

Be Ready for the First Day of School!

September 8, 2020 | cps.edu/reopening2020



Get Connected

Before school starts, it is important that you complete these three steps to **"Get Connected"** to all the things you'll need to start the year.



1. Connect to Your School

- Current CPS families: [Call your school](#) if your contact information has changed. This will ensure you receive important school and district updates.
- New CPS families: [Enroll your child](#) in their school and provide your contact information to receive important district and school updates. Your school will ensure your child is set up on the systems and tools needed to participate in remote learning.
- Submit your child's [health and wellness forms](#) and any other required documentation included in the [Back to School Packet](#) your child will receive in their Google Classroom. Please email the forms to your child's teacher, if possible. If you need to drop off completed forms at the school, [contact your school](#) for their [visitor policy](#) before arriving in person.
- Log-into your CPS.edu account at cps.edu/portal.



2. Connect to a Device

- Your child can use any device that connects to the internet to participate in remote learning. We recommend using a [Chromebook, iPad, or Windows Laptop](#) with the [Chrome](#) web browser.
- If your child received a device from CPS, please refer to the [following guidance](#) to get started. If your child does not have a device, please [contact your school](#).
- Connect your device to your home Wi-Fi network. If you don't have Wi-Fi, find out if you are eligible for free internet service through [Chicago Connected](#).
- Have your child log into their CPS.edu account at cps.edu/portal to ensure they can access the Google Education Suite. If your child cannot remember their password, please see our [password reset guide](#).
- If your child does not have a CPS.edu account, [click here](#) for instructions on how to set up the account for the first time, also known as "claiming an account."
- Once your child is logged into their account, explore the [Google Education Suite](#) and familiarize yourself with Google Classroom.



3. Connect on Day One

- School will start on **Tuesday, September 8, 2020**.
- [Attendance](#) is mandatory and will be taken every school day. Please ensure your child logs into their CPS.edu account at cps.edu/portal on time.
- Make sure your child has the recommended school supplies for their grade as suggested by your child's teacher. Contact your school if you need assistance obtaining school supplies.
- Take time to focus on your social-emotional wellbeing to minimize stress. [These resources](#) are designed to help manage the mental health challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Try this before the first day of school: Login to your CPS account at cps.edu/portal

Forgot your password?

Go to cps.edu/portal and click Forgot Password.

All you need is:

- The answers to your three challenge questions

Don't know your challenge questions?

- Call your school

First time logging in?

Go to cps.edu/portal and click **New User**. Set up your account.

All you need is:

- Your legal **First Name**
- Your **Student ID Number** for your claim code
- Your **Birthday** (YYYYMMDD)

Don't know your Student ID Number?

- Check your last **progress report** or **report card**
- Check your **Student ID Card**

Still need help?

- Call your school

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Get Ready to Learn

Once you have completed all the steps to “Get Connected” it’s time to “Get Ready to Learn”. The following considerations are important for parents to plan for, and will position your student for greater success in remote learning when properly addressed.



REVIEW AND SET REMOTE LEARNING EXPECTATIONS

- Emphasize that although the learning will take place at home, it is a regular school day.
- Encourage your child to focus, show their best effort, and seek support whenever they need it—just like they would at school.
- Set the expectation that students will see their teacher on a daily basis, and their teacher will plan for opportunities for them to interact with their peers.
- Make sure they understand that attendance will be taken every day, so it is important to log into school on time each day.
- Grading practices will return to normal, so students should complete assignments and seek help as needed.



ESTABLISH HOUSEHOLD ROUTINES AND DISCUSS FEELINGS ABOUT REMOTE LEARNING IN ORDER TO CREATE A NEW SENSE OF NORMAL

- Create a daily routine so your child always knows when it will be time to focus on learning.
- Have your children set academic and social and emotional goals prior to the start of the year.
- Acknowledge what your child is missing in a remote learning setting: in-person interaction, eating lunch and having recess with friends, having access to school resources and facilities, etc.
- Make space to discuss feelings of sadness or loss that your child may have in regards to not being able to start the year at school. This is true for older students too, including high school students who may experience feelings of loss around major school events that are different or canceled.



CREATE A CONDUCIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR LEARNING

- When possible, keep device screens within your view and monitor screens when children are working online to ensure they are actively engaged.
- Find an area of your home that limits distractions for your child such as a desk, on the couch, in a favorite chair, or standing at the kitchen table.
- Make sure the space is well lit and provides enough room for learning materials to be accessible.
- Keep in mind that these considerations are important for students of all ages, including high school students. Although high school students may have more independence, they too may need support in creating routines and structures that will enable them to engage in remote learning successfully.

Family Support Numbers

If you need help with questions about back to school and reopening topics, please reach out to one of our support teams. Assistance is available in English and Spanish.

GENERAL SUPPORT

CPS Command Center

Monday - Friday
8:00 am - 5:00 pm

773-553-KIDS (5437)

familyservices@cps.edu

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

CPS Parent Tech Support Hotline

Monday - Friday
7:30 am - 4:30 pm

773-417-1060

<https://chicagopsprod.service-now.com/csp>