



Pickens County Schools

2020-21 Return to School Plan

Compiled by the Pickens PK-12 Educational Taskforce

Families will have 2 choices for the 2020-2021 school year:



Choice 1

Traditional School

Students return to school with social distancing encouraged and extensive cleaning plans.

Note – traditional school could become distance learning.

Choice 2

Pickens Virtual Academy

Full-Time Enrollment in at-home Virtual Learning for at least **one full semester**.

- ✓ Will have access to staff & support
- ✓ Will be eligible for extracurricular activities

[Click here for more information](#)

Choose by July 13th

By July 13th, we need you to click the link and choose Traditional or Virtual here: [Traditional or Virtual School Choice](#)

Traditional School

- ✓ Back to School 8/3/2020
- ✓ Staff & Students on Campus
- ✓ Social Distancing Encouraged
- ✓ Daily Cleaning Protocols
- ✓ Masks encouraged on buses & in hallways



Traditional School may become Distance Learning for 2 reasons:

1. **INDIVIDUAL** student(s) temporarily enters this option if in quarantine or homebound for various reasons
2. If Substantial Spread in community, **EVERYONE** goes into Distance Learning

Note: Student participates by joining classroom remotely. Student will have access to staff and support.

OR

Pickens Virtual Academy

- ✓ Back to School 8/3/2020
- ✓ Curriculum provided using Pearson online program which can be supported by a Pickens County teacher to meet the individual needs of students
- ✓ Pearson is an accredited provider. The courses cover the Georgia Standards and pacing will be aligned to Pickens County courses.
- ✓ A Pickens County teacher will be available to assist students with questions regarding assignments.

- ✓ For high school students, collaboration will take place between teachers and counselors to ensure students are meeting graduation requirements.
- ✓ Students attending Pickens Virtual School will be considered a student within the Pickens County School System.
- ✓ Checkpoints will be set for all students to ensure the student works at a pace which will allow him/her to complete the course on time.

INSTRUCTION



Traditional

Students will engage in face to face instruction inside the classroom.



Distance

Students will work remotely. Multiple day assignments will be posted in the district's learning management system (LMS). Teachers will provide live and recorded instruction. Students will be expected to attend virtual meetings and diligently complete assignments on time. Grades will count.

OR

Pickens Virtual Academy

Students will receive instruction and assignments via Pearson Connexus with assistance from a Pickens County Teacher. The accredited courses are aligned to the GA Standards of Excellence.



TRANSPORTATION



Traditional

- ✓ Student masks encouraged; social distancing cannot be achieved on buses
- ✓ PPE provided for all bus drivers
- ✓ Assigned seating to improve loading & unloading
- ✓ Increased cleaning measures; buses disinfected daily
- ✓ *Parents may opt to transport students to/from school*



Distance

- ✓ No Transportation needed

OR

Pickens Virtual Academy

- ✓ No Transportation needed



NUTRITION



Traditional

- ✓ School Nutrition Staff will make meals available at the point-of-sale for all students in school attendance.
- ✓ Social Distancing will be practiced for students in serving lines.
- ✓ Menus will be simplified to expedite quick meal delivery, grab & go service ready for transport.
- ✓ Other areas of the school will be used for dining to help practice social distancing.
- ✓ Students encouraged to bring water bottles.



Distance (only if all students go distance)

- ✓ Buses will run their regular route daily to offer meals to students.

OR

Pickens Virtual Academy

- ✓ Grab-and-Go option available if demand is there.



SPECIALIZED STUDENT SERVICES



Traditional

Students with specialized needs will engage in face to face instruction inside the classroom.



Distance

Students with specialized instructional needs will work remotely and complete online assignments. Teachers will provide live and recorded specialized instruction and support per student need as determined by eligibility. Grades will count.

OR

Pickens Virtual Academy

Students with specialized instructional needs will receive instruction and assignments via Pearson Connexus with assistance from a Pickens County Teacher. The accredited courses are aligned to the GA Standards of Excellence.



SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING



Traditional

- ✓ Students will work with staff to reconnect to school, build relationships, and practice procedures and behavior expectations.
- ✓ Counselors will have social emotional resources for classroom teachers to integrate and/or counselors to present to students.



Distance

Students will work with staff to reconnect. Counselors will have social emotional resources available that will include ways to manage time in a distance environment.

OR

Pickens Virtual Academy

Students will work with staff to reconnect. Counselors will have social emotional resources available that will include ways to manage time in a distance environment.



HEALTH & SAFETY



Traditional

- ✓ Send students/staff showing symptoms to clinic
- ✓ Hand sanitizer available
- ✓ Designated entry and exit doors
- ✓ Only students and employees may enter the main buildings. Visitors/Parents may enter through designated area only.



Distance

Building will be off limits.

OR

Pickens Virtual Academy

All work done remotely.



TECHNOLOGY



Traditional

- ✓ Face to face instruction with same technology needs as before.
- ✓ All students K-12 will be provided a device



Distance

- ✓ All students will be provided with a device for home use (K-12)
- ✓ Working toward making mobile Wi-Fi hotspots available to check out for students without home internet access.
- ✓ Working toward making parking lots at each school equipped and maintained as Wi-Fi access points for student devices.
- ✓ Technical support for parents and students with technology issues.

OR

Pickens Virtual Academy

- ✓ All students will be provided with a device for home use (K-12)
- ✓ Virtual Academy students need to have reliable internet connection.



EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



Traditional

- ✓ Follow GHSA Guidelines for all groups
- ✓ Use caution, increased cleaning
- ✓ Digital Ticketing & Encourage Social Distancing at Events



Distance

Students in Distance Learning will not be able to participate. This is either due to quarantine or school closure.

OR

Pickens Virtual Academy

Students participating in Pickens Virtual Academy are ELIGIBLE for the same level of Extra-Curricular Activities as the other students.



SUBMIT DECISION BY JULY 13th



By July 13th, we need you to choose Traditional or Virtual here:
[Traditional or Virtual School Choice Form](#)

CLICK LINK

Note: Any student that does not declare will be enrolled in the Traditional Model

Questions?

Contact Anita Walker, Director of Curriculum
anitawalker@pickenscountyschools.org

[Click here to attend virtual meeting regarding Pickens Virtual on July 6th at 6:30 pm](#)

Traditional School

Ready for Distance Learning

OR

Pickens Virtual Academy

[Click here for more information](#)