



Over the course of the past several months, COVID-19 has continued to challenge us as a district to be agile as we serve as champions for our 21,000 students. Our commitment to flexibility has been key as we plan for the upcoming year. We have promised to share what we know, when we know it, and today, we have several updates to share with you.

Yesterday, the NKC Schools Board of Education approved new academic calendars for the 2020-2021 school year. These changes will allow our staff members additional time to prepare. A few items to note:

- The first day of school for all students, whether attending face-to-face or through a virtual option, will be Tuesday, September 8. This includes our learners returning to continue their year at Crestview and Winnwood.
- We will discontinue the Thursday Early Release schedule for the 2020-2021 school year, instead following the traditional school day schedule.
- October 26 and February 12, originally designated as professional development days for our staff, will become regular student attendance days. February 15, Presidents Day, will also become a student attendance day.
- Detailed versions of all updated academic calendars are [available on our website](#).

As we look ahead to the new school year, we will continue to make decisions in consultation with our local public health officials in Clay County and Kansas City, Missouri. On Wednesday, we shared our [decision-making criteria and matrix](#). We are looking forward to welcoming students back to our classrooms for our first day of school. Due to the spread of COVID-19 in our community, we have planned for [several possible scenarios](#) for our face-to-face learners.

If school were to begin today, our Pre-K and elementary students would attend five days per week. Students in grades 6-12 would follow a hybrid scenario, attending in person two days, then learning virtually three days. Wednesdays would serve as a day for deep cleaning of school buildings and for our teachers to collaborate, plan, and offer additional feedback to students. We will continue to provide updates to our families as we monitor data to determine in preparation for September 8.

We also recently shared [further details about our updated continuum of learning options](#). Earlier this week, NKC Schools instructional leaders hosted two Parent University sessions to provide an overview of each option available for students. The presentation was archived and is [available to watch here](#). If you would like to select a virtual option for your student, please [declare that preference via the online form](#) by **next Friday, August 14**.

Throughout this time, NKC Schools has remained in close contact with local public health officials in Clay County and Kansas City, Missouri as we plan for our students' return to school. This continues to be a fluid situation, with new data and information impacting our plans each day. While this uncertainty can be frustrating at times, we are committed to continuing to provide our 21,000 students with meaningful learning experiences, no matter the challenges the COVID-19 pandemic may bring. Thank you for your continued support!