

## COVID-19 What Do Parents Really Need to Know?

### Q & A

- Will students still complete school work during the closure?

*Yes. On Tuesday, April 14, Governor Tate Reeves stated that even though school buildings are closed, school has not been cancelled. Jackson County School District will continue the current academic plan put in place at the start of the COVID-19 school closure. Students will continue distance learning until May 21. Refer to our district website for more detailed information about the instructional plan.*

*(<https://www.jcsd.ms/>)*

- Until when are schools closed due to COVID-19?

*Governor Reeves also announced that school buildings would be closed until the end of the semester. For Jackson County School District, the end of the semester is May 21, 2020.*

- I don't have Internet or a computer. How will my child receive school work?  
*For students without Internet or a computer, paper/pencil packets taken from JCSD textbooks and instructional materials will be provided to students. To find out how your child's school distributes the materials, contact the school Monday - Friday between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM.*

- My child is in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Will he/she have to take a state reading test to be promoted to 4<sup>th</sup> grade?

*Students in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade during the 2019-2020 school year will NOT have to take the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Reading Assessment to be promoted to the 4<sup>th</sup> grade for the 2020-2021 school year if they meet JCSD requirements for promotion.*

- Will Kindergarten students be screened for dyslexia?

*Students in Kindergarten during the 2019-2020 school year will NOT be screened for dyslexia during the COVID-19 school closure. However, the dyslexia screener will be administered to all 1<sup>st</sup> grade students during the fall of the 2020-2021 school year.*

- My child was receiving academic interventions in school prior to the closure. Will he/she continue to receive interventions during the COVID-19 school closure?

*Academic interventions will continue during the closure to the extent possible while keeping students and staff members safe. If you have questions or concerns about these interventions, please contact your child's school Monday - Friday between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM.*

- Will my student have to take a state assessment during the COVID-19 closure?

*No, all assessments required by the Mississippi Department of Education have been suspended for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year for all JCSD students.*

- How will my child's grades be calculated?
  - *For students in Kindergarten through 8th grades, an average of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> nine weeks' grades will be calculated to determine the final average for the school year. These students will not receive grades for work assigned during the COVID-19 school closure.*
  - *For students in high school:*
    - *Those enrolled in semester long, credit-bearing courses on or before March 16, 2020, and who held a passing grade will receive the Carnegie unit as if he/she finished the course. These students will not receive grades for work assigned during the COVID-19 school closure.*
    - *Those enrolled in semester long, credit-bearing courses on or before March 16, 2020, who had at least a 50 average will have the opportunity to earn .5 Carnegie unit credit through a ½ semester online course. Associated assignments for this opportunity will be graded and students will be required to earn a passing grade to receive .5 Carnegie unit credit.*

- My child is enrolled in a dual credit course. How will he receive credit?

*Dual credit students will earn grades through the university and receive Carnegie Unit credits accordingly. He/she will have to successfully complete all required assignments online as required by the university, which will be graded.*

- If my student was enrolled in a 9-week course scheduled to begin after the COVID-19 school closure, will she be able to take that course?

*Yes. Students previously enrolled in a 9-week course that would have begun during the closure will be allowed to take the course through Edgenuity and earn appropriate course credit, provided a passing grade is earned.*

- Will my child have to repeat their current grade?
  - *Students in Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grades enrolled in JCSD on or before March 16, 2020, will be promoted to the next grade provided their grades were passing in the subjects required by JCSD policy or by an administrative decision made on an individual basis.*

- *Students in high school enrolled in JCSD on or before March 16, 2020, will be granted Carnegie unit credits for courses in which they were enrolled and had a passing grade. Students with at least a 50 average in one or more of these courses will have the opportunity to recover .5 Carnegie unit credits through a ½ semester online course. These students will be promoted to the next grade.*

*Questions or concerns about your child's grades or promotion status should be directed to your child's school Monday - Friday between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM.*

- My child is a senior in high school this year. Will he be able to graduate?

*Seniors with 21 or more Carnegie unit credits from required courses will be allowed to graduate with a high school diploma.*

- I am a junior in high school and enrolled in a state tested course. Will I have to pass the state assessment in order to graduate?

*No. Any student grades 7 through 12 enrolled in Algebra I, Biology, English II, and/or U.S. History during the 2019-2020 school year and earns the Carnegie unit credit will NOT be required to take or pass the associated state end-of-course assessment to meet graduation requirements regardless of his/her expected graduation date/year.*

- I passed the state tested high school course during the 2019-2020 school year, but didn't pass the end-of-course assessment. Will that keep me from graduating?

*No. Any student grades 7 through 12 enrolled in school during the 2019-2020 school year as of March 16, 2020, that has passed Algebra I, Biology, English II, and/or U.S. History courses, but has not passed the corresponding end-of-course assessment will be allowed to graduate, if all other state and local graduation requirements have been met regardless of his/her expected graduation date/year.*

- My high school child took and failed an end-of-course assessment for the first time in the fall of the 2019-2020 school year. Will she have to re-take the assessment in the future in order to graduate?

*No. Any student in grades 9 through 12 who took a fall 2019 end-of-course assessment and failed it, will NOT be required to re-take the assessment in any future school year to meet graduation requirements regardless of his/her expected graduation date/year.*

- I failed a state-tested high school course and I also failed the corresponding end-of-course assessment in the 2019-2020 school year. My high school counselor said I have to repeat the course in a later school year. Do I have to re-take the end-of-course assessment in order to graduate?

*Yes. Any student enrolled in Algebra I, Biology, English II, or U.S. History in the 2019-2020 school year who fails the course and must repeat the course in a later school year to earn the Carnegie unit credit WILL be required to pass the end-of-course assessment or meet one of the options in lieu of passing the assessment to meet graduation requirements.*

- My high school student passed one of the state tested courses last year, but took for the first time and failed the state end-of-course assessment during the fall of 2019. Will he be required to re-take the assessment? Will it affect graduation requirements?

*No, any student enrolled in school in the 2019-2020 school year who earned a Carnegie unit credit in Algebra I, Biology, English II, or U.S. History in a school year prior to 2019-2020, but took the test as a first time test taker in the fall of 2019 or was scheduled to take the test in the spring of 2020 will NOT be required to take and/or pass the EOC assessment regardless of his/her expected graduation date/year.*

- My son is not enrolled in a state-assessed high school course during the 2019-2020 school year, but is still trying to re-take an end-of-course assessment in order to graduate. Will he be required to pass the test in order to meet graduation requirements?

*Yes, your son will be required to pass the end-of-course assessment or meet one of the options in lieu of passing the assessment given by the Mississippi Department of Education. For more information about the “in lieu of” options, please contact a guidance counselor at your child’s school during weekdays from 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM.*

- I have a child who is a senior this year. Will there be a graduation ceremony? If so, what are the details?

*At Jackson County School District, the effects of the COVID-19 school closure on our seniors is far-reaching. Administrators and teachers are working diligently to provide a special occasion that exemplifies these historic and unique circumstances. Details regarding the ceremonies for each JCSD high school will be released as soon as possible.*