

General FAQs

When will schools reopen?

Schools will be closed for the remainder of the 2020 spring semester. At this time, school districts intend to reopen for the 2020-2021 school year.

Do I have to come up with my own material if I want to homeschool my child while schools are closed?

Ideally, no. Some school districts are ending instruction early – if this is the case for your child's school, you do not have to homeschool your child.

Other schools are sending packets of work home with students, or providing instruction with teachers online. If your child has questions about his/her coursework, reach out to the teacher, or encourage your child to do so. But in practice, of course, this can have the effect of parents shouldering more of the responsibility for their child's education. There are a [number of online resources available](#) to parents during this time. There are also [support networks](#) for parents. You may also be able to receive [emergency funds](#). You should not hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher or school if you are feeling burdened or worried about your child falling behind.

What is going to happen to my child when schools reopen? What is going to happen to my child next school year?

It is hard to know for certain what school will look like when they reopen, or in the 2020-2021 school year. The State Board is developing detailed guidance for school districts that is expected to be released sometime in the next couple of weeks. The State Board of Education is considering whether to waive certain course completion and graduation requirements that would allow students to advance to the next grade despite COVID-19 closures. You should periodically check the [State Board of Education's website](#) and your local board of education's website and social media for updated information.

My child's school is offering online instruction, but I don't have access to the Internet. Is there a way to connect to the Internet for free?

Yes. Most Internet service providers are offering one to two months of free Internet, and discounted rates for the following months. Also, Xfinity hotspots are currently free, even to non-Xfinity subscribers. You can connect to Xfinity wifi for free if it is available in your area. Your child's school may also be providing Chromebooks and/or wifi hotspots to families who need them. Other districts have equipped school buses with wifi for students to access. Let your child's school know if this is a barrier to your child accessing instructional materials, and check the school district's website and social media to see what they are offering to help students access online instruction..

My child received free school meals. Can (s)he continue to receive meals from the school?

Yes. Most school districts across the state are distributing breakfast and lunch on their bus routes. Many are also making meals available for drive through pick-up at school. Find your district [here](#) for more information about meal distribution.

My child's teacher says they don't have a record of my child logging into the online system for class. I'm worried my child might be marked truant. What can I do?

You may want to ask your child's teacher how (s)he knows which students are logged in and which aren't. There may be an issue with technology that is easily solved. You may also ask how the teacher is keeping attendance, if at all, while schools are closed. If you are able to, keep a record of all the times you know your child was logged into class.

When schools closed, I was in the process of moving. Now my child can't enroll in the new school in the district we now live in. What can I do?

Most schools' enrollment processes can be completed online. Call your school district's central office to ask about enrolling your child.

Furthermore, if your family is homeless or lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence due to economic hardship or a similar reason, your child is still entitled to the same public education and related services as other children. There are specific education and school placement rights for students who are homeless, and you should communicate with the schools in your area if your child is not receiving education because of housing instability.

My child is a graduating senior. Will I be able to see my child graduate?

We don't yet know the answer to this question. The State Board of Education waived certain graduation requirements to make sure that graduating seniors won't be penalized by the school closures. If your child was on track to graduate before schools closed, they will most likely still receive their diploma. You should contact your local school district for information about graduation.

With regard to graduation ceremonies, school districts are encouraged to follow the CDC and Georgia Department of Public Health's guidelines for public events. The State Board of Education suggests delaying formal graduation ceremonies until later in the summer. See the [State Board of Education's page for graduating seniors](#) for more information, which will be updated regularly. For more information about graduation ceremonies, contact your local school district.