



PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Home-based Distance Learning

Dear PPS Students and Families,

We are in the midst of an unprecedented public health crisis in our community, with COVID-19 forcing us to alter our lives and livelihoods in significant ways, including the extended closure of our schools. Schools are centrally important to students, families, educators and communities. Portland Public Schools has focused the last three weeks on protecting our students and staff, and providing access to essential services like meals and mental health support.

We will continue that critical work, and we are now reimagining the educational model from one situated in a classroom, to one that promotes learning virtually. We will make every effort to remain connected to our students and do our best to encourage a continued opportunity to learn from our educators. We ask for your patience as we transition a traditional brick and mortar school experience to one that takes place online and at home.

Below you will find important information regarding our new home-based distance learning program, PPS-HD. We centered this program on care, community and restoring a degree of continuity of learning, and we will answer more questions soon.

We look forward to connecting with your students in the coming days!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT [PPS.NET/CORONAVIRUS](https://pps.net/coronavirus) AND [PPS.NET/STUDENT](https://pps.net/student)

<p>What is PPS-HD?</p>	<p>PPS-HD is a home-based distance learning program to support students’ academic and social-emotional needs as district buildings remain closed due to COVID-19 precautions. It aligns with guidance from the Oregon Department of Education and provides access to educational materials through multiple modes, such as virtual classroom and paper learning guides. Live support and guidance will be made available at pps.net/student.</p> <p>The PPS-HD plan includes curriculum by grade level and subject matter that is designed to maintain instruction and academic engagement for students using Chromebooks, computers, laptops, tablets, iPads or smartphones.</p> <p>As we transition to distance learning, PPS-HD, like all PPS programming, will be centered on care, community, and continuity of learning. We are also working to provide paper copies of lessons and assignments to our students who do not have digital access.</p>
<p>When does it start?</p>	<p>We have started! This week (3/30-4/3) teachers have been engaged in professional development learning how to best meet the needs of your students in a distance learning environment.</p> <p>Next week (4/6-4/10) teachers will start connecting with your students, if they have not already. On Monday and Tuesday, you can expect emails and invitations from teachers, counselors and administrators connecting with students and going over digital citizenship and expectations; Wednesday and Thursday teachers may begin with lessons, assignments, and virtual class meetings. Full distance learning implementation (daily lessons, interactions with teachers, online activities or projects) with consistent schedules will begin the week of April 13.</p> <p>Throughout this difficult time, please know that as dedicated educators we will always focus on connection and relationships with students as a priority.</p>
<p>What does my student need to do to participate?</p>	<p>To participate in PPS-HD, students will need:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. An internet-compatible device.2. Access to the internet.

	<p>IMPORTANT: Students should check their PPS GMail accounts for instructions on how to get started with PPS-HD. Presently, all PPS high school students have @student.pps.net email addresses, and PPS will begin the process to create @student.pps.net email addresses for all students in grades 4-8 with safety protocols in place. Live support and guidance will be available at pps.net/student.</p>
What if we don't have internet access at home?	<p>We are working to provide internet access to families who need it. If you require access, please fill out the request form, which you can find at pps.net/coronavirus. The information on this site is presented in PPS six supported languages for your convenience.</p>
We don't have a computer at home. Can my student still participate?	<p>PPS is making devices available to students in need during this time. If your student does not currently have access to a computer at home, please fill out the request form, which you can find at pps.net/coronavirus, or go to one of 15 Nutrition Services food distribution sites (site locations are listed on pps.net/coronavirus) and fill out a paper survey. The survey is available in all six PPS-supported languages.</p>
How involved do I have to be at home to support my students' participation?	<p>This depends on the age of your student. Most supplemental activities will be student-led, but some students may benefit from your participation, explanations and encouragement. For students with special needs, you may need to provide more direction and support.</p>
How many hours per day does my student need to be online?	<p>PPS-HD is following the Distance Learning For All Guidelines provided by the Oregon Department of Education. Teacher-led learning will vary across grade levels, and we are finalizing scheduling recommendations now.</p> <p>Suggested online times do not need to happen all at once. They may be broken into shorter time frames as needed. It is recommended that students have plenty of time for "brain breaks" and stretching.</p>
Will you be taking attendance?	<p>At this time, we plan to use virtual attendance counting as a tool to ensure students are able to connect with our learning program.</p>
Will work be graded?	<p>Grades will not be assigned for students in K-8, however teachers will monitor student progress toward mastery of the standards through informal assessments.</p> <p>For students in grades 9-12, all students will be given the opportunity to improve their grade for the 3rd quarter by working with their teachers to complete outstanding work. In no case will a student have a lower grade than on the date we closed school. We will extend the 3rd quarter to April 13. Students who have been unable to complete their work for the 3rd quarter will be assigned a grade of</p>

	<p>Incomplete. Students will have an opportunity to resolve any incomplete grades once schools are re-opened.</p> <p>For the remainder of the school year, students in grades 9-12 will be expected to complete assignments either online or on paper which will be progress monitored by their teacher. We are awaiting final guidance from ODE regarding graduation requirements in order to determine whether or not grades will be issued for the 4th quarter.</p>
<p>How will teachers reach out to students?</p>	<p>The approved apps for teachers and counselors to communicate with students are: REMIND (phone calls) and Google MEET (video conferencing). Students will not need to download or access REMIND, as it will serve as the platform for teachers to make phone calls.</p> <p>The distance learning management systems that teachers and students will be using are SeeSaw for grades K-2 and Google Classroom or Canvas for grades 3-12. (*Students on IEPs may use alternate learning management systems)</p> <p>Presently, all PPS high school students have pps.net email addresses, and PPS will begin the process to create pps.net email addresses for all students in grades 4-8 with safety protocols in place. Live support and guidance will be made available at pps.net/student.</p> <p>The option to opt out for one-to-one communication between your student and building staff is forthcoming. If you choose to opt out of one-to-one communication, your student will still be able to access their education through distance learning platforms.</p>
<p>Will the at-home program cover everything my teacher would have covered if there was no closure?</p>	<p>PPS-HD will not cover everything that teachers and students would cover typically in a traditional full-schedule classroom environment. While every effort is being made to provide a rich learning opportunity to our students, we also recognize that remote, at-home learning does not replace the experience of a student engaging with the teacher and peers in the classroom. We will do our best to create thoughtful and meaningful experiences for our students. We are focusing on connection with students and providing regular learning and educational engagement. Our teachers are ready to make this unexpected and unprecedented system work well for students, but we will not be able to fully replicate what students would have covered in a regular semester.</p>

<p>What if we have more than one PPS student at home? Do they have to be online at the same time?</p>	<p>Students will typically have flexibility and in most cases will have multiple options for when they need to be online.</p>
<p>Can we still talk to a counselor or social worker if my student needs assistance outside of academics?</p>	<p>Absolutely. Families are encouraged to email their usual school supports, and the district is working on creating ways for students and families to be able to call school staff as needed. PPS is working with a new connectivity partner, REMIND, to support student and family engagement and staff privacy.</p>
<p>My child has an IEP. How will it be implemented?</p>	<p>Current IEP's will be implemented within the limitations of distant learning formats. IEP's will not require amendment nor change of placement to access distance learning.</p> <p>IEP meetings will be offered to families as they come up for yearly review. Your case manager will notify you and ask if you agree to having the meeting virtually.</p> <p>Specially designed instruction will be supported by your child's case manager to align with instruction that all students are being provided. Some IEP services may not be provided due to the fact that all students are receiving different levels of instruction, support and service under distance learning. We will do our best to help support families during this time and provide accommodations, accessibility for instruction and supports to help you.</p> <p>Interpretation services for IEP meetings will be available via phone or video, depending on the language.</p>
<p>My child has a 504 plan. How will accommodation be provided during distance learning?</p>	<p>Your child's teacher will review the necessary accommodation for access and participation in distance learning. Your child's 504 case manager will be available to support school staff in 504 implementation. Interpretation services will be available via phone or video, depending on the language.</p>
<p>My child is an English Language Learner. How will they get services?</p>	<p>Students who are identified to receive English language development services (Title III) will be supported by the ESL teacher to ensure they have a successful experience in remote learning</p>
<p>My student is a high school senior; what do they need to do to be sure to graduate this year?</p>	<p>We are waiting for the state to make some determinations to know our next steps. We will be communicating to seniors and their families when we receive that guidance from the state. In the meantime, we encourage all seniors to be in contact with their teachers, counselors, and administrators.</p>

My student left an item at school. Can they go to school to retrieve it?	Not at this time. PPS schools have undergone a deep cleaning and have been sanitized by our custodial teams. In order to reduce the spread of the coronavirus, we are not allowing students to access school buildings at this time. We will let students know when they can access buildings again.
Will there be academic assistance outside of the normal program if my student needs extra help?	Yes. Students can contact their teachers or counselors if they feel like they need assistance.
Can my student or I contact a teacher outside of online instructional time?	Yes. Teachers might not be available at a particular moment, but will be able to return calls or reply to messages.
Will there be set turn-in times for assignments?	Teachers will plan for their own instructional activities and may set guidelines around due dates, but flexibility for students will be emphasized when at all possible.
How will my student know what schedule to follow?	Teachers will reach out to students in classes. The distance learning management system that teachers and students will be using for K-2 is SeeSaw and 3-12 is Google Classroom or Canvas. Students with special needs may have a different system they will be using. You will be notified if it is different.
Who can we contact if we have technical issues or other challenges in participating?	Live support and guidance will be found on the PPS student portal. Additionally, the PPS Support desk will be available to help with technical issues. They can be reached at 503-916-3375 or by emailing support@pps.net.
Will students be able to return to school before the end of the school year?	We are all very eager to return to schools. Currently, the Governor's executive order states that the earliest we would return is April 29. We will be in touch as the Governor gives additional direction in the coming days and weeks.
Who do I contact if I have questions about online behavior or safety?	In the same way you would during other times of the year, you may contact your child's teachers or principals with questions or concerns about behavior. As always, you may also report discrimination and/or harassment (including cyberbullying) to PPS Title IX or any concern or threat regarding student safety to SafeOregon .
Who do I contact about mental health or concerns about child safety or welfare?	During a pandemic, we can all play a role to ensure children are safe at home. Statewide DHS reporting of child abuse continues as well as many other essential resources. Please see link to comprehensive list here.