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## What is the WPS Remote Learning School (RLS)?

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) is requiring that local school districts have a learning model in place for any K-12 student who must remain at home for SY20-21. These students will enroll in the WPS Remote Learning School (RLS). The RLS will be a separate virtual school made up of only those students who will be full time “at-home learners.” The visual below shows how the RLS fits in with the comprehensive plan for SY20-21. The bottom row shows the “RLS” option.

| WPS Recommendation for Fall 2020                           |   |   |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
|  | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday<br>Half Day   | Thursday  | Friday  |
| Cohort A<br><i>(students in hybrid)</i>                    |  |  |  |  |  |
| Cohort B<br><i>(students in hybrid)</i>                    |  |  |  |  |  |
| Prioritized<br>Students                                    |  |  |  |  |  |
| Students enrolled<br>in Remote<br>Learning School<br>(RLS) | RLS   | RLS   | RLS   | RLS   | RLS   |

 In school learning     At home learning     Remote Learning    RLS    Remote Learning School

## Who can attend the RLS?

Any K-12 WPS student who needs to remain at home can attend the RLS.

## What grades are included in the RLS?

The RLS will be a K-12 school.

## Who are the teachers in the RLS?

As much as possible, the RLS will be staffed by WPS faculty and staff.

## What are the teaching and learning components of the RLS?

The RLS will consist of synchronous and asynchronous online teaching along with offline self-directed learning and follow-up assignments. The RLS will adhere to the same academic expectations as the District’s “return to school” teaching and learning.

## My child has an IEP, can they attend the RLS? Will their IEP services be met?

Yes, *any* K-12 WPS student who needs to remain at home can attend the RLS. A student with an IEP will have most, if not all, of their services met remotely.



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**What curriculum will be taught in the RLS?**

The K-5 RLS will teach the WPS curriculum. The Grades 6-12 RLS will teach WPS curriculum as much as possible. In rare instances supplemental curriculum will be used in order to meet the needs of students.

**When do I need to decide if my child will attend the RLS?**

Families will make the decision about the RLS option by Thursday, August 20th.

**If my child opts to “return to school” but then needs to transition into the RLS, when can they do this?**

Should a student who initially opts to “return to school” and participate in the district’s hybrid model need to unexpectedly remain at home, they may transfer into the RLS at any point in the school year.

**If my child initially joins the RLS but then wants to rejoin the “return to school” students, can they?**

In order to ensure a smooth, productive, and meaningful educational experience, students who opt to attend the RLS in the Fall, will make a commitment to participate for the first half of the school year (through the end of January 2021). In early January, RLS families will be surveyed about their intent to remain in the RLS through the end of SY20-21 *or* to rejoin the “return to school” option.

**My child signed up for several electives at WHS/WMS, in the RLS will they be able to take those courses?**

Depending on RLS enrollment, we will do our best to ensure that students can attend the courses they selected for SY20-21. This scheduling is dependent on enrollment numbers and the courses they selected.

**Will my child in the RLS attend the leveled course they selected (e.g. CP, ACP, Honors, AP)?**

Depending on the RLS enrollment, we will do our best to accommodate the leveled course your child(ren) originally selected. There may need to be some blended levels in order to build self-contained RLS classes (e.g. ACP/Honors).

**What will the RLS daily schedule look like?**

The K-5 RLS schedule will mirror the WPS K-5 Full Remote Model schedules with full days on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Wednesdays will be a half day. Core academic subjects will be offered along with some specialist classes (e.g. music, art). [Appendix F](#) (pp. 91-93) in the [WPS Reopening Plan](#) shows a detailed sample schedule.



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The 6-8 and 9-12 RLS schedules will mirror the WPS Full Remote Model schedules with full days on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Wednesdays will be a half day. Core academic subjects will be offered along with some electives. Details about the schedules will be developed once the student enrollment is confirmed.

### **Overview of the WPS Remote Learning School:**

DESE is requiring that local school districts have a learning model in place for any K-12 student who must remain at home for SY20-21. These students will enroll in the WPS Remote Learning School (RLS). The RLS will be a separate virtual school made up of only those students who will be full time “at-home learners.”

The K-5 RLS schedule will mirror the WPS K-5 Full Remote Model schedules with full days on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Wednesdays will be a half day. Core academic subjects will be offered along with some electives. [Appendix F](#) in the [WPS Reopening Plan](#) shows a detailed sample schedule. The District will prioritize the K-5 RLS staffing with K-5 WPS educators who also need to remain at home or who opt to teach in the RLS.

The 6-12 RLS will also be a full time learning model with daily schedules. It is still in development as the course offerings will be dependent upon student enrollment. Wherever possible, the District will match WPS teachers with appropriate courses and students. That said, additional secondary staff and/or a contracted learning management system (e.g. Edgenuity, FLVS Global) may be utilized in rare instances to ensure that students receive the required courses they need for grade level completion and/or graduation. More detailed information on the WPS RLS secondary course offerings will be provided in late August once final numbers of RLS students are confirmed and state guidance is received.

In order to ensure a smooth, productive, and meaningful educational experience, students who opt to attend the RLS in the Fall, will make a commitment to participate for the first half of the school year (through January 29, 2021). In early January, RLS families will be surveyed about their intent to remain in the RLS through the end of SY20-21.

Should a student who initially opts to return to school and participate in the district’s hybrid model need to unexpectedly remain at home, they may transfer into the RLS at any point in the school year. It is important to note that the transfer in or out of the RLS



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reflects a “change of school” experience for students and educators. It can be disruptive socially, emotionally and academically. Thus, we urge families to thoughtfully consider their decision when opting to attend the RLS and when requesting to transition in or out of either model.