



## **FAQs about Day One & Return + Learn**

Updated 8.3.2020

### **1. Has APS made changes to improve health and safety in schools and buildings?**

- a. As we return to school, APS is implementing a series of safety and health protocols.
  - i. The district will require the use of masks and other personal protective equipment for students and employees when in school buildings. Materials will be in schools for use during pre-planning week.
  - ii. Public health signage will be used throughout our schools and buildings for reminders on health practices, protocols, and hygiene.
  - iii. Hand washing and sanitizing stations will be provided in the buildings.
  - iv. Regular screening for symptoms and ongoing self-monitoring.
  - v. Temperature checks will also be used as a screening process when entering buildings as well as additional safety measures.
- b. You will also see improved routine cleaning and disinfecting of facilities, and we have response protocols in place for facilities impacted by COVID-19.
- c. All of this is designed to improve our efforts within a virtual model and to improve health and wellness when we move to a hybrid or face-to-face model.

### **2. How long will APS remain in virtual learning this school year?**

- a. The health and wellness of our students and staff in Atlanta Public Schools has been our top priority amid this pandemic. Every decision we make is being made through the lens of public health and based on the scientific data related to our local community.
- b. In Atlanta, the data is showing an upward trend in the trajectory of new COVID-19 cases. Atlanta is in “substantial spread” of COVID-19, which demands that we take the utmost of caution and do what’s best for our students and our community. That’s why we are delaying an in-person return to our schools this fall to Monday, August 24, and to reopen virtually.
- c. We plan to remain virtual for at least the first nine-week grading period or until we can move to a hybrid model or face-to-face instruction. We have a monthly schedule in which we review the health conditions and inform our families and the APS community about our plans for the remaining parts of the 2020-2021 School Year.

**3. What is the Day One Runway, and what activities will be occurring?**

- a. Activities during the Day One Runway, August 17-21, will be mostly virtual. Some in-person activities may be needed in small or limited groups for parents to pick up needed supplies and materials for the first nine weeks of school. During the Day One Runway, we are putting a particular focus on student wellness and preparation, social emotional learning supports, student supply distribution, emergency contact information updates, and access to student learning. Again, these activities will be mostly virtual. Parents should contact their school directly for more information.

**4. How is virtual instruction being handled this school year?**

- a. Day One for APS students is Monday, August 24. We will continue virtual learning for nine weeks or until Atlanta has entered minimal or moderate spread. During this period, we will remain focused on Student Learning and a Strong Start. Just because we will be amid virtual learning does not mean that quality teaching and learning will be absent. In fact, it will be forefront in everything we do.
- b. Our Goal: To consistently provide the most fulfilling educational experience for every student in our District while participating in interactive virtual instruction. To that end, we have prepared sample schedules and expectations for each grade level. They generally follow these guidelines:
  - PreK – 2.5 hours of interactive virtual instruction with 60 minutes of outdoor play, 60 minutes of center and free play, and 15 to 30 minutes of Imagine Learning
  - K-2 – 4 hours of interactive virtual instruction with 40 minutes of independent practice and assignments
  - 3-5 – 5 hours of interactive virtual instruction with 40 minutes of independent practice and assignments
  - 6-8 – 5 hours of interactive virtual instruction with 60 minutes of independent practice and assignments
  - 9-12 – 5 hours of interactive virtual instruction with 90 minutes of independent practice and assignments

**5. My child doesn't have a computer. What do I do?**

- a. During the Runway period and past Day One, our Information Technology team will continuously work to get devices and access to our students and their families. To assist with identifying those students who DO NOT have sufficient technology, we have prepared a survey for parents to complete. To ensure your child receives a device by Day One, the survey needs to be complete by Friday, August 7:
  - i. <http://tinyaps.com/?techsurvey>
  - ii. <http://tinyAPS.com/?techsurveyEspanol>
- b. We must make certain that every student has a device and an internet connection to access online instruction. Therefore, we need all APS families to fill out the “Information Technology Readiness” survey, one for each child attending an APS

school. After the survey is completed, parents will be contacted by their school to arrange for them to receive the technology they need.

- c. Also, we remain in partnership with Comcast through the Get Our Kids Connected campaign. If you know an APS student who needs internet service or a laptop, please email [getourkidsconnected@apsk12.org](mailto:getourkidsconnected@apsk12.org) or call 404.802.KIDS (5437).

**6. What is the plan for providing student meals this year?**

- a. As part of the Summer Seamless Option waiver granted by the federal government, meals will be provided to all children in Atlanta Public Schools community on Monday, August 10, and Monday, August 17 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Five-day meal bags with five breakfast meals and five lunch meals will be distributed at 12 distribution sites:

<b>BEST Academy/CSKYWLA</b> 1190 Northwest Dr, NW, Atlanta, GA 30318	<b>Bunche Middle School</b> 1925 Niskey Lake Rd., SW, Atlanta, GA 30331	<b>Carver High School</b> 55 McDonough Blvd, Atlanta, GA 30315
<b>Douglass High School</b> 225 Hamilton E Holmes Dr., NW, Atlanta, GA 30318	<b>John Lewis Middle School</b> 1890 Donald Lee Hollowell Pky, NE, Atlanta, GA 30312	<b>King Middle School</b> 545 Hill St SE, Atlanta, GA 30312
<b>Maynard H. Jackson High School</b> , 801 Glenwood Ave SE, Atlanta, GA 30316	<b>Mays High School</b> 3450 Benjamin E. Mays Dr. SW, Atlanta, GA 30331	<b>Phoenix Academy (formerly Alonzo Crim High School)</b> 256 Clifton St., SE, Atlanta, GA 30317
<b>South Atlanta High School</b> 800 Hutchens Rd SE, Atlanta, GA 30354	<b>Tuskegee Airmen Global Academy</b> 1626 Westhaven Dr. SW, Atlanta, GA 30311	<b>Washington High School</b> 45 Whitehouse Dr. SW, Atlanta, GA 30314

**7. Do I have to go to one of those sites to get my meals?**

- a. Yes, you can pick up your meals via walk up or drive-thru at one of those 12 sites. Bus delivery of food will also be provided on some middle school bus routes. We will share those bus routes with you on our website [www.atlantapublicschools.us](http://www.atlantapublicschools.us) very soon.

**8. How are school meals being provided once school starts on August 24?**

- a. You must remember this: Order My Meals!
- b. Starting August 24 – the first day of school – APS meals will only be distributed to APS students. All APS families must pre-order meals for each week through the MySchoolBucks online pre-order system.
- c. You can find MySchoolBucks at the nutrition web site at [www.atlantapublicschools.us/nutrition](http://www.atlantapublicschools.us/nutrition) and click on the “Order My Meals” button. MySchoolBucks is also available in the APS mobile app.

- d. Remember that your order for your meal must be placed no later than one week before distribution.

**9. I thought school meals would be free for everyone this school year like they were last school year?**

- a. No. Starting this school year, the district resumes the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program and will only provide food for qualifying students. There are [54 APS schools](#) that will be participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), which provides all students in those schools with free breakfast and lunch. However, [21 APS schools](#) will participate in the Federal Eligibility Application (FEA) program, which offers free and reduced meals to qualifying students.
- b. All students at FEA schools must apply to qualify for free or reduced meals by completing the [online FEA form](#). Free meals will continue for all students for the first 30 days of school. After the first 30 days of school, students at those 21 FEA schools will pay full price for meals until their FEA application is approved, and their eligibility status is sent to the school.

**10. How do I order my meals?**

- a. To Order My Meals! is a three-step process:
  - i. Visit [www.atlantapublicschools.us/nutritution](http://www.atlantapublicschools.us/nutritution)
  - ii. Click the Order My Meals tab in the top or middle navigation bars
  - iii. Press “Order My Meals in MySchoolBucks” and follow the prompts to get your free account and order weekly Student Meal Kits!

**11. Is APS still having the Back to School Bash this year?**

- a. We will make significant changes to our APS Back to School Bash this year that was usually held most recently at the Georgia World Congress Center. The pandemic prevents an event of the scale of years past; however, that won’t keep us from distributing the backpacks and school supplies that our students will need to thrive in an at-home environment.
- b. Instead of giving them out at a central location, we will distribute backpacks and school supplies during Runway Week. During the week of August 17, you’ll be hearing about how you can get your backpack. In the meantime, **Families are to sign up** for a backpack at [www.emptystockingfund.org/aps-backpack-request-2020/](http://www.emptystockingfund.org/aps-backpack-request-2020/).
- c. We will still be bringing the fun and excitement of the Bash to you—just in a virtual model! During Runway Week, there will be a special digital experience getting you hyped up for School Year 2020-2021. These digital experiences will start with you planning your “trip” all the way through “takeoff” for school through a series of events! Stay tuned for more information!

**12. Why haven't I been receiving updates and information from APS?**

- a.** We value having regular, clear, and consistent communications with our APS community, especially about the decisions we make about the rest of the school year.
- b.** First: **Is your contact information up to date?** It is critical for your child's school to be able to contact you directly so they can ensure you receive the information and computer equipment you need.
  - i.** All contact information (phone numbers and email addresses) can be updated from your Parent Portal account.
  - ii.** Need help updating your contact information or instructions on how to Set-up a Parent Portal Account.? Visit our Enrollment website at [www.atlanta.k12.ga.us/enrollment](http://www.atlanta.k12.ga.us/enrollment) and click on COVID-19 Updates to view our Parent Tutorials. You may also contact your child's current school for assistance.