

Remote Learning: Preschool and Elementary



Reading Public Schools

During this unique time in our country, we are collectively responding to a shift in how we support our students and school communities. We know that nothing can replace or replicate the learning that occurs in our classrooms and schools. We see our responsibilities as educators to provide support, connect with students and families, and provide access to resources. We will continue to provide access to learning experiences with the knowledge that student participation during this time is encouraged but not required.

What to Expect

Expectations for remote learning have been outlined in the [district developed learning plan](#) shared by Dr. Doherty. **We do not expect minimum times/log-ins at the preschool or elementary levels.** We know many families are in stressful situations, and that circumstances are changing daily. We recommend no more than 1-2 hours for preschool-1st grade, and no more than 2-3 hours for grades 2nd-5th. We are here to support and suggest, not mandate. If your child is resisting a particular work item or a subject, don't fight with them about it. Reach out to the teacher to let them know. Please know it is ok to take breaks and step away from the work routines and we encourage you to take this time as an opportunity to explore topics that your child is curious about! At the preschool and elementary levels our three priorities are to:

1. Secure and reinforce the learning that occurred from September-March 13th. This can involve opportunities to revisit prior learning, go deeper into content, and apply/practice in new ways.
2. Provide opportunities that foster student creativity, curiosity, and choice.
3. Teachers may provide a "preview" or "exposure" to standards that students haven't yet studied in school. Opportunities for preview and exposure can provide a positive way for students to think about new content. However, there is no assumption or expectation that new content be learned to mastery while we are out of school.

Tips for Success

What should I do to support my child? There are a few ways you can set up your child for success. Consider the following tips:

- Set up a learning space for your student to use that supports their learning styles. Seek input from your child in choosing this space. Have a flat working space for writing or technology devices and easy access to learning tools (pencils, paper, etc.)
- Some families may find it helpful to have a predictable schedule or routine. This can help children learn planning, organization, expectations for timing, and can collaborate on the design of their daily learning. One example can be seen [HERE](#). You may also make a "menu" of subjects that students can pick which things they do each day, as long as they do so many sessions over the week. If schedules don't work for your family - that's ok!

- Ask questions! Engage with your child about what type of learning they are doing, what they like, and what they're curious about. You might brainstorm a list of interests or activities you want to engage in together outside of the provided classwork.
- Encourage breaks from screens and sitting. Seek outdoor opportunities and build in moments for movement and physical activity.
- If your child is confused or having difficulty with learning or access, reach out to your child's teacher. Although our educators are home with their families as well, they are available to support you and your child during this time.

Special Education and 504 Update

Consistent with federal and state guidelines, our special education staff have been working hard to identify alternative and creative ways to provide instruction and related educational services. While we acknowledge this move towards a different way of learning will be a challenge for us all, the Reading Public Schools is committed to working with everyone as we navigate and problem-solve the new demands during this unprecedented situation.

Student's individual team members will continue to provide more specific and personalized learning opportunities for students. Student's individual team members will reach out via email, either as a 'group' email or as individuals, to each family to seek information about ways in which parents/families would like staff to prioritize their work for that student. Team chairpersons will review every student's current/active IEP status and develop a plan to reschedule those previously scheduled meetings that were canceled due to school closure; they will also develop a plan for conducting team meetings for those IEPs due for an annual review in the next few weeks. The Team Chairperson for any student whose program was located in an out-of-district school, will continue to be in contact with the private or public school to ascertain the school's plans for instituting a remote learning plan. The Team Chairperson will ensure families receive direct communication as soon as possible about that plan and what to expect from the schools. Staff will be developing the remote learning plan for each student and will use IEP goals as the guide to provide the focus for these plans. Student learning plans will include a combination of on-line and off-line activities. All of your child's teachers are familiar with the accommodations specified in the written section 504 plan. As your child's teachers plan remote learning activities, identified accommodations appropriate for the activity demands are applicable, meaning, parents/guardians should feel free to use and apply the stated accommodations as you work with or oversee your children at home.

What's Next?

While teachers are working to provide learning opportunities for their classes, the District Leadership Team is working to make plans for learning when we return to school. These plans will include adjusted pacing guides that identify how and when critical learning standards will be taught. We are all in this together and we will utilize the expertise within the district while collaborating with peers around the state as we plan for our educational journey for all students.

We're Here for You

We are proud to support our Reading community. It continues to be our stance that health, safety, and well-being are of the most critical importance right now and the educational resources provided are intended to be resources and support for families, but not expected mandates. Please know we're here to support you and your learners.

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Helpful Links

- ["How To "guide for parents utilizing Microsoft Teams](#)
- ["How To" access Google Classroom](#)
- [Helpful links & resources from RPS Remote-Learning links](#)