A glossary of terms can be found at the end of this document.

When do we have to decide if we want online or in-person instruction?
July 15 is the deadline to the Google Form to express your interest in the program to begin the conversation with your child’s school. This initial request will connect you to the ongoing communications by your child’s school for families interested in WCS Online Learning, but please note this is not your commitment to join the program for the fall semester. By completing the Google Form questionnaire, you are triggering a review of your child's fall schedule by your school team to determine if online learning is right for your child. It will also allow us to compile the list of classes and courses students in WCS want to take this fall through the expanded version of WCS Online Learning. We estimate it will take 1-2 weeks to fully evaluate every request at the school level, which is why we ask for the quick turnaround on interest. There are no additional actions needed by parents, and no additional steps to complete in Skyward, at this time.

Is there a certain type of student more likely to excel in Online Learning at the elementary level?
Students who are excited about learning and interested in the content tend to have a higher success rate.

Could you provide a sample schedule for online classes?
Sample schedules are available on the WCS Reopening Framework page. Students will work on the online platform daily with some scheduled sessions and some sessions giving students choice on when they are completed.

Will there be Zoom classes for the Online Learning Program? What is the structure for online classes?
There will be some Zoom sessions, but the primary instruction is delivered through an online learning management system with recorded instruction and interactive modules delivered by the teacher.
How many hours per day should the kids expect to be online? Can the kids do their online work any time of the day or are there certain times where they need to be online? Who can they ask for questions?

Each teacher will communicate when they will be available for live feedback and other communication will be through the learning management system. Teachers will also be available to answer questions.

Are all classes taught online, including Advanced Placement (AP), Honors and International Baccalaureate (IB)?

The district currently offers AP and Honors classes online, and expanded course offerings could include Honors and AP. The district does not currently offer IB courses through WCS Online Learning. We are evaluating the guidelines of the IB program so we can determine the availability to deliver these courses online.

What supplies are needed for the online classes?

Supplies are specific to the courses taken, but all required technology is provided by the district.

Will there be a proper separation for online Honors, AP and IB classes or will they be taught together?

Standard, Honors, and AP courses are taught separately, just as they are in a traditional classroom setting.

What if my kids choose to go back for in-person instruction in the spring?

WCS Online Learning ensures that the material is aligned to Tennessee standards, so the return to in-person instruction should be smooth. The district’s Scope and Sequence is followed in online classes. However, it is not always covered in the same sequence. Teachers have the opportunity to move the content and personalize it as needed. If a student returns to in-person instruction and has not learned the material in the same sequence, they would receive personalized instruction to ensure they are caught up. Students taking a WCS Online Learning class for the fall will have a choice of continuing in WCS Online Learning for the spring or returning to their zoned school for classes. Students will be scheduled into the available seats of the same course based on availability.
What can parents of K – 5 grade students expect?
Students will not spend the entire day on a computer. There will be a set schedule, but students will not be on Zoom all day. Students will receive the same content they would if they were taking classes in a brick and mortar building. There will be a blend of video conferencing, independent work and virtual work. Students can expect homework, but they may have time to complete the work after each class instead of waiting until the end of the school day. It is important to know that the younger the student is, the more support they will require at home. Enrolling in WCS Online Learning is a full semester commitment.

What can parents of 6 – 12 grade students expect?
Students are committing to a full semester of WCS Online Learning. Middle school students will receive a schedule with subjects starting at a specific time during the day. High school students will take asynchronous courses and complete their work at their own pace. All students will have coursework, assignments and assessments pushed out through a learning management system. In addition, live sessions will allow students to interact with their teachers throughout the week. Students are not being asked to be at their computers all day. However, the work they are given and the instruction will be the equivalent to the hours required to complete a diploma.

What if my student is struggling with Online Learning?
WCS Online Learning has an existing system in place to work with students and ensure students are set up for success. Students will have the opportunity to work with their live instructors virtually and get help. Teachers will reach out to struggling students throughout the semester, though students are always able to contact their teachers. Students will also remain enrolled at their brick and mortar schools, so they will continue to have their counselors, assistant principals and principals as support. Additionally, each student will have a mentor at their building who will check in and keep them connected to the school community.

Who will teach my student?
The district’s goal is to always have a WCS teacher instructing WCS Online Learning classes. These teachers are licensed in their subject areas. However, a student may not be assigned a teacher from their traditional school. In rare cases, such as a student requiring a class that does not have an available teacher or enough students enrolled, the district will be able to use a teacher from an outside educational institution. These teachers will be WCS-approved and licensed in Tennessee.
Can my student still receive specials or related arts classes?
Yes, although the selection may be limited. At the elementary level, students will still be able to take specials classes. At the secondary level, related arts courses and certain Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses will be offered through WCS Online Learning. However, not all art or CTE courses are available online, so it's important that parents and students work with their principal to make sure the student’s schedule is covering the necessary courses.

Would the instruction all be given in the morning and then time given for independent work, or would they literally be online all day?
Students are not expected to be on their computers all day. Activities may initially be accessed online but ask the student to go complete a task in their homes.

For example, a first-grade student may start the day with a Zoom call from their teacher to begin the day’s math lesson. The teacher will make sure the student understands the directions and then present the content. Students will then be given time to practice the lesson on their own and may be able to proceed to the assigned homework. For a related arts course, the student may meet virtually with an art teacher to introduce a lesson, understand the concept and complete the work. In some courses, teachers may be able to create breakout rooms with small groups as students would do in a traditional classroom. Depending on the number of students and the grade level, the teacher may or may not be the same throughout the entire day.

Will foreign language classes still be provided? Will there be resources for conversational aspects? Will the Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages (AAPPL) still take place?
The district will offer world languages online. This year, American Sign Language will be offered through WCS Online Learning in addition to Chinese. Students will not participate in the AAPPL test except under certain circumstances. Students will use audio recordings and video conferences to practice speaking their languages.

Are teachers creating their own materials?
Teachers will not be required to create their materials, but they can personalize the material. A teaching and learning team filled with professionals will collaborate in order to support and create materials for teachers and students.
Will social and emotional learning opportunities be provided?
Students will still have support from their school team and access to their counselors who will check in. The district wants to ensure that students do not feel isolated, so the same accommodations and support offered to students attending in-person will be offered to online students.

How do Online Learning students get assessed on their classwork?
Assessments online will happen through Schoology regardless of student’s grade level.

Will online students be able to take the PSAT/ACT exams in the building?
Students may register to take these exams as they choose. Juniors and seniors will also be registered to take the scheduled ACT exams during the year with their peers.

Will I still receive communication from my zoned school even though my student is enrolled in WCS Online Learning?
Yes.

Will my student be able to participate in extracurricular activities?
Yes. Extracurricular activities are open to all students enrolled in WCS, including WCS Online Learning. Their participation would be at their zoned schools. For activities that take place during the school day, contact your principal to work out a schedule for your student. After-school activities, such as marching band, are open to all WCS Online Learning students. Students who participate in the activities will have a designated time to arrive at the school building.

What if I have unreliable Internet connectivity?
Families are able to check out hot spots as needed. These hot spots need cellular connectivity, so if that is an obstacle, please reach out to your school for additional options. All students will receive a Chromebook. Your school will communicate information about pickup times.
Is WCS Online Learning tutoring available?
Once evaluated, we can group students to provide live tutoring during certain days and times. WCS Online Learning teachers will also be available to help students and provide direct instruction and feedback.

Will parents be sent communication on classes and topics?
Yes, parents will receive a syllabus and overview of topics at the beginning of the year. Teachers will also send synopsis of each week and what to expect.

Questions Posted on July 10, 2020 FAQ:

Do I need to make a decision about WCS Online for my child by July 14th? I am worried if I can’t make a decision by then my child will miss out on this opportunity.
No. The July 14th deadline is only to return the Google Form to express your interest in the program to begin the conversation with your child’s school. This initial request will connect you to the ongoing communications by your child’s school for families interested in WCS Online, but please note this is not your commitment to join the program for the fall semester. By completing the Google Form questionnaire, you are triggering a review of your child’s fall schedule by your school team to determine if online learning is right for your child. It will also allow us to compile the list of classes and courses students in WCS want to take this fall through the expanded version of WCS Online. We estimate it will take 1-2 weeks to fully evaluate every request at the school level, which is why we ask for the quick turnaround on interest.

There are no additional actions needed by parents, and no additional steps to complete in Skyward, at this time.

How are science labs completed in WCS Online courses? My child is scheduled to take a Chemistry class next year.
Virtual science labs occurring in partnership with video conferencing is already a part of our current WCS Online Program and would be expanded for additional courses offered this fall.
I see that WCS Online has required in-person meetings in the past. Will that be the case for the COVID-19 plan?

No. In-person meetings at school buildings will not be required or offered in WCS Online for the 2020-21 school year. All meetings will be virtual.

If I choose online and the school transitions to Remote, will I stay online or will I go Remote?

Students enrolled in the WCS Online program will stay enrolled for the full semester, even if your school or the rest of the district transitions to a remote schedule. Students enrolled in WCS Online COVID-19 programming will not take any courses in their school building.

What kind of class numbers can I expect for my online student? Does it look different at different levels?

All WCS Online classes will mirror class sizes in our traditional classrooms, meeting the state requirements for class capacity.

What IEP services can be delivered through WCS Online? Are we giving up our rights to services with this plan?

IEP teams will meet to discuss appropriate services for students enrolled in WCS Online.

Students with Individualized Education Plans (IEP’s) interested in having their schedule reviewed for the online learning program should follow the same procedural requirements as described above. Additionally, an IEP meeting will be scheduled for the IEP team to discuss what services can be provided and how the services will be provided for the student. IEP services will be provided following the IEP to the maximum extent possible.

For those participating in after school activities but doing online learning, will there be a designated time for them to arrive on campus?

Yes. Students will be allowed to arrive on campus for after school or extra-curricular activities at the conclusion of the traditional school day.
The Reopening Framework contains the following terms that families will find helpful:

**Chromebook** – Chromebook is the device that will be distributed to each WCS student in grades K-12 prior to or at the beginning of the 2020-21 school year for use during the school year. The device will be used for on-campus, online and/or remote learning.

**ClassLink** – ClassLink is the district’s Single Sign-On (SSO) Dashboard that is used by students and staff to access digital curriculum/resource sites. This eliminates the need for a user to remember multiple usernames and passwords.

**Google Classroom** - Google Classroom is the primary Learning Management System for elementary students. It may also be used at middle and high schools.

**Learning Management System (LMS)** – Learning Management System is a software application that is designed specifically to create, distribute and manage the delivery of educational content. Elementary students will use Google Classroom, and middle and high students will use Schoology.

**On-campus School** – On-campus refers to the traditional school schedule where classes are held each weekday on a school campus.

**Online Learning or Online Program** – Online refers to the WCS Online Program in place in WCS. Classes offered through this program are online only. Students do not attend class on-campus. The WCS Online Program is being expanded to all grades this year due to COVID-19, and parents not comfortable sending their child to school may register their child in the online program each semester in 2020-21.

**Remote Learning or Remote School** – Remote refers to the way instruction will take place if classes cannot be held on-campus. Students will use their assigned Chromebooks to engage with teachers and continue their learning until they can return to class on-campus.

**Schoology** – Schoology is the primary Learning Management System for middle and high school students.

**Synchronous learning** – Traditional learning with teacher and student interacting at the same time.

**Asynchronous learning** – A student and teacher are not interacting in real time. For example: A teacher records their lesson at 8 a.m. but the student does not watch the video and learn until 3 p.m.