cover these?

The district will pay all fees for AP courses through SchoolsPLP.

Is the school district considering following what some other districts have already committed to by going fully virtual with their in-school teachers teaching online?

Tipp City Schools is not considering this option.

Does the curriculum have larger projects/assignments such as reports, essays, presentations? Are any of these in a format that would require students to work together on a group project?

Students in some classes will be required to do research projects, essays, and reports. However, there will not be team projects.

Will Tipp City be purchasing those workbooks and extension guides mentioned for each family?

All materials are online. Parents should reach out to the Point of Contact to assess if the district can assist with reasonable requests for hard copies. This will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

For high schoolers: Can you take extra classes than the ones you are given? And will the credits be transferred over to Tipp?

Students' course selections must mirror courses taught at Tipp City Schools.

If taking online SchoolsPLP, can the student still go to band or choir class at the school?

The superintendent will make this determination in consultation with the band director and choir director.

And, are mentors and teachers employed by SchoolsPLP directly?

Yes

Will Chromebooks be provided for those that choose the online option?

Tipp City Schools will provide a Chromebook to a student enrolled in SchoolsPLP who does not have a device at home.

Is course selection done by the student? If so, will Tipp provide guidance counseling for this?

Enrollment in specific courses offered by SchoolsPLP is based on a student's schedule completed in the Spring. Guidance counselors are available for consultation.

If the student participated in PLP when returning to the actual school after 9 weeks. Would they have an "open house/meet the teacher/conference"?

The district asks that students enrolled in SchoolsPLP make this commitment for a full semester. We have not had a discussion on an Open House for January.

If I choose PLP and the district decides to go virtual after a few weeks or months into the quarter, will I have the ability to switch to the local teachers virtually, or would I be stuck with PLP?

The district requests that students enrolled in SchoolsPLP make the commitment for the full semester. Should Tipp City Schools be mandated to go to Remote Learning 2.0, the district intends to return to in-person as soon as it is safe to do so.

How do we register our children? On the website, it asks for the parent's preference. Kindergarten students do not yet have a student ID to complete this survey.

Kindergarten students get registered in the spring of this year. It is not necessary to do it again. Nevin Coppock will coordinate with families if items are needed. The district disabled the request for a student ID on the survey form.

Can the Schools PLP platform handle the extreme increased bandwidth on their system? i.e., the College Board could not handle the spring AP tests...is Schools PLP ready to address this increased need?

SchoolsPLP has a robust learning management system that is equipped to accommodate the increased number of students.

Are there any fees associated with PLP that parents will be responsible for (i.e., AP classes)?

Tipp City Schools will cover the costs associated with SchoolsPLP. This includes the additional fee for AP courses.

How many lessons are students expected to complete each day? Is time spent in a lesson how attendance is tracked? Are assignments due weekly or daily? How does that aspect work?

The curriculum is self-paced. The SchoolsPLP teacher will set deadlines that will keep students on track to complete the course in the designated term. Parents will be able to see student progress and know if the student is maintaining a pace that aligns with the teacher's deadlines.

How many hours a day can a student anticipate being on-line?

Again, this is a self-paced instructional model. Students can work on their coursework at any time of day for any amount of time. Students have the flexibility to work when it best fits their schedule.

Where do we find each grade's curriculum subjects and a description of them. And then how do you sign up for the classes?

There is great information about SchoolsPLP on our website. You can access this information here - <https://www.tippcityschools.com/domain/860>. Also, below is a direct link to the SchoolsPLP Curriculum Catalog.

SCHOOLSPLP CURRICULUM CATALOG

Can you explain how students in the gifted program will be accommodated if they chose PLP?

A Tipp City Schools staff member with a gifted endorsement will provide gifted services. This staff member will coordinate enrichment activities with the SchoolsPLP curriculum.

Are the mentors, coordinators, and certified teachers required to get BCI and FBI background checks?

Yes, all are required to have these background checks.

How does math placement look? We have several students throughout 4-8th grade that are working at math classes above their grade level- does that get accounted for in course selection?

Yes, School Counselors will build student schedules and take this into account when doing so.

How many site coordinators are there?

There is one site coordinator who will oversee the program, work with POC, and communicate with our technology coordinator.

Other Questions?

Email us at info@tippcity.k12.oh.us

**We'll review your question,
get the answer,
and add it to the list.**

#WEareTIPP #inthistogether