

## **Frequently Asked Questions – FAQs CUSD Secondary Schools (grades 7-12)**

Below are frequently asked questions regarding the Chandler Online Academy Distance Learning and the In-Person Instructional Model that is being offered to students/families. Questions related to COVID-19 health and safety protocols will be addressed in a separate FAQ. We are working with the most recent updates from the state and county departments of health to provide accurate protocols and safety measures.

**For additional information regarding the Virtual/In-Person transitional program, please contact your student's enrolled school.**

**For additional information regarding either the *Elementary Connect Online Instructional model* or *Secondary Chandler Online Academy Instructional model*, please call Chandler Online Academy at 480-812-6350.**

- 1. What are the CUSD instructional model options for secondary (7-12 grade) students approved by the governing board?**
  - In person – taking classes in person onsite at the enrolled schools
  - Full time online – taking all courses online through Chandler Online Academy (COA) with the commitment of staying for 1 quarter or 1 semester,
  - Part time online (concurrent) – combination of courses in person and online through COA with the online course commitment for 1 semester. Students can take a combination of 6 courses online and in person at their home site.
  
- 2. What is a hybrid model of instruction?**
  - A hybrid model of instruction is when a student is learning in person in the classroom on some days and at home the other days.
  
- 3. Why is Hybrid Learning not being used?**
  - In order to be eligible for state funding, a Hybrid model, (for example where half of the students attend class 2 days per week and remain at home 2 days per week with online learning), requires our schools to be open to all students five days per week and resources available for off-track students. This model brings its own set of challenges and will require us to have additional space and staffing to supervise and support the students who are not in class. Schools would also need to provide full day childcare for off-track students. There is no strong evidence that rotational tracks of attendance mitigate COVID-19 exposures.
  
- 4. What is a virtual model of instruction in CUSD?**
  - A virtual model of instruction is when student learning occurs in an online environment where the teacher instruction occurs remotely asynchronous and synchronously.
  
- 5. What is distance learning in CUSD?**
  - Distance learning includes a self-paced model of learning with some teacher interaction through virtual meetings utilizing Google Classroom, emails, phone calls and messaging. Content is managed through a learning management system (LMS).

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**6. When will the expanded Chandler Online Academy course catalog be available?**

- The Chandler Online Academy course catalog will be updated daily as additional courses are added. Please visit the following Link to get the most updated course offerings.  
<https://www.cusd80.com/Page/27887>

**7. Will COA have AP courses, such as AP Chemistry, AP Human Geography, AP Physics, etc. available for students choosing the online option?**

- Yes. The district will make every effort to offer as many Advance Placement (AP) courses in person and in a virtual format as possible. These courses can be found in the COA course catalog located at <https://www.cusd80.com/Page/27887>

**8. Will COA have IB courses available for students choosing the online option?**

- We are currently investigating how these courses can be offered to students in the virtual format. We will update this question and answer document and the Chandler Online Academy course catalog as information becomes available.

**9. If science courses are taken through COA, how will labs be conducted?**

- The labs will be scheduled in the evenings after school and conducted in person at specific school locations. The science labs will be taught by a highly qualified CUSD science teacher. These classes will follow CDC guidelines to ensure small groups, social distancing and a room sanitizing plan.

**10. If a lab science course is taken online, will these still be counted as lab classes for graduation and for colleges?**

- Yes

**11. Which on level and advanced World Language courses will be available at COA?**

- The district will make every effort to offer as many World Language courses in person and in a virtual format as possible. These courses can be found in the COA course catalog located at <https://www.cusd80.com/Page/27887>

**12. Will Dual Enrollment courses be offered?**

- In working with Chandler Gilbert Community College, we will offer Dual Enrollment opportunities through COA. Courses to be offered still need to be determined.

**13. Can a senior take more than four (4) classes?**

- Yes, seniors are required to take a minimum of 4 classes but can take up to 6.

**14. Is 0 hour still an option for students?**

- Yes, students may still take a zero hour class if it is available based on student request.

**15. Is 7th hour still an option for students?**

- Yes, 7<sup>th</sup> hour classes are still available.

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**16. If you already have plans for breaks, how will mid-term exams work for 7-12 grade?**

- If a student misses a mid-term exam due to an approved absence, the exam must be taken upon return from break. This is the current practice in CUSD.

**17. If you have plans for break, will absences be excused?**

- Yes, your school must be notified in advance.

**18. Will Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses be offered at COA?**

- We are investigating which CTE courses can be offered in an online format.

**19. What if the elective course(s) I have selected at my home school is not offered at Chandler Online Academy?**

- Although the district is making every effort to offer a wide range of elective courses through COA, it may not be possible and another course will need to be selected. Upon returning to the enrolled school at the quarter, the course could be combined with a different elective to receive a full semester credit. (Administrator approval required)

**20. What if the course I want to take at my brick and mortar or enrolled school is not available at COA?**

- Although the district will be making every effort to offer a wide range of courses, it may not be possible and another course will need to be selected.

**21. When students are allowed to return to in person instruction on campus, what will the school schedule look like?**

- 9-12 – all high schools will run a full block schedule where student would attend 3 course a day, periods 1, 3, 5 on one day and 2, 4, 6 and the next. Courses would rotate each week, M/W/F and T/TH the next.
- 7-8 – junior high school schedules are currently being determined. This information will be updated as a decision is made.

**22. Will seniors be able to graduate and receive a diploma from their home school if they choose the online option?**

- Yes

**23. Can COA students take a mix of 9 week and 18 week classes?**

- If a student selects to enroll full time at Chandler Online Academy for 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, they need to enroll in a full load of courses to transition back to their home school at the beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. The 1<sup>st</sup> quarter grades will be awarded by COA and combined with the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter grade awarded at the home school to make up the final semester grade.

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- If a student selects to enroll full time at COA for 1 semester, they will be enrolled in 3 courses in the first quarter and 3 courses in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. Each course, when completed will be the equivalent of a semester course and will receive semester credit for each course.
- If a student selects to enroll part-time at COA, each course is a semester course (18 week course). Each course, when completed will be the equivalent of a semester course and will receive semester credit for each course. Part-time courses could be completed in a shorter period of time depending on the individual work pace of the student.

**24. Can part-time (concurrent) students take online AP classes?**

- Yes

**25. If a junior high school gifted (CATS) student chooses the online option, how will the learning be structured?**

- Gifted courses will be available at COA in Math, Science, English Language Arts and Social Studies. The courses will be facilitated by a highly qualified gifted CUSD teacher. The highly qualified gifted teacher will facilitate courses, conduct virtual meetings through Google Classroom for support, small groups and mini lessons.

**26. How will grading and finals at COA be conducted at the Junior high and High School level?**

- In order to earn a passing grade and credit, students are expected to complete all assignments & assessments preceding the final exam, and must have a minimum overall grade average of 60%. Students must pass the final exam with at least a 60% in order to receive credit for the course. The final grade is a combination of the overall average on all coursework preceding the final exam and the score the student receives on the proctored final exam. Final exams may be proctored in person or virtually.

**27. Does Chandler Online Academy have higher level courses available for junior high students?**

- Yes, course offerings can be found at <https://www.cusd80.com/Page/27887>

**28. Will student be able to attend the East Valley Institute of Technology (EVIT)?**

- This information has not been made available from EVIT at this time. Once we receive information from EVIT, we will update this information. The district will make every effort to assist student in attending EVIT such as transportation, scheduling with home site, etc.

**29. Will incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grade students be allowed to select the brick and mortar school they want to be associated with, even if they choose to start the year online?**

- Yes

**30. If I select to attend school in person but the school year starts virtually (i.e. Google Classroom), will my virtual teacher be the in person teacher when school is allowed to resume in person?**

- Yes

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**31. Can we choose to continue virtually (i.e. Google Classroom) and not transition to in person when schools reopen?**

- No. It is not feasible for teachers to teach students both in person and virtually (i.e. Google Classroom), at the same time. Only students enrolled in COA will continue to receive instruction online.

**32. What if we choose to start school in person and then want to change and enroll in online?**

- Students are expected to commit to a minimum of a quarter as staffing is determined by the initial choices made by students and parents. If an exemption is necessary, it will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by administration.

**33. Since school will not start in person, a virtual learning opportunity will be provided to our students. What will this programming look like?**

- Students will be assigned to their in-person teacher at their enrolled site. These teachers will stay with the same students and transition to in-person/brick and mortar instruction when approved. Students will have access to all content and instruction through a virtual platform (i.e. Google Classroom).

**34. Will High School Athletics take place this Fall?**

- Currently, the Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA) has announced that Fall Sports will begin August 17th. The August 17th start date is dependent upon the Governor's Office and/or State Phasing Guidelines.

**35. Will Junior High School Athletics take place during the 1st Season?**

- Over the next several weeks, Athletic Directors in the East Valley Conference (EVC) will determine if a modified season is possible with an August 17th start date.

**36. Will individual schools be putting out site plans (classroom layouts for social distancing, lunch configurations, passing periods), and if so, will they be out in time for parents to use this information for onsite/COA decisions?**

- As each sites layout is different, individual site plans will address how the reopening guidelines established by the district will be met. These plans will be made available to families as soon as possible but may not be out prior to the selection process.

**37. Will my child be required to wear a facial covering while at school? If my child has special needs, will they be exempt from this requirement? How will this be enforced?**

- In compliance with Maricopa County, City and Town Guidelines, and the C.U.S.D. Governing Board, all Kindergarten students and above are required to wear face coverings in public places where persons are unable to maintain continuous physical distancing of 6 feet or more. The Arizona Department of Health has established guidelines for medical exemptions to this policy which will be communicated out to parents. While this requirement is in place, parents will be notified, and students will be socially distanced during the remainder of the school day or provided an optional face covering, unless a student is medically

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exempt from requiring such facial coverings. Face Shields are an appropriate facial covering should a mask or cloth covering not be available. See Health and Safety FAQs.

### **38. What if a child forgets their face covering?**

- Although schools may have a limited supply, an alternative face covering may be provided. Parents may want to purchase additional face coverings, so students are prepared.

### **39. What are the criteria for discontinuation of the facial covering policy?**

- The criteria will be based on county and state requirements in conjunction with guidance and advisement from the Superintendent and Governing Board.

### **40. Is there a form or process to obtain an exemption to the Facial Covering policy?**

- Face covering exemptions will be permitted with medical clearance from a licensed health care provider for students and/or staff who fall under the CDC guidance of those who should not wear a face covering due to a medical or mental health condition or developmental disability.

### **41. What is the facial covering procedure during lunch and outdoor activity?**

- Where social distancing criteria is met, students may have facial coverings with them but not worn. This includes outdoor physical activity. Students socially distanced at lunch time, at each table, will not require facial coverings during their time eating.

### **42. What are the protocols for hand washing?**

- Students will wash hands upon arrival to school, prior to lunch, and after returning from other scheduled times throughout the instructional day.

### **43. Will hand sanitizer be available in lieu of hand washing each day?**

- YES

### **44. What are the protocols for restroom use and refilling of water bottles?**

- Students will have access to restrooms throughout the day. Clear social distancing requirements will be posted and reinforced in each classroom. Classroom restroom breaks will be monitored to ensure social distance requirements are being met. Water bottles must be labeled with student's name, and refilling will be determined by each site. Drinking directly from water fountains will be prohibited.

### **45. What are the enhanced sanitization and disinfecting procedures?**

- All horizontal surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected multiple times per day. High traffic areas will maintain regular sanitization and disinfecting schedules. Restrooms and Health Office will be disinfected at a minimum of two times daily. We are exploring disinfectants that provide rapid sanitization for longer periods of time. We are discouraging the sharing of supplies. Any shared equipment will be disinfected after use.

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**46. Will students' temperatures be monitored? If so, what is the expectation/guidelines for this process?**

- Prior to sending a student to school, parents will be required to temperature check their child as well as check for any COVID-19 related symptoms. If a student exhibits symptoms at school, they will be temperature checked in the Health Office.

**47. Will students gather for assemblies and school events?**

- Sites will develop alternative ways to gather and celebrate students.

**48. Will student field trips still be allowed?**

- **Field trips** will be approved on a case by case basis to ensure safety measures and expectations are in place (at principal's discretion). **Extended travel** field trips will be reviewed on a case by case basis to determine approval (at the district level). Must have parent signed permission slips and waivers before students can attend a trip. A review of safety measures and expectations are required for the location of the activity.

**49. How will the district ensure substitute coverage for potential teacher absences?**

- We will maximize non-classroom staff, provide site specific substitute teachers, and increase our pool of substitute teachers.

**50. Will there be difficulty with students moving from the Online Option (Chandler Online Academy) to the In-person option?**

- We ask that once a parent chooses the online option that a commitment be made for one quarter, semester, or year. However, exceptions will be made on a case-by-case basis.

**51. Will parents be surveyed into the school year to gather feedback as to student learning?**

- YES. We will survey parents first quarter.

**52. What will student lunchtime look like?**

- Outside dining (weather permitting) will be utilized. In cases where social distancing cannot be maintained, a combination of hallways, open spaces, classroom and cafeteria usage will occur.

**53. If a student is enrolled in Chandler Online Academy, will they maintain their seat at their Open Enrolled/Neighborhood school?**

- YES

**54. Is the curriculum identical between the Chandler Online Academy and In-Person instructional model?**

- NO. However, curriculum will meet the standards for grade level, acceleration, and intervention.

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**55. Will parents be able to volunteer and/or visit classrooms?**

- Not at this time.

**56. What is the procedure for student arrival on campus?**

- Schools will provide further information specific to their site.

**57. Will students be social distanced on busses?**

- Where social distancing cannot be maintained, students are required to wear facial coverings or parents may opt to transport student to and from school. Students with any COVID-19 symptoms or temperature will not be transported.

**58. Who decides if we are in Phase 2 of the Governor’s plan?**

- The Governor along with state health agencies will communicate out which phase we are in based on multiple factors.