

Intro to Family Choice Form:

Dear ACPS Families,

Today, we are reaching out to you with our Family Choice Form to gather information about your preference for either hybrid learning or virtual learning as we continue our preparation for phased return to in-person learning beginning in January 2021, contingent upon staffing, building capacity and community health metrics. In recent weeks, we have provided updates on community health metrics and our staff and building constraints which have caused a delay in our phased reentry of students for in-person learning. This was not an easy decision and we are committed to our continued transition process to prepare for the months ahead which still remain uncertain. To that end, it is important to connect with families at this point in time to gauge “family choice” to assist us to continue our work to efficiently return students and staff back into our schools once feasible.

We ask that families complete a form in PowerSchool for each child enrolled in ACPS. Your selections will help us identify classroom and building assignments as we transition to hybrid learning at a future date.

The 2020-21 school year has been nothing like we have ever experienced, and we are committed to meeting the social, emotional, and academic needs of our students, staff, and families during these most unprecedented times, while at the same time adhering to guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as well as the Alexandria Health Department (AHD) and the Virginia Department of Health (VDH). We recognize that given the uncertainty and rapidly changing conditions, we must have instructional plans in place that enable us to move back and forth between hybrid and in-person learning opportunities. Yet, we know that we must offer our families and students a chance to indicate their choice for either hybrid or virtual learning.

As we continue to implement our phased reentry plan, we want to be transparent with families about what a return to in-person learning model will look like in comparison to our Virtual PLUS+ model as well as the safety and health protocols.

Please review the information below describing general information about the hybrid and virtual learning models and then complete a brief questionnaire about your family’s preferences for each child you have enrolled in ACPS.

Once we have gathered all the information needed, we will communicate directly with families to provide their hybrid schedule, if that was the family’s choice, and confirm that this will work for their family. Please know that we are committed to working with families throughout this transition process knowing that circumstances may change and families may need to adjust their choice in the future. However, we ask families to provide a decision based on the information provided with the intent to begin your choice at the designated time for your

child's grade level. We are relying on our partnership with families to make this transition work as smoothly and efficiently as feasible during these unprecedented times.

Thank you for completing this very important step in our transition process.

I. Hybrid Learning Model (Combination of In-Person and Virtual Learning)

For families/students who choose the hybrid model, instruction will be delivered in person for a minimum of two days per week. While the specific hybrid schedules will be developed once staff intent to return and student enrollment numbers are finalized, an example of a schedule could be:

- Attending school **in person** two days per week
- Participating in **virtual synchronous** learning two days per week
- Participating in **virtual asynchronous** learning one day per week, during teachers' planning day

Teachers would continue to use one day each week for collaborative planning, professional learning, and student/family engagement and support. This learning model also includes time for teachers to set aside office hours for families and students to talk with teachers regarding their progress in class, assignments, and virtual learning.

II. Virtual PLUS+ Learning Model

For families/students who prefer the Virtual PLUS+ option, they choose to remain with the current instructional model, which does not include in-person instruction. Families selecting this model will continue with the same or a similar schedule of synchronous and asynchronous learning, which includes four days each week of virtual instruction and one day of asynchronous learning.

Teachers would continue to use one day each week for collaborative planning, professional learning, and student/family engagement and support. This learning model also includes time for teachers to set aside office hours for families and students to talk with teachers regarding their progress in class, assignments, and virtual learning.

Additional details comparing both models are included in the table below.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Both models are provided as examples and contingent upon health and mitigation safety measures per local and national guidance as well as staff ability, class size, enrollment choices, and building capacity. Also, please be aware that teacher assignments **may change** based on staff ability.

Considerations When Comparing Hybrid vs. Virtual PLUS+ Models

Considerations	Hybrid Model	Virtual PLUS+ Model
Instructional Model <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students participate in asynchronous instruction one day a week 	Yes	Yes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students attend school in-person a minimum of two days per week 	Yes	N/A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students attend school remotely with synchronous instruction 	Yes, for up to two days per week	Yes, for four days per week
Health and Safety Protocols <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Following 6-feet social distancing protocols ● Wearing a mask at all times except when eating breakfast or lunch or participating in vigorous physical activity (e.g., physical education class) or band/orchestra ● Daily temperature screenings ● Frequent hand washing and hand sanitizer use ● Lunch within the classroom ● Limited transitions throughout the day ● Limited to no exposure to students not within their classroom ● Periodic surface cleaning throughout the day 	Yes	N/A
Classroom and Building Assignments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Change in teacher assignment 	Possible	Possible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Change in classroom grouping 	Possible	Possible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Change in assigned classroom campus 	No	N/A

Family Choice Form Questions

1. **Based on these conditions and what you know now, what option do you choose for your child?**
 - a. I choose for my child to return in-person under the hybrid model as described above should this option be available based on feasibility.
 - b. I choose for my child to continue with 100% virtual learning as described above.

(Only if selecting 100% virtual to previous question would a family see the following question)

1. **Part 1a: If the answer to above is (b) then the following options will appear to obtain more information. What were the most important factors that influenced your choice to continue 100% virtual learning at this time? **Select all that apply.****
 - a. My child's physical health and safety
 - b. My family's physical health and safety
 - c. My child's mental health needs (e.g., stress, anxiety)
 - d. Given the pandemic, I am satisfied with Virtual PLUS as a learning option.
 - e. In-person offering is limited days per week
 - f. Concerns about meeting PPE and social distancing protocols
 - g. Potentially having a different teacher
 - h. Potentially having different classmates
 - i. My family's schedule (including sibling school schedules, work, and other scheduling challenges)
 - j. Transportation concerns
 - k. **Other (please specify):** _____ (open text entry)

2. **Choose the option below that best describes your child's internet access**
 - a. Internet access at home allows for live streaming, classroom instruction, real time interaction with teachers and classmates
 - b. Internet access at home is available but too slow for live streaming or real time interaction
 - c. Public connection NOT at home (coffee shop, fast food restaurant, recreation center, etc.)
 - d. Other
 - e. No internet connection available

