



WARREN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES  
6820 MARKET STREET  
RUSSELL PA 16345-3406

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SUPERINTENDENT

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FAQ REGARDING COVID-19 SCHOOL CLOSURE FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

Please take the time to thoroughly read this document. We intend to reissue the document as we receive new information. This document reflects the most up to date information we have on 4/13/20.

1. When will the school closure start? (Item updated on 3/13/20)
  - Governor Tom Wolf announced on Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm that all K-12 Pennsylvania schools will be closed for 10 business days effective Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>.
  
2. How long will the closure last? **(Item updated on 4/10/20)**
  - At this point, the Governor has determined schools will be closed for 10 business days. If nothing changes, March 30<sup>th</sup> will be the next day school is in session.
  - At this point, students return on April 9<sup>th</sup>. We know there is a possibility this could be extended again. (3/24/20)
  - We do not know how long this closure will last, but as this continues to unfold, it is my opinion schools may not reopen this school year. The district continues to plan for multiple scenarios. (4/1/20)
  - **Governor Tom Wolf announced on Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup> that all K-12 Pennsylvania schools will be closed for the remainder of the 19-20 school year. (4/10/20)**
  
3. Will students be able to obtain breakfast and lunch from the school during the school closure? (Item updated on 3/24/20)
  - The district will have grab and go breakfast / lunch ready for pickup at ten locations across the county starting on Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. Information will be going out this afternoon with specific locations and times.
  - The list of sites has increased. Please see the district website for those additions. (3/24/20)
  
4. What is the status of athletics and school activities? **(Item updated on 4/10/20)**
  - All school activities are either cancelled or postponed during the duration of this closure.
  - **All school activities are cancelled or postponed through the end of the school year.**

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5. What will happen to the school calendar? **(Item updated on 4/1/20)**
- The Governor has stated the following: Be aware that no school district will be penalized if it fails to meet the 180 day or school hour requirements.  
At this point, we do not believe we will be required to revise the school calendar, but we are not positive. In other circumstances, we would be expected to make efforts to fit in more days of instruction, so we are seeking clarification on this issue.
  - We were told last night that it will be a district decision as to whether we attempt to make up days by going to school through June 30<sup>th</sup>. That is a Board decision, and one we will not be able to make yet. (3/19/20)
  - There is now a legal question as to whether the Governor is allowed to forgive the 180 days of school. In addition, bringing back students for one day right before Easter does not make a lot of sense. The Board will be looking at the calendar on 3/30/20. (3/24/20)
  - With the open ended school closure order, the district is not yet ready to make a determination on any calendar revisions. We will be meeting again with the Board on April 6th. (4/1/20)
  - **The Board voted on Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup> to keep graduation on June 5<sup>th</sup>. (Item updated on 4/13/20)**
6. Is it possible that graduation will be on a later date? **(Item updated on 4/13/20)**
- This question is linked to #5. At this time, we do not believe there will be a change to graduation.
  - Now we are aware this will be a local decision connected to the decision to make up or not make up days. This will be an issue we discuss at the Board level.
  - With the open ended school closure order, the district is not yet ready to make a determination on any calendar revisions. We will be meeting again with the Board on April 6th. (4/2/20)
  - **The Board voted on Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup> to keep graduation on June 5<sup>th</sup>. (Item updated on 4/13/20)**
  - **At the CIT Committee Meeting on 4/6/2020, the Superintendent also stated we would move forward with planning several options, as we do not yet know what the restrictions will be at the time of graduation. The Superintendent stated we would have to proceed with a Plan A, Plan B, and Plan C.**
  - **The district is currently making a list of potential options that are being gathered to see what is feasible and what is permissible by the CDC and PDE.**
7. Will 21st Century programs run during the closure? **(Item updated on 4/13/20)**
- Warren County School District 21<sup>st</sup> Century programs will not be in session during the school closure.
  - **Warren County School District 21<sup>st</sup> Century programs are in the process of planning to operate remotely when authorized to do so. (Item updated on 4/13/20)**

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8. Will Warren County School District offices and school main offices be functioning during the school closure?
  - The offices will be staffed, but will not be open to the public to support the Governor's efforts to slow down the spread of COVID-19.
  
9. If I am a parent or student, will I be able to access school property during the school closure?
  - In general, students and parents are not permitted to be on school property.
  - Parents may call the school office to make arrangements to pick up something medically necessary for their child.
  
10. Will prom still occur, as planned, for each high school? **(Item updated on 4/13/20)**
  - At this point, the district has no information causing the plans, already in place, to change.
  - At this point, we are asking schools to have conversations with any vendors to see how flexible they will be if we have to reschedule.
  - **Due to the closure until the end of the year, proms will need to be cancelled or rescheduled. (4/13/20)**
  
11. Is the district offering on-line learning for all students during this school closure? (Item updated on 4/2/20)
  - The district, due to the lack of Internet access to many students, cannot proceed with on-line learning for all students.
  - This issue has immense legal implications. A letter explaining this more thoroughly will be sent out within a day or two.
  - The district is working on ways to educate students during an extended closure and will be working with IU5 this week to formalize the Educational Continuity Plan. (3/24/20)
  - The state has acknowledged that our lack of county internet infrastructure is a significant barrier to providing equitable solutions. The district is not willing to leave students behind who do not have access to the internet. We are in the middle of Phase One of our Educational Continuity Plan, and have provided every student with a paper packet as well as offering resources, review and enrichment online. During the next Phase, teachers will be connecting with their own students, and will be providing specific assignments. This will be done in a number of ways, as both teachers and students may be limited in their access to technology. Parents are selecting online or offline learning based upon their individual situations. (4/2/20)

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12. If the school closure is limited to 10 business days, how will the district handle determining when the 4<sup>th</sup> marking period begins? **(Item updated on 4/13/20)**
- If the closure is limited to 10 business days, we will use the first week back in class to complete the 3<sup>rd</sup> marking period, then shift, after the 5<sup>th</sup> day, to the 4<sup>th</sup> marking period.
  - With the extension, we are evaluating the ability to close marking period 3. (3/24/20)
  - We are in the process of finalizing 3<sup>rd</sup> marking period grades. (4/2/20)
  - **Marking period 3 grades are being run this week and will be delivered with offline Phase 3A materials on April 28<sup>th</sup>.**
13. Is it possible the school closure will go beyond 10 business days? **(Item updated on 4/10/20)**
- At this point, the district has no idea if the closure will be extended.
  - We are expecting an update tomorrow. (3/19/20)
  - The updates are clearly not coming at regular intervals. We do not know when we will receive another update. (3/24/20)
  - The last closure update from the Governor did not commit to an end date. I think if we keep an eye on the Federal guidance, we will be able to predict what Governor Wolf will do. (4/2/20)
  - **It is confirmed the closure is through the end of the 19-20 school year.**
14. How will the district manage the return to school?
- The district has been and will continue to monitor COVID-19. The goal of this closure is to slow the spread of the virus. The closure is not going to eliminate the virus. The district will be following State and Federal guidance regarding when to be at school and when not to be at school. The district has been and will continue to communicate that guidance to parents and students to be able to make the best decisions for their family.
15. Are there plans to reschedule events that had to be cancelled?
- The district is not able to reschedule anything at this time. Information about the spread of COVID-19 and the local, state, and federal responses attempting to manage it are moving too quickly to commit to rescheduling any events at this time.
16. Are the school buildings open for non-school related activities? (Item updated on 3/19/20)
- No, the buildings are not open for any use.
  - The district was asked yesterday to make a gym available for a blood drive, as our area is in critical need. We will allow a blood drive in the WAHS gym, but I do not have details at this point.
  - There will be a blood drive at the WAHS gym tomorrow, April 3<sup>rd</sup>. (4/2/20)

17. What is known about PSSA / Keystone / Attendance requirements at this time? (Item updated on 3/19/20)
- The district has no information about these topics, to date. The district is getting communications from the state, and we expect to continue to get more clarification as they have time to work through this situation.
  - The following statement was just released 3/19/20 3:52 pm: Later today, the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) will be announcing a cancellation of statewide assessments for the 2019-2020 school year. This cancellation includes the PSSA, PASA, and Keystone Exams.
18. As a parent, where do I go to keep up on this information? (4/13/20)
- At this point, the district is using its traditional communication strategies.
  - The district is setting up additional means of providing you with information to be communicated at a later time.
  - **The District has purchased the technology to have its own App. The App is in development, and should be up and running in a very short time.**
19. What do we know about the spring SAT's? (New item as of 3/19/20)
- The makeup session for the March 14<sup>th</sup> exam scheduled for March 28<sup>th</sup> is cancelled. In addition, the May 2<sup>nd</sup> exam is cancelled.
20. What do we know about the AP Exam? (New Item 3/24/20)
- All students in AP classes should be in touch with their school offices. There is new information about how and when testing should occur. (3/24/20)
21. How do I get information about scholarships and get copies of transcripts for college applications?
- Please call your school offices. (3/24/20)
22. Will my student still receive special education services during the closure including OT, PT, and SLP services? (New Item 3/24/20)
- As long as school is closed for all student's special education services will be on hold. It is anticipated that teachers and related service providers (OT's, PT's, SLP's) will be available via email in the future. Please reach out to your special education supervisor or related service provider if you have questions around how you can provide support for your student at home during the closure. (3/24/20)
  - The following supports will be provided:
    - Virtual and tangible enrichment materials and resources to support learning at home • Frequent communication and consultation by email, virtual meeting, and/or telephone to parent(s).
    - Related service collaboration and consultation via tele-service

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- Parent coaching to carryover instructional strategies (e.g., strategies for assistive technology, levels of assistance during activities of daily living, and how to accommodate enrichment activities)
- IEP meetings via telephone conference.

The provision of services during the period of closure will align to each phase of the Education Continuity Plan through tele-meetings, tangible (paper), and virtual learning modes. Unless agreed otherwise by the IEP Team, the IEP in effect (including but not limited to location of services, goals, and SDI/modifications/related services), will resume immediately upon the return to typical school operations following the COVID-19 closure. If necessary, the IEP team will reconvene upon school re-opening in order to review the IEP and make any revisions or updates needed as a result of the closure.

23. Will my student's IEP or evaluation meeting still be held during the closure? (New Item 3/24/20)

- The WCSD Special education staff will begin to facilitate special education meetings very soon and continue with meetings throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. These meetings will however be held either over the phone or virtually. If you prefer to wait until after the COVID-19 pandemic closure and have a face-to-face meeting that is okay. Per the United States Department of Education, the district will be documenting any student service (e.g., Chapter 15 Section 504; Child Find; special education (IEP); Evaluation and/or reevaluation records) meetings that are late due to COVID-19. (3/24/20)

24. If my Child Find/IEP/Evaluation meeting is missed due to the closure how soon will it be made up? (New Item 3/24/20)

- Our staff will work as quickly as possible to schedule missed Child Find/IEP/Evaluation meetings once school resumes with the goal of completing them within two weeks after school is back in session. (3/24/20)

25. I have things in my locker that I would like to have. When will we be able to pick them up? (New Item 4/14/20)

- We are in the process of planning how this will work. Once we determine the best way to do this, your building principals will be in touch with a timeline and a plan.
- This is likely going to look different for different grade levels. High school students are likely going to need things from their lockers first.

26. I paid for my yearbook. Will we still receive it? (New Item 4/14/20)

- Yearbooks are on track and submitted from each school.
- That being said, we are hearing there may be some delays, as those companies printing the yearbooks are operating with less employees.

27. Will there still be senior awards? (New Item 4/14/20)

- Senior awards will still be distributed.
- At this point, we do not know how this will be done.

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**28. I paid for my cap and gown. Will we still receive it? (New Item 4/14/20)**

- Yes, you will.
- We don't know how they will be distributed, yet, but as we get closer to graduation, information will be coming from your principal.

**29. Will there be a refund for spring sports? (New Item 4/14/20)**

- Now that we are sure spring sports will not occur at all, yes, there will be refunds.
- We are working through the specifics this week.

**30. Will there be a refund for spring trips / senior trips? (New Item 4/14/20)**

- We are in the process of determining what trips had "pre-payments", and then what deposits can be returned to each group or organization.
- Once we know what can be recovered, we will process refunds to individuals.

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