



BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLEMENTAL Q&A

This document presents a list of common questions that may not be addressed in the materials provided so far relating to the school district's back-to-school plan and the options available. The district is providing this supplemental Q&A to reach as many parents as possible as quickly as possible. The information in this document may be updated as needed. The date in the header at the top of the page will reflect the most recent update.

QUESTION	ANSWER
ADDED AUGUST 4, 2020	
My student is scheduled to return to in-person instruction, but I would like for him/her to be a virtual student. How do I add my student's name to the PVA Wait List?	The school district has created a Paulding Virtual Academy Waiting List application for families who may have missed the July 13 deadline to enroll their student in one of the Paulding Virtual Academies. Parents may use this application to add their student's name to a waiting list, and, if staffing and resources become available, students will be accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis. We encourage families to continue in-person learning while they wait to be contacted regarding PVA. https://www.paulding.k12.ga.us/PCSDVirtualWaitList
My student is on the PVA Wait List. When can I expect to hear from someone, and who do I contact with questions?	Our virtual program relies on certified staff to provide instruction and support students. We have accommodated all the seats currently available. As seats come open, we will contact families. In the meantime, we encourage you to send your child to their districted school for in-person instruction. For high school students, contact Dr. Labossiere at vlabossiere@paulding.k12.ga.us with questions. For elementary and middle school, contact your local school administrators with questions. The elementary, middle, and high school Virtual Academies are in the process of admitting PVA Wait List students as staffing and resources become available.
One of my children on the PVA Wait List was approved, but another child in our household was not. Is this correct?	Yes, it is possible. Each of the Paulding Virtual Academies (elementary, middle & high) operates independently, so it is possible that one Academy has available seats but the other does not. For example, middle school PVA may have available 6 th grade seats, but the Kindergarten elementary PVA may not have space. Each Wait List student is added on a first-come-first-served basis, and so one child may be admitted before another.
My student is currently enrolled in PVA but we are having trouble logging in and/or I haven't been contacted by a teacher. Who do I contact for support?	Students having trouble logging in should contact their PVA teachers for technical support. Please double-check your email spam folder for communication from your PVA teacher.

	<p>If you find you haven't been contacted by a virtual teacher and you are a high school student, contact Dr. Labossiere at vlabossiere@paulding.k12.ga.us with questions. Elementary and middle school parents who have not yet been contacted by a virtual teacher should contact local school administration with questions.</p>
<p>Where can I access more information about the Paulding Virtual Academies?</p>	<p>Relevant documents including Student/Parent Handbooks, daily schedules and updates for virtual instruction can be found on the Virtual Academy website here: https://www.paulding.k12.ga.us/virtual.</p>
<p>My student is currently enrolled at PVA. What is the process and the timeline for returning to in-person instruction?</p>	<p>We are excited to be able to serve approximately 9,000 Paulding students through our Virtual Academies. Teachers and administrators have been preparing rigorous digital learning experiences for your student(s). During the first 10-days of school, you may feel that PVA is not a good fit for your student. We ask that you carefully consider your decision prior to making a request to return to in-person instruction, as you will not be able to reapply to one of our Virtual Academies until registration opens for the second semester. If you would like for your student to return to in-person instruction at your home school, please put your request in writing as directed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elementary & Middle School – Email the request to return to your student's PVA teacher and the administration of your districted school. • High School – Email the request to return to your student's PVA teacher and to Dr. Labossiere, vlabossiere@paulding.k12.ga.us. <p>As a reminder, all requests must be received on or before the 10th day of school, Friday, August 14, 2020. PVA students without a written request by that date are required to remain in PVA for the entire fall semester.</p> <p>After the 10-day window closes, the district will have to adjust staffing at both our Virtual Academies and local schools. This process will take some time to coordinate, and we ask for your patience as we make staff and student schedule adjustments. Students requesting return to in-person instruction can expect to be reassigned to their home school after the Labor Day holiday.</p>
<p>One of my children was able to return to in-person instruction, but another child in our household was not. Is this correct?</p>	<p>Yes, it is possible. Each of the local schools operate independently, so it's possible that one school has available seats in the in-person classroom, while another does not. For example, your middle school may have available, in-person seats in 6th grade, but not in 8th grade. The same is true between levels. A high school may have in-person seats available, but an elementary school may not have in-person seats available in your student's grade-level.</p>

ORIGINAL Q&A	
Will students in Advanced or Honors classes be able to take equivalent courses in the middle school virtual program, or will it be a general curriculum for all students?	Advanced, accelerated, and honors classes will be available for qualifying middle school students.
Will the Paulding Virtual High Academy offer Honors and AP classes?	Honors and AP courses are available to students at the Paulding Virtual High Academy. Once you are enrolled in Paulding Virtual High Academy, a representative from PVHA will assist you in the scheduling process which will review your course options and decisions for the Fall Semester.
If my child is in one of the district’s high school magnet programs, will they remain in the magnet program if we choose the virtual option?	Magnet program courses will not be available through Paulding Virtual Academy. However, if you are a Magnet student who chooses to attend the Virtual Academy, you are eligible to return to the Magnet.
If my child is enrolled in a school of choice, will they be able to stay in that school of choice if they opt to return to in-person instruction following the first semester?	Yes, if you choose to return to face-to-face instruction following the first semester, you are eligible to return to the school you were attending prior to virtual enrollment.
Will students be socially distanced in classrooms and on school buses?	Schools will employ social distancing as it is feasible and practical. While the district will encourage students, teachers and bus drivers to wear masks, in most cases it will not be possible to enforce social distancing in classrooms or on school buses unless it is a class or a bus with fewer students.
When are open houses, and how will they work?	Information about Open Houses is available on the school district web site, or you can download the informational document by clicking here . (Updated 7/15)
Can students switch to the virtual program if the in-person instruction doesn’t work out, and vice versa?	No, having students switch back and forth between the in-person and virtual programs would create logistical and staffing issues. Students who register for the virtual program are committing to one semester. However, beginning August 3 rd there will be a one-time 10-day window where parents may withdraw their student from the virtual program and enroll them for in-person instruction at their school.
Will there be an after-school program for elementary students, i.e., Learning Bridge?	Yes, Learning Bridge is currently registering students. Please visit https://learningbridgepaulding.com/ for cost and registration information. Learning Bridge is currently updating their reopening protocols according to guidance from Georgia’s Bright From the Start, the state department that licenses and monitors Georgia daycares. All Learning Bridge safety updates and protocols will be posted directly to their company website .

<p>Will the school district reconsider optional masks for students and staff and make them mandatory?</p>	<p>The school district recognizes that wearing a face mask is a personal choice for families and, therefore, will not mandate that masks be worn. However, the school district does strongly encourage that all students and staff wear masks. Should the wearing of masks be mandated by local, state or federal requirement, the school district will follow that direction.</p>
<p>Will students in the virtual program be required to physically visit their school to complete academic tasks or take assessments?</p>	<p>In some cases, students may be asked to physically visit the school to complete certain academic tasks or take assessments. If parents/students object to this requirement, the school will work with the student to find an alternate solution. In the case of standardized assessments, please note that the Georgia Department of Education has filed a request with the federal DOE to exempt all Georgia students from standardized tests this school year. That request has not yet been approved.</p>
<p>Will students with special needs and an IEP receive instruction to meet their needs under the virtual option?</p>	<p>Yes. Special education services will be provided differently in an online environment. Once a student with a disability has been registered with PVA, the Exceptional Students Education Program (ESEP) coordinator will facilitate an IEP to discuss possible amendments to the student’s IEP to reflect acceptance into PVA. Please read the document for parents of students with special needs here: www.tinyurl.com/pcsdbacktoschool</p>
<p>Can middle school students who choose the virtual option participate in band or chorus classes?</p>	<p>No, students who wish to take band or chorus classes must opt for the in-person instruction option as these classes will not be available under the virtual option.</p>

<p>ADDED QUESTIONS</p>	
<p>Is the school district considering pushing back the start of school?</p>	<p>No, the first day of school remains August 3, 2020. (Added 7/13)</p>
<p>What will happen if there is a confirmed case in a student or staff member?</p>	<p>The school district will work closely with the Department of Public Health and will handle each situation on a case-by-case basis. The district’s response may vary due to the facts and circumstances of each case. Parents will be informed of any confirmed case in a school. (Added 7/13)</p>
<p>Will the school district’s attendance policy change?</p>	<p>Yes, the school district will take a more flexible stance with attendance this school year because it is extremely important that any student who is not feeling well and is exhibiting fever or other symptoms <u>stay home from school</u>. For that reason, PCSD schools will not be offering attendance incentives this school year. (Added 7/13)</p>

<p>As the parent of an elementary student, if I choose the virtual option how much time will be spent at the computer each day?</p>	<p>Elementary students enrolled in PVEA will be taught live, interactive, videocast lessons between the hours of 8:00 AM and 2:30 PM just like their peers who choose the option for in-person instruction. Live lessons and instructional support will be video cast and interactive, so students must be online to attend the live lessons (ex., Zoom meetings). However, they will not be sitting in live lessons all day. The daily schedule of the live lessons will be determined by each teacher and communicated to parents in advance.</p> <p>When not attending the live video cast lessons, students will have independent classwork and assignments to complete on their own time. Parents can determine the other hours of the day when their children complete independent work. Just like the face-to-face classrooms, students will have a mixture of whole group lessons, small group support with the teacher, independent classwork, independent reading, activities, and assessments. Elementary parents can expect their children to participate in scheduled, live lessons and unscheduled independent classwork for a total of 4-5 hours each school day. (Added 7/13)</p>
<p>Will my elementary gifted student receive gifted services (Venture) if I choose the virtual back to school option?</p>	<p>Yes, gifted services will be provided to students who have chosen the virtual back to school option. (Added 7/13)</p>
<p>If I missed the July 13 deadline to enroll my student in the Virtual Option, is there still a way to enroll them?</p>	<p>If you missed the deadline to apply for one of the Paulding Virtual Academies, you should plan to send your student to school on August 3rd under the In-Person Instruction Option. However, you may contact your school front office to request that your student be placed on a waiting list for a transfer to the Virtual Option. Waiting list transfer requests will be granted only if additional staffing becomes available to accommodate additional students at the Virtual Academies. (Added 7/15)</p>
<p>Where can I find information about my child's bus, and where can I download the Here Comes the Bus app for my phone?</p>	<p>Information about your child's bus can be found on the Transportation web site by clicking here. On this web page you will find the School / Bus Stop Locator, as well as instructions for how to download the Here Comes the Bus app. We recommend all parents download Here Comes the Bus as it is a very useful tool for keeping track of your child's bus in real time. You can set up an account now and the app will become active when the buses begin transporting students on August 3rd. (Added 7/17)</p>