School’s in! Don’t Miss Out.

Hillsborough County Public Schools: Second Semester Roadmap

For Parents & Students
2020-2021 School Year
Second Semester
Hillsborough Parents and Students,

This year, without a doubt, has been one to remember for both the challenges it has brought and the opportunities it has provided. The unimaginable has come alive, and our schools, community, and households have developed a new normal. While adjustments have been made in many facets of our daily interactions, I am so proud of the hard work and flexibility demonstrated by our students, families, and district employees during the first semester. Collectively, we have confronted unprecedented times and worked collaboratively to redefine our way of work through offering innovative learning modalities. Additionally, we have implemented proactive strategies that have led to the establishment of safe and successful conditions that have focused on the overall well-being, mental health, and academic progression for every learner.

To ensure Hillsborough County Public Schools has a flawless opening for the second semester by minimizing the spread of COVID-19 and continuing to make learning a priority in our schools, we must provide guidance for how we will open our doors, physically and virtually, through aligned guidelines developed by the Florida Department of Education and the Florida Department of Health. Our lessons learned from the first semester will guide our efforts knowing that school-based teachers, support professionals, and leaders have worked tirelessly to protect our students. While our focus has been to provide quality instruction for every child, we've learned that the educational delivery must be complete with social and emotional supports as we continue to navigate through this pandemic.

As we launch our plan for the second semester, we will continue to provide “choice” to our students and families. This includes several learning solutions that allow students to select the modality that best fosters their academic success. Similar to the first semester, Hillsborough County Public Schools will offer:

1. Brick and Mortar (face-to-face);
2. eLearning (remote learning where students must follow their daily academic routine);
3. Hillsborough Virtual K-12

To determine the learning platform for the second semester, we are asking families to take the following actions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CURRENT LEARNING MODALITY</th>
<th>ACTION NEEDED</th>
<th>DEADLINE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>eLearning</td>
<td>Complete the final Survey of Intent</td>
<td>December 31st, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brick and Mortar Students</td>
<td>No action necessary, unless adjustment to the learning modality is needed. Work with school-based personnel for adjustments (email must be sent to principal with notification and intent).</td>
<td>December 31st, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hillsborough Virtual K-12</td>
<td>Complete the final Survey of Intent</td>
<td>December 31st, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Student to HCPS</td>
<td>Contact your school</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To finalize our school-based master schedules, student schedules, and identify teacher assignments, it is extremely important to obtain this information within the timeframe identified in the chart above.

I cannot thank each of you enough for your continued understanding, patience, and celebration of our teachers, leaders, and support professionals as we continue to offer a quality educational experience for all learners. I look forward to another successful semester.

Respectfully,

Addison G. Davis
Superintendent of Schools
Hillsborough County Public Schools

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT HILLSBOROUGHSCHOOLS.ORG
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EMERGENCY ORDER

On November 30, Florida Education Commissioner Richard Corcoran issued a new emergency order regarding the second semester of the 2020-21 school year. The order details:

- Florida schools must remain open for the second semester, continuing to offer School Choice for parents throughout the district;
- Parents of students who selected eLearning and have not been successful must be contacted in writing and a return plan for face-to-face instruction must be offered;
- Parents may opt out of in-person learning instruction, but schools must document efforts were made to bring students who were not excelling back to face-to-face instruction;
- Greater accountability will be brought forth for students, including interventions.

In November and December 2020, Hillsborough County Public Schools sent a survey out to all remote learners and potential new students from home education and charter schools to determine the learning model for the second semester. In an effort to capture all final selections for the second semester, we are asking all parents/guardians to review, validate, or adjust their survey selection.

For parents/guardians who have already completed the survey and do not wish to change the selection made, there is no need to complete the final survey as your original selection will be used.

For all Brick and Mortar students who wish to return to face-to-face instruction, there is no need to complete the survey.

For all Brick and Mortar students who wish to transition to eLearning, please contact your school to make the necessary adjustment.

By December 31st, we are asking all remote learners to select one of the following options:

**OPTION 1** I wish to continue through the second semester with my child's current enrollment option.

**OPTION 2** I am interested in a face-to-face HCPS classroom for the second semester.

**OPTION 3** I am interested in transitioning my child to Hillsborough Virtual K-12.

HillsboroughSchools.org/hcpsreturn
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS OPENS WITH SUCCESS

Returning students to the classroom is critical to their educational experience. Since August, students and staff have come back to our campuses where increased health and safety measures have been put in place to combat the effects of COVID-19 in our schools. Hillsborough County Public Schools has partnered with Tampa General Hospital, USF Health, and the Department of Health-Hillsborough to ensure all safety measures related to the health and well-being of our students and staff are under consideration.

STEPS TO ENSURE CLASSROOM SAFETY

► Students, staff, vendors, and visitors are required to wear face coverings on campus. Disposable masks are available.

► Student desks are spaced six feet apart, when possible. Extraneous furniture has been removed from each classroom for proper social distancing practices.

► Teachers minimize the use of shared items in the classroom, including learning tools, pencils, and other items shared in a group setting.

► Each classroom is outfitted with sanitation stations that include a variety of supplies, such as masks, hand sanitizer, and disinfecting wipes, to encourage proper cleaning practices.

CAMPUS MOVEMENT

► To limit COVID-19 exposure and promote social distancing, students move in cohorts, where possible, throughout the day and utilize controlled movement patterns based on signage throughout campus.

► Students receive meals in a grab-and-go style for breakfast and lunch.

► Students are encouraged to take hand-washing breaks throughout the day, in addition to washing hands before and after eating.

► Pep rallies, assemblies, and other large gatherings during the school day, are not permitted until further notice.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL

► Students must wear face coverings on school buses and during extracurricular activities.

► Students load onto school buses from back to front, maximizing social distancing and limiting exposure to others.

► Staggered dismissal patterns have been devised, with designated drop-off and pick-up areas for walkers and bike riders.

► Our district is following guidance for athletics from the Florida High School Athletics Association. Please see our Return to Athletics Plan for more information by clicking the link below.

https://hillsboroughschools.org/docs/00/00/00/71/Return_to_Athletics_Plan_FINAL.pdf
**eLEARNING PARENTAL GUIDANCE**

- Make sure your student understands the work expectations for eLearning.
- Maintain a daily routine around school and schoolwork.
- Keep in touch with your teacher(s) on a regular basis and let them know if your child is experiencing challenges.
- Talk to your child about how they are feeling during this stressful time.
- Perform check-ins with your child regarding academics; this includes checking their Canvas course to ensure the option chosen for your child is appropriate.
- Seek assistance from school staff for emotional or mental health, if needed.

**SPRING 2021 EDUCATION PLAN**

Hillsborough County Public Schools is focused on meeting the needs of all students and ensuring that interventions and enrichment opportunities are provided to every learner. The district will provide a strong foundation for instruction for all students, helping to address the opportunity and achievement gaps that have widened during the pandemic.

The District is implementing several strategies to engage students and families struggling with their current learning modality or who have not enrolled for the 2020-2021 school year. Hillsborough County Public Schools will:

- Leverage school and District personnel, including school social workers, to focus efforts toward students who are not making adequate progress by providing resources to support academic success.
- Provide support for all students, including students with disabilities and English Learners (ELs).
- Review daily truancy/engagement data to identify students who are chronically absent or truant and build an inclusive plan to increase attendance.
- Collaborate with community partners to connect families directly to agencies that can assist with mental health supports, financial/housing assistance, technology resources, and follow up regularly on progress.
- Prioritize the social-emotional well-being of students and educators as a foundation for learning.
LOCAL MEDICAL EXPERT PARTNERSHIPS

Hillsborough County Public Schools (HCPS) collaborates weekly with Tampa General Hospital (TGH), USF Health, and the Department of Health-Hillsborough to review school district protocols, education strategies, and positive case profiles. This unique partnership allows our district to benefit from the advice of some of Florida’s top infection prevention experts, including leaders of the TGH Infection Prevention team and infectious disease physicians from the USF Health Morsani College of Medicine. These partnerships will continue to grow and assist HCPS in providing a safe educational setting. HCPS will also continue to provide exceptional COVID-19 assessments to all staff.

“This school year presents unprecedented challenges because of COVID-19. Hillsborough County Public Schools is pleased that two of the area’s preeminent medical institutions have agreed to collaborate with our district to provide the safest school environment possible. The unpredictability of this virus makes the recommendations and expertise from medical experts invaluable for HCPS.”