

2020-2021 District Support Plan

Fort Smith Public Schools

District plan to address unfinished learning from the prior school year, blended and virtual learning expectations, support for students and parents, and to provide a communication plan for interacting with all stakeholders for the 2020-21 school year.





Action #1

We will *ensure the continuity of teaching and learning* by providing a **guaranteed and viable curriculum** that includes **blended learning (K-12)**, **virtual learning (K-12)**, and **diagnostic assessments (K-8)**.

Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum

In addition to existing curricular expectations, including the foundational use of grade level content standards, our teachers will resume collaborative conversations in September, facilitated by Solution Tree consultants, to identify Essential Standards that will serve as *THE* **guaranteed and viable curriculum** in each classroom, at all grade levels. The district-wide Essential Standards will be derived based upon the work that has occurred at each individual school, utilizing the expertise of grade level teachers.

Blended Learning (K-12)

In addition to on-site learning, instruction will be designed and delivered utilizing teacher prepared **blended learning** units via digital platforms of Google Classroom (K-6) and Schoology (7-12).

District coordinators are currently working with teachers to build a library of standards based, blended learning lessons in the four core subjects for grades K-9.

[Back to School: Ready to Learn](#)

Virtual Learning

Parents and students may choose to participate in a 100% [online learning program](#).

Peak Innovation Center Virtual Program (K-9)

Using Pearson Connexus content guided by Arkansas course standards and aligned with FSPS essential standards, teachers will provide a virtual learning opportunity for FSPS students from Kindergarten through ninth grade.



Virtual Programming (10-12)

Students in Grades 10-12 who may travel often, are unable to attend school on the local campus, or who may have medical needs in the home requiring less interaction in the community will have the choice of total on-line learning.



Diagnostic Assessments (K-8)

District Testing Calendars noting the testing windows for district level assessments have been created and shared. The calendars include both formative and summative assessments.

For **diagnostic** purposes, **ACT Aspire** will be used for grades 3-10. **Istation (ISIP)** will continue to be utilized in grades K-2.

In partnership with Solution Tree consultants, grade-level teachers will work together to develop and use common formative and summative assessments. The design of the tests will allow for successful virtual/remote administration as needed.



Action #2

We will *identify how to address unfinished learning from the prior year* by using the **Arkansas Playbook: Planning for Re-Engagement** and **district developed resources**.

Addressing Unfinished Learning

District coordinators for literacy, mathematics, science, and EL prepared a document identifying standards which were to be introduced during the fourth quarter of last year, per the district-created curriculum maps/pacing guides. Additionally, the [Arkansas Playbook](#) has been identified as part of our re-entry plan.

A [webinar](#) has been presented to administration and teaching staff that illustrated how both of these resources should be utilized at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year.



Action #3

We are *utilizing* a
**Learning Management
System (LMS).**

Learning Management Systems

GOOGLE CLASSROOM

*All classrooms in grades **K-6** will utilize Google Classroom as their LMS.



Google Classroom



SCHOOLLOGY

All classrooms in grades **7-12** will utilize Schoolology as their LMS.

**Two K-6 elementary schools will pilot Schoolology.*



Action #4

We are conducting **teacher training** *in the use of* the selected **Learning Management Systems**.

Professional Development for LMS

Teacher training modules for utilizing an LMS and [how to “pivot” between multiple models for delivery](#) of instruction, i.e., blended learning, have been developed.

District Integration Specialists provided Zoom PD sessions at the end of last year, and are continuing to schedule trainings with teachers at the beginning of the 20-21 school year.

Recorded webinars and screencasts are available for teachers throughout the year as a reference tool.



Action #5

We will *schedule teacher training* **for blended learning** (delivery of instruction).

Professional Development for Blended Learning

District staff is currently participating in a minimum of 18 hours of professional development designed to support teachers as they create blending learning units of instruction.

The option is available for teachers to go beyond the minimum expectation and continue their learning through Levels 2 and 3 of the district Virtual/Blended Academy.





Action #6

We will provide support for
parents and students.

Provide Support for Parents and Students

Fort Smith Public Schools provides a full-service team of professionals who assist parents and students with questions and challenges of all kinds. Principals are a parent's first contact with questions regarding instructional issues. These building leaders can also direct parents to administrative support professionals who can help parents understand and navigate issues including language barriers, immunization requirements, and attendance area requests among many others. Parents can also email questions@fortsmithschools.org for guidance on where to direct their specific questions. Parent and public input is highly valued. The FSPS [Ready for Learning](#) Team was developed to review the plans and information designed to assist families as the district returns to school on August 24.



FREE

Family Literacy Digital Classes

Do you have questions about Virtual Learning?
Do you want to improve your skills and study from
home? We can help!

FREE for parents and families of children at any
Fort Smith Public School.

- ✓ Tutorials on Virtual Learning platforms
- ✓ Study for your GED online
- ✓ Learn English online or attend small group face-to-face lessons
- ✓ Classes/Tutorials begin _____

for more info

**CONTACT FORT SMITH ADULT ED.
(479) 785-1232**



Action #7

We will provide a **communication plan** for *interacting with parents, students, and the community.*

Provide a Communication Plan

Fort Smith Public Schools employs a robust blend of traditional and social media to disseminate general and specific information about the district, its schools and challenges that face the district. Parents, teachers and community members will find a curated collection of district information at www.fortsmithschools.org. Mass messaging is accomplished using Parentlink, a system within the Blackboard product line. FSPS uses advertising mediums including indoor and outdoor billboards and magazine to ensure that broad scope messages can be seen by the general public. The district also celebrates the accomplishments of students, teachers and schools during a special recognition section of the regularly scheduled board of education meeting each month.

Support Schools Identified in Need of Comprehensive Support for All Students

The staff at Belle Point, a secondary Alternative Learning Center, will participate in ongoing, job-embedded professional development, and receive all necessary materials and supplies to address student motivation/self-efficacy, acceleration of literacy and mathematics skills, acquisition of academic language, enhanced digital literacy, and explicit prescriptive intervention for students who have characteristics associated with dyslexia.

Support for Student Populations in Identified Schools in Need of Additional Targeted Support

Three elementary schools, Carnall, Orr, and Spradling, and one secondary school, Kimmons, will continue to receive **targeted support for students with disabilities**.

Staff at each campus will participate in **ongoing professional development provided by Solution Tree consultants** to ensure that a guaranteed and viable curriculum is provided for each student in this subpopulation.

The **Central Office Support Team**, including the **Director of Special Education**, will **visit these schools monthly to observe and support** high expectations for all students, increasing student progress, and implementing successful, evidence-based instructional practices.