



## COVID-19: What Questions To Ask Schools About Reopening

As schools reopen this fall, parents and guardians are vital collaborators in the decision-making process to keep children safe and healthy. Parents and community members should ask for essential information in three critical areas: Instructional Plan, Academic Support, and Student Support and Safety. These questions will help to spark conversations with your district to develop processes that center the health, safety, and educational experience of children.

### Instructional Plan: Key questions to ask your school and school district.

1. How will you measure my child's progress?
2. How will the district support my child with returning to in-person learning or a form of distance learning to ensure that they receive the best possible educational experience?
3. How will the district mitigate learning loss? What strategies will be used to accelerate learning for students? How will you know you are successful at doing so?
4. Are there specific "virtual" supports in place for students with IEPs and 504 plans?
5. During the fall, what will be different from what took place in Spring 2020 regarding distance learning?
6. How will the district provide direct instruction for my child?
7. How will my child be engaged (kept actively involved) in the "virtual" and/or "socially distanced" classroom?
8. What issues did the district anticipate, and what recommendations do you have for me as a parent/guardian to address those issues?



**For Academic Support: Key questions to ask your school and school district.**

1. How much extra support will you provide for my child?
2. What learning activities will be provided for parents to enable us to assist our children through this process?
3. How many of your students do you think will need extra academic support upon returning to school in the fall? Will the group help be provided?
4. For students who elect virtual education, if their grades start to drop, will they have an opportunity to enter live classes the next semester?
5. For students who have to take state exams – as in 3rd grade, Biology, Algebra I, English II, and U.S. History, how will these exams be administered if students are working virtually, and how will these students be supported to ensure their success in the virtual setting?

Developed by Dr. Leeson Taylor,  
Member-Mississippi State  
Conference NAACP Education  
Committee

**For Student Support & Safety: Key questions to ask your school and school district.**

1. How did the district solicit concerns about children's social-emotional well-being and address that for this fall?
2. How will the district address concerns about my child's peer relationships because of social distancing?
3. How often will my child interact directly with their teachers and other adults at their school vs. using software programs?
4. If in-person learning resumes in the fall, will my child be provided with personal protective equipment in the classrooms or will I have to provide it?
5. How will the classrooms/schools be kept clean?
6. If I face an instructional issue, how will the school leaders help me resolve it? Is there a process for me to follow? What about problems with technology? If I don't have the internet at my house or broadband is weak, how will my child be taught virtually?
7. What happens if my child's teacher gets sick? If other children get sick?
8. How will breakfast and lunch be delivered to my child(ren) when we are on the virtual schedule?

**Additional Resource:**

**School Decision-Making Tool for  
Parents, Caregivers, and Guardians**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/decision-tool.html>