

Continuous Learning Plan



Vision: ***ALL*** students receive quality instruction in a rigorous and relevant curriculum to prepare them to graduate college or career ready.

Jennifer Thomas, Superintendent
Lisa Magee, Director of Personnel

800 Main Street Franklinton, LA 70438
985.839.3436

SCHOOL SYSTEM SNAPSHOT INFORMATION

Washington Parish is a rural school district located in Southeast Louisiana. It is home to 10 schools led by Superintendent Jennifer Thomas. The system has reached new heights in graduation rates,

growth to mastery, and “Come Back Schools.” The school system has nearly 5,000 enrolled students in grades, PreK-12th. Data from state test scores reveal an overall improvement in English Language Arts and Math and growth to mastery. For example, 72% of 3rd-8th students are proficient in English Language Arts. Washington Parish is certainly the place to be.

In accordance with BESE policy, Washington Parish School System has a written continuous learning plan for modified operations during school closures. This plan is to be reviewed by stakeholders, posted to the district’s website, and annually updated by June 30 but not limited to:

1. technology and connectivity;
2. student and staff expectations;
3. attendance;
4. family strategic communication, engagement, and support; and
5. instructional quality

The task force determined four focus areas for continuous learning: school and system planning, technology, instructional quality, and family engagement and support. The safety of students and staff is of utmost priority to the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE). Washington Parish School System will provide access to continuous learning limited to unfinished learning while maintaining access to instructional programming during modified operations to the best of our ability. The LDOE is committed to providing guidance and support to ensure school systems are prepared for continuous learning.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the 2020 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, Senate Concurrent Resolution 63 was enrolled to create a continuous learning task force to assist the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) in developing guidance for Louisiana educators to meet the immediate need of supporting learning outside of normal practices. In accordance with BESE policy, Washington Parish School System has a written continuous learning plan for modified operations during school closures.

High Level Priorities

Washington Parish School Systems will

- consider the safety and welfare of students and staff, first and utmost;
- provide a high-quality instruction and support to all students regardless of their learning needs or background;
- be adaptable and flexible with the ability to move throughout the academic year providing a continuous learning option for short-term, medium-term, and long-term modified operations;
- maintain consistent communication with students, families, and staff to ensure respect and success.

SCHOOL AND SYSTEM PLANNING

In an effort to provide rigorous, engaging, and meaningful instruction for all students during school closures, our district has created a plan to assist with individual academic success in spite of challenging circumstances. This plan was developed with student and staff safety being of the utmost importance.

The learning plan is divided into three types of operations:

- **Short-Term modified operations:** A significant portion of the students/staff are not able to be on campus for 1-2 days for face-to-face, direct instruction. Continuous learning expectations may be limited or smaller in scope depending on resource availability (e.g. community is without electricity for two days).
- **Medium-Term modified operations:** A significant portion of the students/staff are not able to be on campus for 3-10 days for face-to-face, direct instruction.
- **Long-Term Modified Operations:** A significant portion of the students/staff are not able to be on campus for more than 10 days for face-to-face, direct instruction. Operations should have more consistency and expectations of routines and instruction.

The Superintendent, with assistance from local law enforcement, utility services, and parish and/or state government officials will decide on the type of modified operation to employ. Some natural disasters such as hurricanes and floods may provide some lead time for response. On the other hand, disasters such as tornadoes, fires, and chemical related air-quality are unexpected and unpredictable.

ACADEMIC PLAN

Washington Parish School System will use Google Classroom as the main instructional platform to continue student learning for modified operations during school closures. Google Classrooms will be maintained for all grades/subjects. Teachers will use district-adopted Tier 1 aligned curriculum materials to deliver instruction aligned to state standards.

Direct Instruction will be delivered in the following two formats:

Asynchronous Learning: learning that does not occur at the same place or same time as the school. It is specially designed by the teacher or itinerant staff. The student will complete the learning tasks without teacher supervision but may require adult supervision at home. The staff member monitors progress, provides feedback, and is available for questions or guidance. Examples may include:

- Pre-recorded video lessons such as Screencastify.
- Guided & Independent Practice (worksheets, prescribed hands-on activities that relate to instruction given recorded or live lessons).
- Computer-Based Instruction will be prescribed by the teacher and allows them to differentiate teaching to accommodate all learning styles. Progress will be monitored and feedback provided.

Synchronous Learning: Learning that occurs with real-time interaction with the teacher, paraprofessional, or itinerant staff member that is employed by the Washington Parish School System. Examples may include:

- Live video instruction
- Office hours through Google Meet. This is scheduled time when staff is available to meet with parents and/or students via phone, video conference.

TECHNOLOGY PLAN

- Students have 1:1 access for technology devices. District students in PreK-12th grades have been issued a mobile device for use at home.
- Teachers have been provided a mobile device to facilitate working from home.
- Students and parents/guardians are required to sign Device Agreements as part of the district's beginning of the school year paperwork.
- The district supports enhanced Internet access points in each school's parking lot.
- Work packets will be available to students without connectivity during medium and long term modified operations.

ATTENDANCE

Students are expected to participate in classroom activities daily. Attendance will be taken daily and if a student doesn't log in, he/she will be counted as absent. If the student cannot complete the assigned activities, the student/parent should notify (email/app) the teacher to complete the assignment(s). The teacher will respond by the end of the school day.

Parent/Guardians

During Continuous Learning, the role of the parent/guardian is to support student learning. This may include the creation of a proper workspace, assisting students in maintaining their daily schedule, ensuring students access their online classes daily, and supervision of assignments. Parents are encouraged to work with their student's teacher/service provider to address varying needs. Parents are also encouraged to monitor their student's learning platform.