



TCS D Frequently Asked Questions (Q & A)

This document is based on current information and is subject to change if we receive new guidelines from the Mississippi Department of Education, governmental agencies and/or health officials.

Q. Are students returning to school this year?

A. Yes. Students will return on August 24, 2020.

Q. What model will Tunica County School District open with?

A. TCS D will open virtually. However, we anticipate transitioning to the Hybrid model for the 2nd nine weeks.

Q. Do parents have to register their children?

A. Yes. Parents and/or guardians must complete the Tunica County School District registration online process for all students by August 20, 2020.

Typical school day for students in virtual learning

Q. What will the typical virtual learning school day be like? Will my child's schedule be similar to that as if they were in the building?

A. All students must login at 8:00am and participate in a minimum of 240 minutes of instruction daily, as required by the Mississippi Department of Education. Instruction will end at 12:30 pm daily. There will be a 10-minute break between classes.

Q. Why has the 240-minute requirement been put in place by the Mississippi Department of Education?

A. Mississippi law mandates the education of all children between the ages of 6 and 17 compulsory and therefore requires every school to report daily attendance of students for truancy purposes. By law schools must report student absences to truancy.

Q. What will happen if my child does not log into Canvas each day at 8:00am?

A. Students will be marked absent for the day. Regular truancy school rules will apply to students who missed days from school.

Q. How can parents review the student's work with them after instruction has ended?



A. There will be video lessons, as well as, some recorded live lessons. In addition, all assignments will have directions.

Q. Will my child be required to wear a mask?

A. Yes. All students will be required to wear a mask at school and on the bus.

Q. Will the staff members be required to wear a mask?

A. Yes. All staff will be required to wear a mask.

Sample Virtual Learning School Day for Students

- **Time** – An equivalent of 240 minutes of instruction will be offered. This will include live or recorded teaching from teachers. The teachers will utilize instructional resources such as videos, textbooks, supplemental resources (STAR, I-Ready, Study Island, Goal Book, Common Lit, Reading Plus, Educeri, USA Test Prep, Electude, ICEV, Pearson NCCER), tasks cards, assignments, and class activities. Classroom instruction may vary by school, grade level and courses.
- **Procedures and learning expectations** – The TCSO has the same level of expectation for students participating in distance learning as our traditional school environment.
- **English/Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies, or Electives** – The Canvas platform allows for multiple forms of instructional delivery in all subject areas including direct instruction, standards review, specific learning targets, guided practice, independent practice, exit tickets, power point presentations (projects), discussion boards, and small group instruction. In addition, one on one instruction will be provided as well to meet the needs of students.
- **Assessment** – Students will take weekly assessments, quizzes, formative assessments, summative assessments, and benchmark assessments used in the traditional school model. Students may also be required to take district and state assessments periodically throughout the year, which may require them to come to school.
- **Teacher Communications** – Students will be provided feedback and guidance through Canvas. Parents and students may reach out to teachers with questions and requests for help at any time.

Canvas (Learning Management System)

Q. What is Canvas?

A. Canvas provides the district with an online platform for all grades where all teachers are held accountable for his/her own class.

- Canvas gives teachers the ability to create, upload, manage, and grade classroom assignments and activities.



- Canvas provides a bank of lessons for each grade, which will also aid in quick teacher support for the new platform.
- Canvas offers enhanced features such as interactive video and teacher modeling to encourage student engagement.
- Canvas plans and conducts virtual professional development sessions through platforms such as Google Meet and Zoom.
- Canvas provides access to an assessment bank and data analysis tools to continue to monitor student/teacher performance.
- Canvas gives principals and district-level administrators the ability to monitor the quality of classroom instruction.
- Canvas is full of tools and features to enhance students' online course experience.
- Canvas allows students to view content created by the instructor.
- Canvas allows students to participate in course assignments and communications.
- Canvas allows students to create videos and have audio responses via Canvas.
- Canvas allows students to attach links as resources for assignments.

Q. How do Parents and Guardians learn about Canvas?

A. Guardians and parents will receive more information prior to the beginning of school.

Q. How will assignments be posted and submitted?

A. All assignments will be posted and submitted through the Canvas platform.

Q. Will my student be assigned to a teacher?

A. Yes. All students will be assigned to a teacher for each class scheduled and will receive their class schedules.

Scheduling

Q. What should I do if I need to discuss my student's schedule?

A. Please contact the school as you would if the student was in the traditional setting.

Q. Will I be able to conference with my child's teacher if there is an issue with Canvas?



A. Parents will be able to conference with the teacher through Canvas. Parents are encouraged to still make contact with their child's teacher. Call your child's school for assistance.

Technology

Q. How is technology going to be handled? Will students get devices if needed?

A. Yes. Parents can indicate whether their students need devices to school principals. TCSD officials will work with families to address needs.

Q. What will happen if I don't have access to the Internet?

A. TCSD will work with families/households to address needs.

Q. Can students use a personal-owned device for distance learning?

A. Yes. Any Internet capable device can be used to access Canvas. Windows Laptops/PCs, Macbooks/iMacs, Chromebooks, iPads, and Android tablets can be used to access Canvas courses. While phones can access Canvas, we discourage the use of cell phones, and suggest devices with a larger screen to support student learning.

Special Education

Q. Will my student receive Special Education services if enrolled in distance learning?

A. Yes. Contact your child's principal or the Special Education Director.

Gifted Education

Q. Will my student receive Gifted services if enrolled in distance learning?

A. Yes. The student's Gifted teacher will be in contact after school begins.

English Language Learners

Q. Will my student receive English Learner services if enrolled in distance learning?

A. Yes. The student's English Learner teacher will be in contact after school begins.

504

Will my student receive 504 services if enrolled in distance learning?

A. Yes. Please contact your child's principal.



Extracurricular

Q. Will students enrolled in distance learning be able to participate in extracurricular activities?

A. More information will be forthcoming.

Child Nutrition

Q. Can my student receive lunch if enrolled in distance learning?

A. Yes. Grab and Go meals will be delivered at the end of the instructional day to designated bus stops.

Q. Will grab and go breakfast/lunch be brought to the home?

A. No. Students/Parents will need to be at the student's normal bus stop to receive grab and go meals after instruction ends at 12:30pm.