

Distance Learning & School Closure FAQs @ TESD



DISTANCE LEARNING

Where can I find details on T/E's Distance Learning Plan?

We have created a [Distance Learning Guide](#) for families which contains general information for all grades including delivery of planned instruction, student support, attendance, grading and more. Additional distance learning resources are available on the [COVID-19 Resources page](#).

Is T/E offering live instructional sessions as part of its Distance Learning Plan?

Yes. Our approach to distance learning includes recorded, asynchronous instruction combined with opportunities for live interaction with teachers. The direct instruction of new material is recorded and posted in Schoology so students and families can access it at any time. Virtual office hours allow middle and high school teachers to provide live guided practice of new material with students. We are piloting ways for elementary teachers to interact with students using Microsoft Teams. We will share new information with elementary families as this effort progresses.

Will students receive grades for the 4th marking period (MP)?

Yes, at the middle and high school levels, courses will have graded assessments on items considered essential learning. If a student receives a passing grade in the 4th MP, it will not negatively affect their final grade but could improve it. A failing grade in the 4th MP will impact a student's final grade. We will work with families to make sure students have the opportunity to succeed regardless of challenges that may occur due to the current crisis. Additional information on District grading is available in the [Distance Learning Guide](#) and in [Conestoga High School's Final Grade Calculation Guide](#).

All elementary distance learning work will be ungraded, but feedback will be provided as appropriate. Please contact your child's teacher or building principal if you have questions about grading.

How do I contact my child's teacher or school counselor?

All teachers and school counselors continue to be available through email during the school closure. Staff email addresses are available in our [online staff directory](#). In addition, teachers and counselors are available through Schoology messenger. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or counselor if your child needs assistance.

When is the best time for me to communicate with my child's elementary school teacher?

Elementary teachers will be consistently available by email between 9:00AM and 11:00AM, unless scheduled for other activities. After that, teachers will be available intermittently through 3:35PM.

What is Microsoft Teams and why is the District using it for audio/video sessions?

Microsoft Teams is an online collaboration tool similar to Zoom, WebEx and certain Google platforms. We use Teams because it integrates with our existing accounts for other Microsoft tools, including Office 365. Working within our existing Microsoft ecosystem also gives us greater access to important security controls, which continues to be a problem with some of the other common audio/video meeting tools used in other districts.

How do teacher virtual office hours work at the middle and high school levels?

Middle and high school teachers will be available for virtual office hours with students through Schoology Conferences or Microsoft Teams. Office hours are an opportunity for teachers to meet with students in a live, face-to-face setting to further explain content, have group discussions, provide clarification or answer students' questions. These live sessions may include groups of students or an entire class depending on the needs of the students. Additional details on office hours and specific schedules are available in the [Distance Learning Guide](#).

Distance Learning & School Closure

FAQs @ TESD

What are Work Well Wednesdays and what should my child be doing on these days?

On Wednesdays, students will have time to continue to work on assignments, focus on special areas/elective courses, communicate with teachers, and participate in schoolwide wellness and community building activities. Please remind students to continue signing in for attendance on these days. For staff, Wednesdays provide an opportunity to collaborate with colleagues, create new lessons, check in with students, and further develop their capacity to teach in the distance learning environment.

How is the District supporting and tracking elementary school students' progress in reading and math?

Elementary teachers are providing a whole class lesson about a particular skill or strategy as part of the District's Distance Learning Plan. Students are then asked to apply and practice the skill/strategy using materials assigned by the teacher based on their reading group or math level. Students are asked to submit various assignments to the teacher for review and feedback. Additionally, teachers are able to assign work through programs such as Raz Kids or Dream Box that is differentiated by reading and math levels and includes online activities and assessments.

How is the District assisting students who receive reading or math support?

Our reading specialists and math support teachers are meeting with small groups of students to provide virtual support via Microsoft Teams. These small group instructional sessions are similar to what students would receive in face-to-face meetings.

How are students who receive special education services being supported during the school closure?

We continue to implement IEPs, GIEPs and 504 Plans to the fullest extent possible. Parents of students with IEPs shall receive individualized information about their child's programming. Families should contact their child's case manager if they have questions.

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES AND OPERATIONS

How can I retrieve items from the school?

Under the governor's orders, all school buildings are closed at this time and we are unable to allow visitors into our schools. We will share additional information about opening our buildings as we receive further guidance from the state.

Will end-of-year events such as graduation, prom and grade-level promotions still be held?

We will continue to evaluate end-of-year events on a case-by-case basis. Information on specific events will be communicated by your child's school as decisions are made.

How will new students be registered during the school closure?

New students will be registered virtually during the school closure. A [virtual student registration webpage](#) has been created to provide instructions on how to initiate the process.

How can my child obtain a work permit while school district buildings are closed?

The state has temporarily adjusted the process to obtain a work permit. Parents may contact [CHS Assistant Principal Jamie Bankert](#) to start the work permit application process. Additional details are available on the [work permit webpage](#).

How long will school district grounds be closed?

All T/E School District grounds are closed, including the tracks at the middle schools and high school, until further notice. Security personnel are on site at all District facilities and they will be enforcing the closure. We look forward to sharing our playgrounds, athletic fields and other facilities with our school community once our buildings reopen.

Distance Learning & School Closure FAQs @ TESD

Are regular School Board meetings and Committee meetings still taking place?

Yes. Regular School Board meetings and School Board Committee meetings will be held virtually during the school closure. Links to the virtual meetings will be available on the [T/E School District website](#) by 6:00 PM on the day of the meeting. Instructions for submitting public comment will be posted on the website with the meeting agenda on the Friday before the meeting.

SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

I am having technical issues with distance learning. Where can I get support?

All technology questions can be emailed to FamilyHelpDesk@tesd.net. Students with specific hardware issues related to a District-provided laptop or iPad can create a support ticket using our online [HelpDesk](#).

Can you recommend mental health resources related to the COVID-19 crisis for families?

Our [COVID-19 Resources webpage](#) has many mental health resources including tips for providing support and talking with children about the crisis. Please contact your child's principal and/or school counselor if you have concerns about your child's mental health. For urgent mental health issues, please contact [Valley Creek Crisis](#) at (610) 280-3270. Services are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and are free to the residents of Chester County.

How can I help local families currently in need?

We continue to receive ongoing, generous donations from parents and community members who want to help their neighbors. Should you wish to provide financial assistance to families in the T/E community who may be experiencing food scarcity or other needs right now, please email [Dr. Oscar Torres](#) or [Mrs. Jeanne Braun](#).

Who should I contact if my family needs assistance with food or school supplies?

Please contact your child's school counselor, [Dr. Oscar Torres](#) or [Mrs. Jeanne Braun](#) if you need assistance. In addition, if your student needs a device for distance learning or internet access during the school closure, please contact [Dr. Mike Szymendera](#). We have resources to help you and your family during this time.