



Reopening Schools 2020-2021

Update to the WCPSS Board of Education

Cathy Moore, Superintendent

Dr. Lloyd Gardner, Chief of Staff and Strategic Planning

July 21, 2020

Setting the Stage

Since the July 2 WCPSS Board of Education approval of a Plan B opening:

- Wake has launched its WCPSS Virtual Academy
- More than 6,000 bus routes are being redrawn
- Thousands of teacher staff assignments are being finalized
- Purchase of Personal Protective Equipment continues
- Hospitalizations and infections in the community have increased
- Competing and conflicting input has intensified

Why Shift? We Know More Now

Governor's Direction

July 14

- Announcement of an extended Phase 2 "Safer at Home" until August 7, at minimum
- Direction for schools to open in Plan B, at minimum
- Amendments to DHHS guidelines

COVID-19

July 20

- Increase in hospitalizations of COVID-19-positive patients
- Increase in percentage of positive tests of all tests administered

<https://covid19.wakegov.com/>

Strategy

Ongoing Considerations

- Health and safety for students, staff, and families
- Time for additional preparedness as we adapt to changing guidelines
- Strategic return to in-person instruction
- WCPSS Virtual Academy enrollment numbers

The Wake County Public School System recommends that we open the 2020-2021 school year in: **Plan B Transition**

Recommendation: Plan B Transition

Key Elements

- All students in WCPSS will begin the school year in **online instruction**
- The **first two weeks** of school for all students will focus on orientation, meet and greet opportunities, and distribution of supplies

Student Online Start Dates

- **August 3:** Early College (earliest start)
- **August 13:** Modified
- **August 17:** Traditional and Year Round
- WCPSS Virtual Academy: calendar of assigned school

Transition to In-Person Instruction

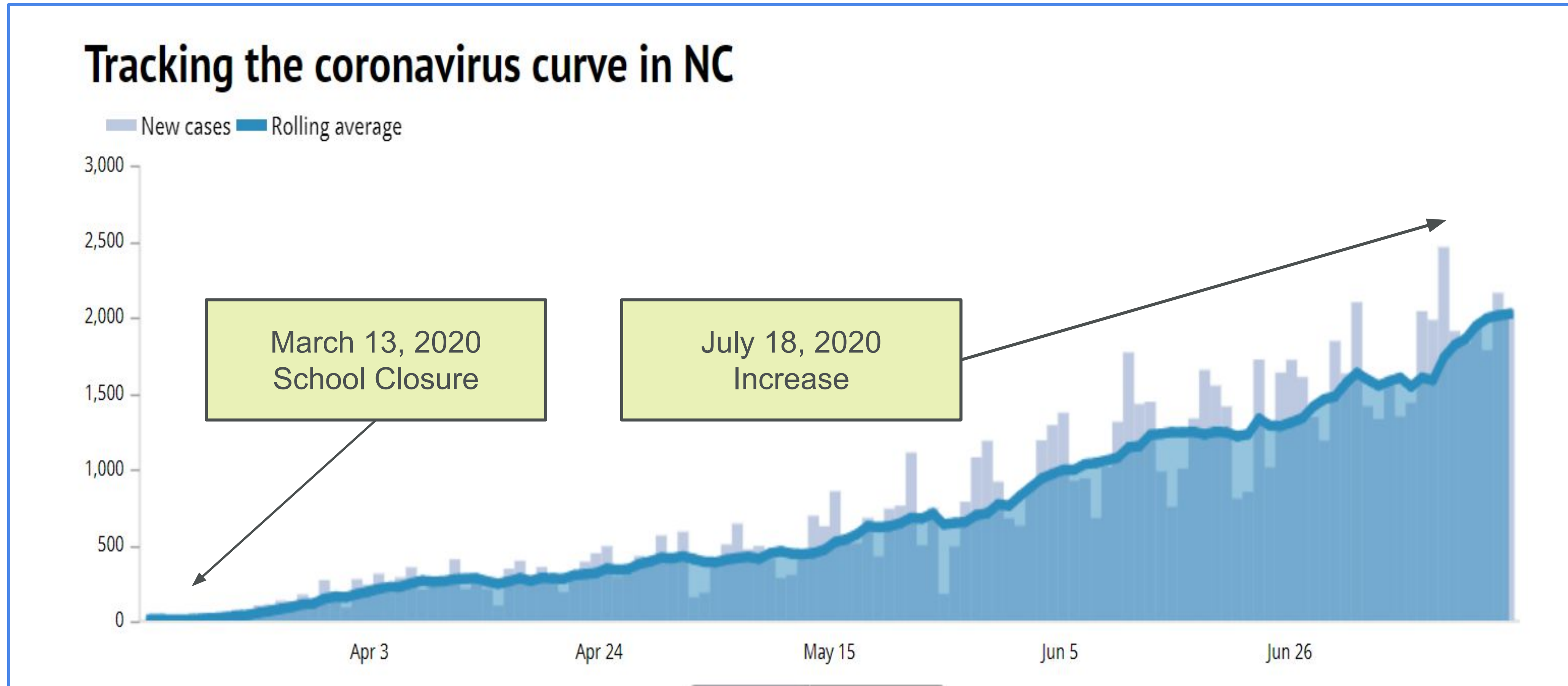
- **Target start date September 8:** PreK and Special Education Regional Program Students begin daily in-person instruction
- Other students will transition to in-person instruction as practical

Desired Outcomes

During this session, staff will provide:

- An overview of opening the school year in Plan B Transition
- An update about the WCPSS Virtual Academy
- A recommended adjustment to the Modified Calendar

Covid-19 for North Carolina



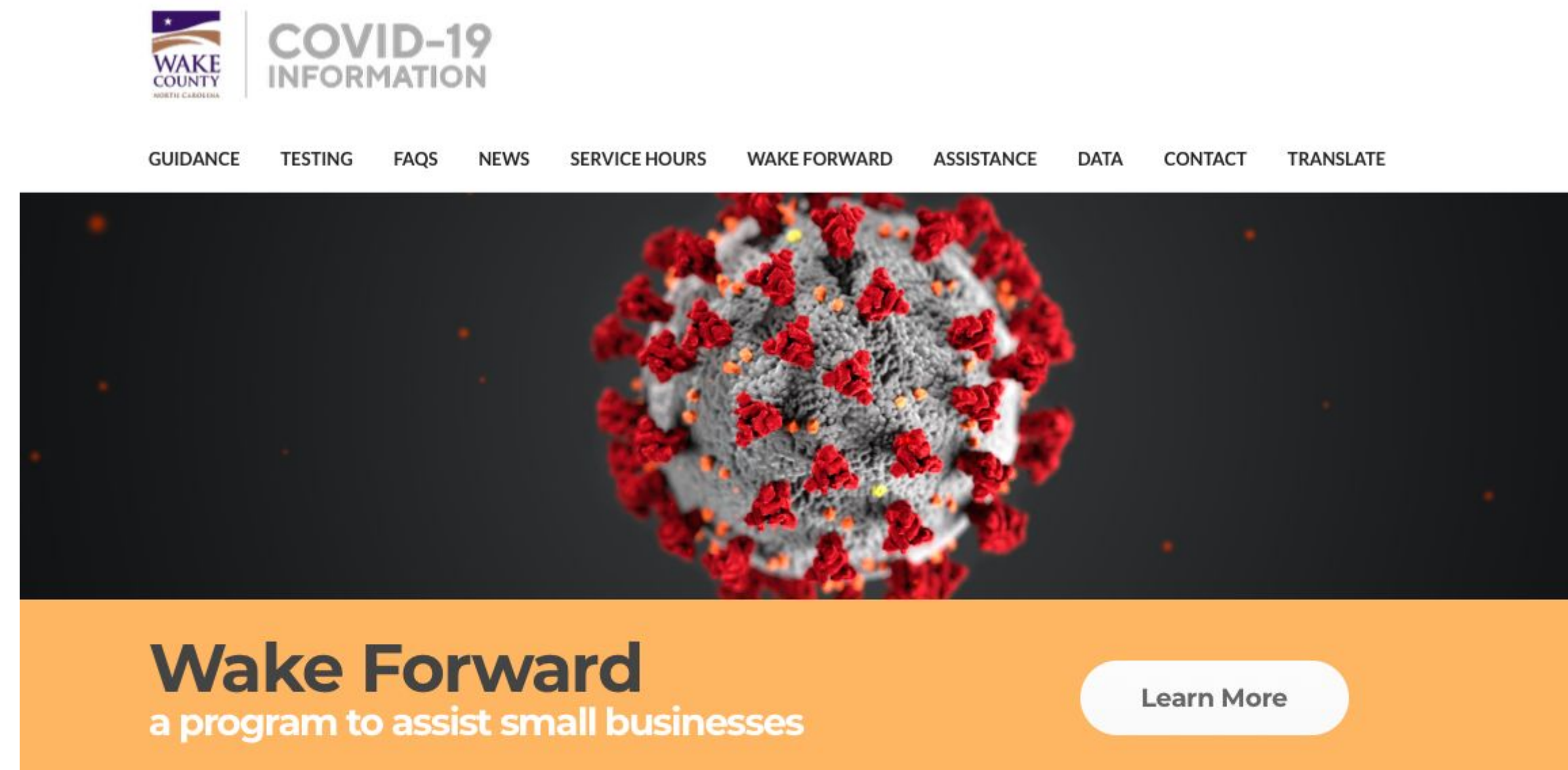
Source: N.C. DHHS
Graphic: Tyler Dukes, WRAL

Covid-19 for Wake County

- Trajectory of cases in Wake County with COVID-like symptoms
- Positive cases per day in Wake County that are confirmed by a lab
- Percent of positive cases per day in Wake County
- Hospitalizations of COVID-19-positive patients per day in Wake County

<https://covid19.wakegov.com/>

<https://covid19.wakegov.com/about-the-data>



WAKE COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA

COVID-19
INFORMATION

GUIDANCE TESTING FAQs NEWS SERVICE HOURS WAKE FORWARD ASSISTANCE DATA CONTACT TRANSLATE

Wake Forward
a program to assist small businesses

Learn More

COVID-19 Cases in Wake County

North Carolina identified its first COVID-19-positive case, a resident of Wake County, in early March. Every day since then, the number of positive cases in our community has increased.

While our dashboard is updated regularly, it doesn't tell the complete story of how widespread coronavirus is in Wake County. The state has confirmed the virus could be anywhere in our community – and that's why it's so important for residents to take precautions and stay home if they are sick.

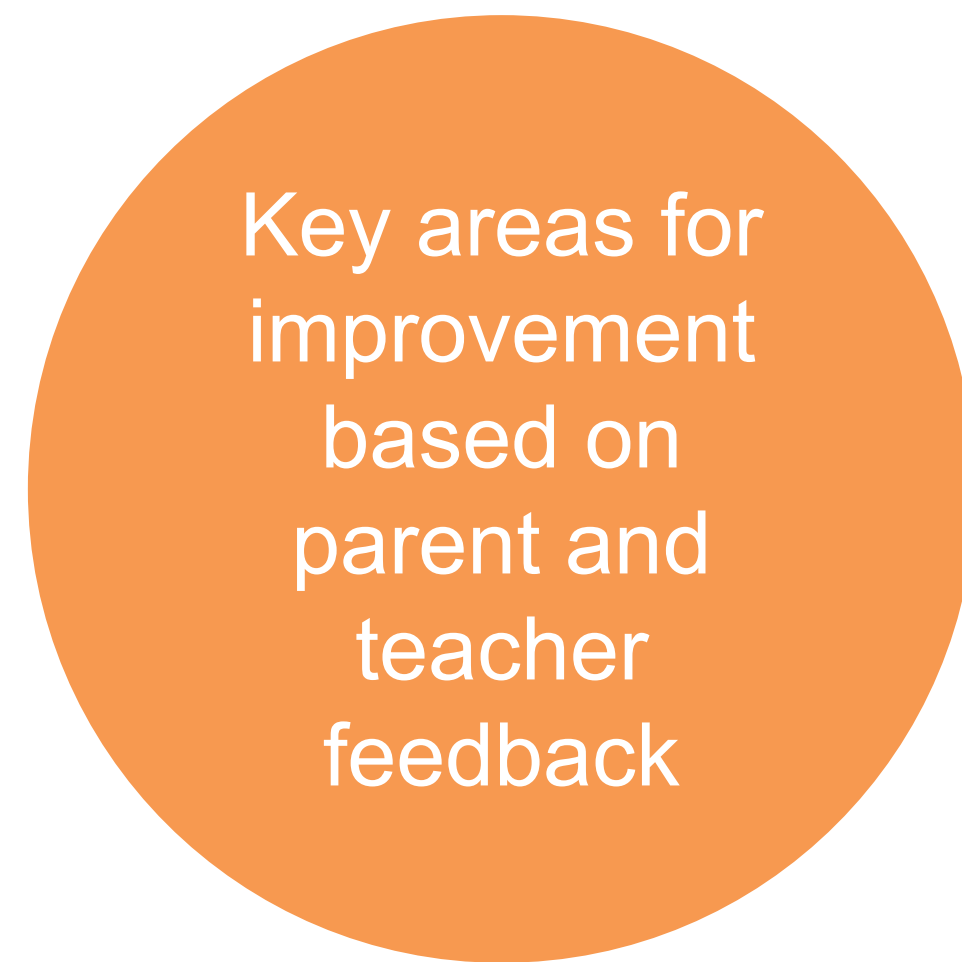


Teaching and Learning in Plan B Transition

Drew Cook, Assistant Superintendent, Academics

Karen Hamilton, Assistant Superintendent, Special Education Services

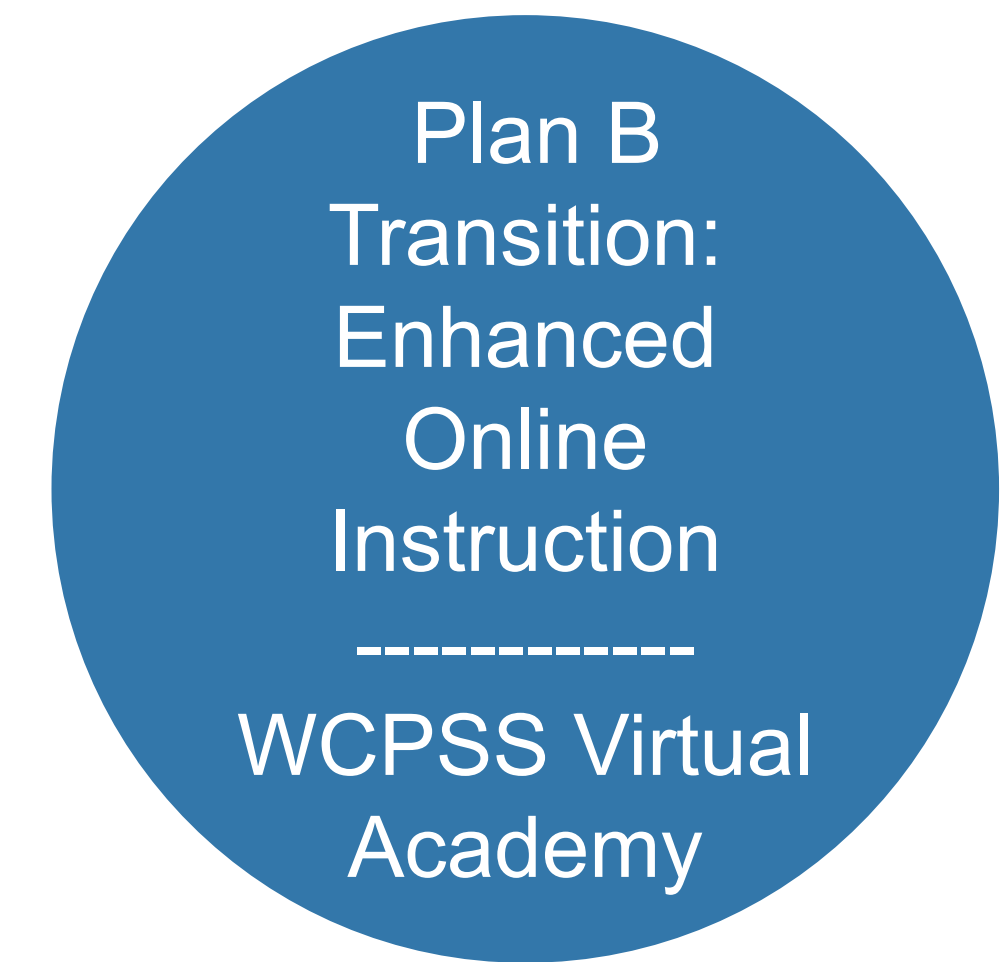
Plan B Transition: Online Instruction



Improvements

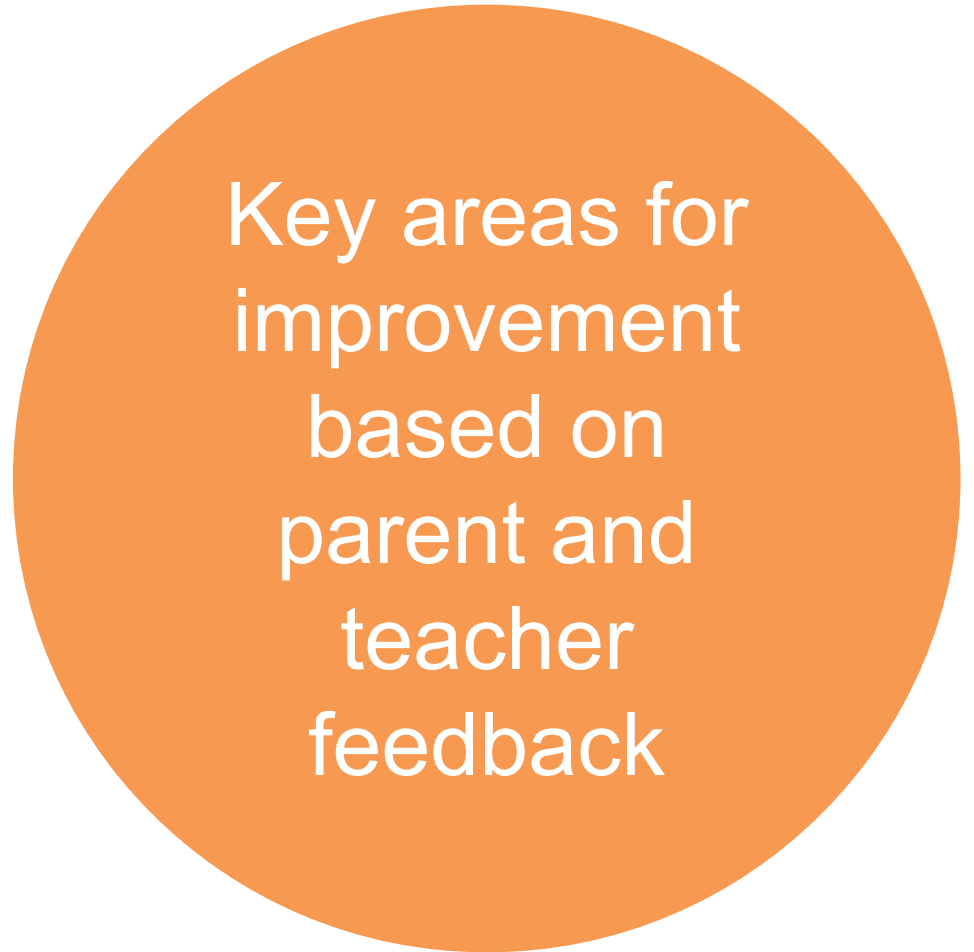
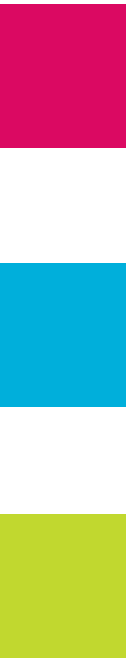


Expectations



Environment

Plan B Transition: Online Instruction





Key areas for improvement based on parent and teacher feedback

Improvements

- Consistent experiences & expectations
- Rigor
- Accountability
- Communication
- Engagement
- Access
- Support structures

Plan B Transition: Online Instruction




Redefined
expectations
for instruction
and learning

Expectations

Scheduling

- Core instruction & new learning
- 2-3 hours of daily live instruction
- Assigned daily learning opportunities
- Defined office & support hours

Plan B Transition: Online Instruction





Redefined
expectations
for instruction
and learning

Expectations

Accountability Structures

- Consistent grading
- Evaluation
- Attendance practices
- Use of Powerschool

Plan B Transition: Online Instruction



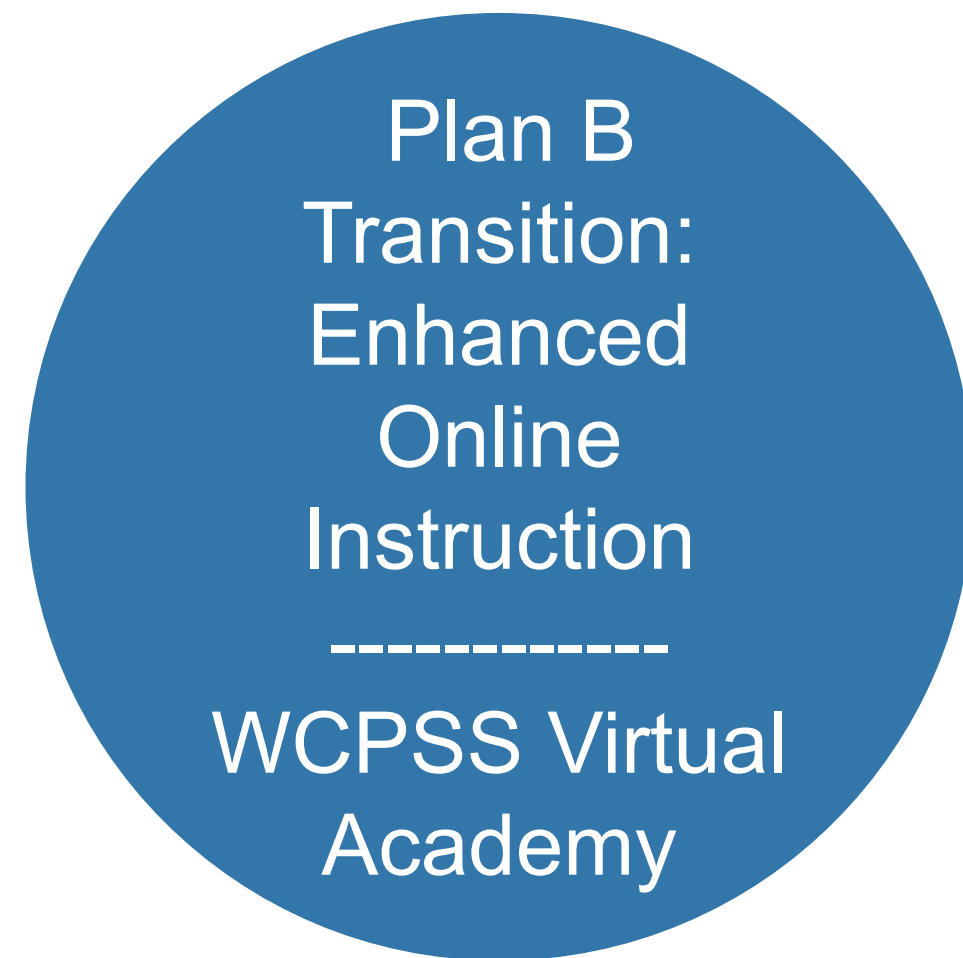
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Expectations

Resources and Support

- Guidelines for online learning platforms
- Professional learning & curriculum support
- Resources for families and students
- Childcare support

Plan B Transition: Online Instruction



Environment

Which option should parents select?

- If you seek to have your child enrolled in an in-person instructional environment as soon as practical, select **Plan B Transition**.
- If you seek to have your child in a consistent online instructional environment for the fall semester or for the full year, select **WCPSS Virtual Academy**.

Both offer standards-aligned instructional experiences through similar live online instruction and other assigned daily learning opportunities.

Plan B Transition: PreK and Special Education Regional Programs



Begin School with In-Person Instruction
Target: September 8

Dependencies

- One: Staffing
- Two: Transportation
- Three: Sufficient and Appropriate PPE



Support Structures

Marlo Gaddis, Chief Technology Officer

Tim Simmons, Chief Communications Officer

Paula De Lucca, Senior Director, Child Nutrition Services

Plan B Transition: Technology

Our goal is to provide **every student** a device to use for learning **at school and home** by the fall of 2021. Plan B Transition will have us focused on providing a device for learning at home.



Device Survey

- Opens Wednesday for one week
- All families need to complete the survey/per student
- Excludes Pre K students



Guides to Technology

- Parent/Student/Teacher
- Includes Getting Started, Digital Resources, and Online Safety
- Content will grow as needed



Device Distribution

- 5 locations
- Technology Services will staff
- Includes pick up, quick orientation, and opportunity for questions



Technical Support

- Student/Family Help Desk available - online form and phone; Extended hours
- Teacher support - Digital Learning Coordinators, Library Media, and Help Desk

Plan B Transition: Childcare

Childcare will be addressed using the the following priorities:

- All staff with K-6 children will be provided a childcare option at no cost when they return to work
- Childcare options for families will be created with specific price points from free to below-market rates
- Community groups will continue efforts to provide space, volunteers, employees and funds

Plan B Transition: Childcare

Thank you to the following community partners:

- AJ Fletcher Foundation
- John Rex Endowment
- Wake Education Partnership
- Local Parks and Rec programs
- Wake County Government
- the Boys & Girls Club of Wake County
- Activate Good

A special thank you is extended to the YMCA of the Triangle, whose willingness to explore options and take risks for the benefit of our community has made this initiative possible.

Plan B Transition: Food Service

Service for all students receiving instruction remotely (including WCPSS Virtual Academy)

- Plans for curbside service at strategic locations are being determined along with designated service times for food distribution
- After August 31, 2020, operating under current federal regulations; would require the following:
 - Students eligible for free and reduced-price meal will receive free meals
 - Students not eligible for free and reduced-price meals will have to pay
 - Under current regulations, student ID number will be required for meals as proof of enrollment and adult must prove they are the parent/guardian if student is not present

Service for when students return to in-person instruction

- Cafe Service (dine in, or make selections and return to the classroom to eat)
- Hallway “Kiosk” Service
- Classroom Delivery Service

Recommendation: Plan B Transition

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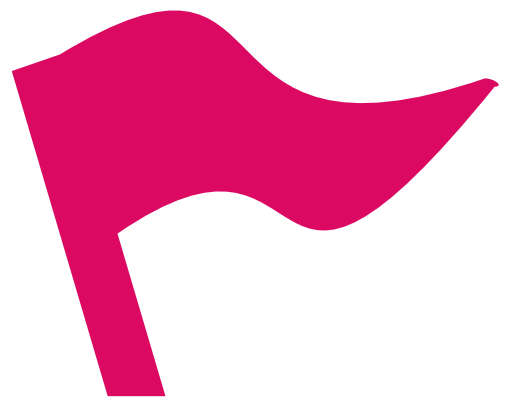
- **Target start date September 8:** PreK and Special Education Regional Program Students
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Virtual Academy Updates

Ashlie Thompson, Central Area Superintendent

WCPSS Virtual Academy: Enrollment



**Total Students:
78,792**

K-5: 35,535
6-8: 19,714
9-12: 23,543



WCPSS Virtual Academy Open House:
Over 17,200 Virtual Attendees

Should families still enroll their children in the WCPSS Virtual Academy if we open the year in Plan B Transition (online instruction)?

Families wishing to maintain the continuity of a fully online learning environment for the semester or full school year, regardless of any decisions made by the state or district to move into Plan A, B, or C during the school year, should enroll in the WCPSS Virtual Academy.

WCPSS Virtual Academy: Application Window

What are the options for families to enroll their children in the WCPSS Virtual Academy at this time?

If the decision is made to open in Plan B Transition, then the application window will reopen on **July 27** at 12:01 am and will remain open through **July 29** at 5:00 pm.

WCPSS Virtual Academy: Application Window

Can families who have already applied to the WCPSS Virtual Academy update their application preferences?

Families can notify their child's assigned school with changes between **July 27 and July 29**.

WCPSS Virtual Academy: Responding to Questions

- Frequently Asked Questions are posted and updated on the WCPSS Virtual Academy website.
- Questions from families regarding their individual child should be directed to the school.

Virtual Academy FAQs

Can students with an IEP sign up for Virtual Academy?

Should a student enroll in the WCPSS Virtual Academy if we open in Plan C (Fully Online Instruction)?

If a student signs up for WCPSS Virtual Academy for fall semester only, what are the options for spring?

Can a student return to attending classes at the school if they change their mind?

On which calendar(s) will the Virtual Academy operate? >

What will the typical Virtual Academy school day be like? >

What will the course offerings look like? >

www.wcpss.net/Virtual-Academy

Modified Calendar

Recommend the following changes to the Modified Calendar

- First day of school moved to August 13
- Last day of school moved to June 11

Updated Modified Calendar meets

- all new Session Law requirements
- calendar law regarding the definition for a “modified” calendar
- the required 1025 instructional hours
- the requirements for 215 staff contractual days

WHAT   
STARTS
 HERE
CHANGES
 EVERYTHING.