

DoDEA Students Return To School

As we get ready for the 2020-2021 school year, we wanted to update you on our Back-to-School efforts. To the maximum extent possible, DoDEA schools will operate brick-and-mortar schools on a regular full-time schedule when installations are in Health Protection Conditions (HPCON) Alpha or Bravo. Additionally, DoDEA is offering a Virtual Learning Option for students in kindergarten through grade 12 for the first semester. You can find specific information about the upcoming school year at the DoDEA Return to School at <https://www.dodea.edu/returntoschool.cfm>

Student registration for the virtual option is open from July 15 to July 28. For more information about these options and parent considerations visit DoDEA Return to School Website.

How do the two options compare?		
	Full-Time In-Person Instruction	Full-Time Virtual Instruction
Schedule	All grade levels, 5 days a week. Students will follow the posted calendar for each school.	All grade levels, 4-5 days a week. Students will follow the DVS calendar. Time will be allotted for regular professional learning and collaborative planning for teachers. A schedule will be established at a later date for students with synchronous and asynchronous learning. Students will be able to complete assignments at any time and connect with teachers throughout the week for support, feedback and guidance.
Courses	All courses required by DoDEA will be available. Some electives and programs may not be available given potential risks.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students in grades K-8 will be enrolled in math, language arts, social studies, science and one elective (music, art, or physical education). 2. Synchronous sessions in grades K-5 will be scheduled and likely be alternated by day (e.g. Mon/Wed language arts and social studies; Tues/Thurs math and science; and the elective two days a week). Students in the earlier grades will need more intensive parental support throughout the day. 3. For students in DVHS (grades 6-12), students will be enrolled in DVHS courses. Students will work with teachers and counselors to develop a schedule that fits their unique needs. 4. Specialized instruction will be provided, as appropriate, such as ESOL or special education services required by the Individualized Education Program (IEP) for students with disabilities.

To see the full chart and to learn more about DoDEA Return to School visit - <https://www.dodea.edu/returntoschool.cfm>



DoDEA VIRTUAL SCHOOL OPTION

SY 2020-2021

We are going back to school!

The 2020-2021 school year will look different across DoDEA as our schools reopen in a “new normal” environment due to COVID-19, if local health protection conditions (HPCON) allow for it. Students will attend school full-time with regular instruction from teachers. Face-to-face instruction and the routines of school add significantly to success and growth for all students. Restoring teaching and learning to the familiar environments of our classrooms, provides students with stability and continuity.

Virtual School Parent Option for students with health or other concerns

DoDEA is offering a virtual option for families and students beginning in the first semester of school year (SY) 2020-21. This learning option is for students and families with health vulnerabilities related to COVID-19 or those who are concerned about returning to school.

We have experience in virtual learning

DoDEA already has a fully accredited virtual high school high (9-12). We are expanding the Virtual School in to include elementary (K-5) and middle school (6-8) grades.

The structure of the Virtual Learning option

Students will be enrolled in the DoDEA Virtual School (DVS) in five core classes. At the high school level, it is not recommended that students take any more than 5 classes per semester and that they enroll in summer school to complete their course requirements for the school year.

For students in grades K-8, students will be enrolled in 5 classes: mathematics, language arts, social studies, science and one elective (music, art, or physical education).

DoDEA is procuring licensed courseware in each of these subjects that will be delivered by existing DoDEA teachers who apply and are selected for this option. These will be full courses with all of the normal content expected in a regular DoDEA course, but that is designed specifically for the online environment.

To the extent possible, elementary and middle school students will be served by dedicated online DoDEA teachers in a cohort model with other students from their school and/or the district and region.

When will the virtual school begin?

Students who are enrolled in the virtual option, regardless of location in the world, will follow the established calendar for the existing DoDEA Virtual High school. For students this year, the Virtual School will begin on 24 August. Students enrolled in the virtual option will follow the scheduled calendar for the Virtual School. This schedule may vary from the calendars for in-person instruction in our community schools. Parents that choose to enroll their students in the Virtual School option must agree to one full semester with an option for the entire year.

What parents should consider:

- *Attention span of younger students*
- *This option may provide less social emotional learning and informal play.*

- *Specials classes are limited.*
- *One on One reading instruction may be less optimal in this setting.*
- *IEP, 504, and ESL plans may need to be reviewed and updated for the virtual setting.*
- *Students are not able to participate in any extra-curricular activities that take place in the school.*

What if my child has special needs?

The virtual instruction option is available to all families. For parents of students who have an Individualized Education Program or 504 plan, the case study committee/504 team will convene to work with the family to determine a free and appropriate public education for the student.

Are there contingency plans in the event that the virus drives HPCON changes?

For students enrolled in the virtual option, there would be no impact or disruption due to HPCON changes or closures related to health concerns.

How do I select the virtual learning option for the semester?

It is very important that parents make an informed decision about choosing a virtual option. On our website, you will find details about how the virtual school will operate and the kind of support that parents will have to offer in order to ensure a child's success.

<https://www.dodea.edu/returntoschool.cfm>

Parents will have to complete a request form by July 28th for enrollment in the virtual school

*You will need to log in first using your child's DoDEA Google student account to access the form. If you try and access the form and are not logged in, you will receive an error message saying you do not have permission to access the form. Once logged in, parents may access the form [online](#). If a parent does not have access to the internet, they will need to call their child's school. Specific directions for parents to complete the form are below:

STEP 1: Login to Google with your child's DoDEA Student Google username and password.

STEP 2: Access the [DoDEA Virtual School: Parent Form](#)

STEP 3: Make your selection and fill out the required information and finish by clicking the "Submit Form" button at the bottom of the form.

STEP 4: Check your email receipt of your intent with additional information about the enrollment process and a link to change your selection if desired (by July 28).

STEP 5: If you need to complete a form for multiple students, you must log in to your other child's DoDEA @student.dodea.edu Google account. Use the same link to enroll them in the virtual learning option.

Have a question?

vslearningoption@dodea.edu

DoDEA Schools & Health Protection Conditions (HPCON)

The Department of Defense (DoD) has protocols for public health emergencies known as health protection conditions – HPCONs. Commanders review and update these HPCONs based on risk levels within a local community and in cooperation with local, state or host nation guidance. The Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) uses HPCON to guide actions taken in response to a health threat. For more information, visit DoDEA’s Ensuring a Safe and Health Return to School guide (June 11, 2020) at <https://www.dodea.edu/upload/Ensuring-a-Safe-and-Healthy-Return-to-School.pdf> and DoDEA Return to School at <https://www.dodea.edu/returntoschool.cfm>.

In-person learning in DoDEA schools & HPCON status:

- School environment will be determined based on the local HPCON level.
- DoDEA has worked with military leadership to identify mitigation strategies for HPCON A and HPCON B that allow for students and employees to safely return to school facilities.
- Extracurricular activities may be impacted by HPCON changes.
- As per current DoD guidance, if an installation is in HPCON Charlie, schools will be closed to students, and we will begin the year in remote learning.
- Schools will be open in brick and mortar in HPCON A and B.

ALPHA LIMITED Community Transmission Beginning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• School facilities are open• Mitigation strategies are in effect• Students and staff on campus
BRAVO MODERATE Increased Community Transmission	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• School facilities are open• Heightened mitigation
CHARLIE SUBSTANTIAL Sustained Community Transmission	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• School facilities closed to students• Schools transition to remote learning

Learn more about DoDEA Return to School at <https://www.dodea.edu/returntoschool.cfm>