



Indianapolis Public Schools COVID-19 2020-21 RETURN TO SCHOOL OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

IPS will begin the 2020–21 school year on August 3. The following facilities guidelines are part of the district’s final plan to ensure a safe return and school year for both students and staff.



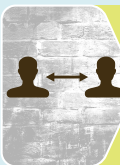
Academic Models

The new school year will have both in-person and remote learning academic models for students. Families will choose the option that works best for their child.



Cleaning and Disinfecting

Regular cleaning and disinfecting will occur on district buses, in schools — including classrooms, bathrooms and cafeterias — and administrative buildings. Classrooms will be cleaned daily, including high-traffic surfaces and areas.



Social Distancing

Social distancing will be required in classrooms and district buildings, during lunch and recess, and in common areas. IPS defines social distancing as 3 to 6 feet of distance between two people, in accordance to the Marion County Public Health Department.



Masks and Face Shields

Masks will be required for all staff and students in Grades K-12 throughout the day. Some exceptions will apply. Face shields will also be provided for teachers.



Handwashing/Hand Sanitizing

Frequent handwashing will occur throughout the school day. Hand sanitizing stations will be available in all IPS buildings and schools, including all classrooms.



Transportation

Masks must be worn on IPS buses. Crossing guards will be added for students within walking distance of schools to decrease the number of students on buses, and schools will be prepared for increased car riders.



Meals and Water Breaks

Students in Grades K-8 will eat inside classrooms or in cafeterias where social distancing is possible. Students in Grades 9-12 will eat inside school cafeterias. Social distancing and cleaning protocols will be enforced. Traditional water fountains will be removed or shut off and replaced with touchless water fountains.



Classrooms

Desks will be 3-6 feet apart, depending on class size. Classrooms will be cleaned daily, including high-traffic surfaces. Sharing of classroom materials will not be permitted.



Student/Staff Health and Safety

Nurses and trained staff will be onsite to screen students and staff who may be exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms. Proper protocols will be followed in the event of positive cases in schools or administrative buildings. Isolation rooms will be designated in schools and district buildings.



Parent Requirements

Parents must ensure the daily health of their students, and should not send children to school if they have a fever (100.4 or higher) or any other symptoms related to COVID-19.



School Visitors

Visitors will be limited to approved school and district staff and vendors necessary for school services. Parents/guardians will be limited to the school office. Social distancing will be enforced.

2020-21 RETURN TO SCHOOL

CHANGES TO EXPECT

WHEN STUDENTS AND STAFF RETURN TO SCHOOL, THEY WILL NOTICE A LOT OF CHANGES IN HOW THINGS ARE SET UP AND HOW THEY WILL OPERATE.

CLASS CHANGES

Classroom doors will be propped open to allow proper ventilation.

Classes can be held outdoors when possible and appropriate.

P.E., choir, band, orchestra and other large classes will be reorganized to allow for smaller class sizes and social distancing.

Technology

- IPS is moving to 1:1 (device:student).
- Every student will receive a device to support high-quality learning both in school and at home.
- MiFi mobile hot spots will be available for students who need internet access.



P.E.

- Physical contact activities will be prohibited.
- Activities can include exercising, running/walking, jump-roping, etc.
- Social distancing guidelines will be followed.
- All equipment will be cleaned before and after each use.



RECESS

- Social distancing will be maintained.
- In some instances, only one homeroom will be on the playground at a time.



SCHOOL BUSES

- Masks will be required.
- Students will be assigned a seat.
- A monitor will be assigned to every bus to enforce health and safety protocols.
- Buses will be disinfected at the end of every route.



EXTRACURRICULARS

- All after-school clubs and non-competitive activities should be converted to online formats. (i.e., student council, chess, art club, etc.)
- High school athletics will follow IDOE and IHSA guidelines, while K-8 athletics have been cancelled.
- Cheer, band, dance, etc. can occur, but performances may not have audiences. Performances that occur at high school games can be pre-recorded and shown virtually.

DISTRICT EVENTS

Large group activities such as open houses, back-to-school nights and assemblies will be converted to virtual formats.