



Frequently Asked Questions- Registering for Second Semester

Registration Period November 2- November 13, 2020

Semester begins January 5, 2021

Okeechobee Synch (Option 2) was designed as a temporary instructional method. As such, it will expire at the end of the first semester. Secondly, the logical time to transition between any of the instructional options is at the semester. This guidance will help address many of the questions you may have regarding next steps.

1. Do I need to register for the second semester of the 20-21 school year?

- a. If you want your child to remain in Option 1 (Face to Face) or Option 3 (Okeechobee Virtual), you do not need to do anything.
- b. If you want your child to change to Option 1 (Face to Face) from Option 3 (Okeechobee Virtual), you must register him/her at their home school.
- c. If your child is in Option 2 (Okeechobee Synch), he/she will automatically be enrolled in Option 1 (Face to Face) at the school for which he/she is zoned, unless you register for Option 3 (Okeechobee Virtual School).

[Registration Link Here](#)

2. How long do I have to register for next semester?

The registration window will be open for two weeks from Monday, November 2, 2020 to Friday, November 13, 2020.

3. How do I register to ride a bus?

Students transferring from Options 2 and 3 to Option 1 who are not on a zone waiver are welcome to ride the bus as long as they register in advance. Please use this [link](#) to register to ride a bus for the 2nd semester. If you are maintaining your same status as the first semester, you do not need to do anything.

4. I have never taken a virtual course. What are the expectations?

Virtual school is not for everybody. It takes a tremendous amount of self-discipline, personal responsibility, and ability to work independently with the direct support of family members to help. This [video](#) will help you make a decision if Option 3 is right for you.

5. Do I need a physical/immunizations to return to school from Option 3?

You must be up to date on your physical and immunizations to enroll in Option 1.

6. How will my grades be transferred from one option to the next?

Grades are entered into the Skyward Student Database by your teacher. Those grades will transfer along with all other student information within Okeechobee Public Schools to your next school/option.

7. If I am changing option, do I take my Chromebook with me to the new option?

Yes.

8. What if I am in Option 3 (Virtual School), and I want to return to Option 1 (Face to Face), but I was on a zone waiver? Is my old zone waiver still good?

No. Transferring to Okeechobee Virtual is no different than transferring to another school. Places are not held for students and staffing allocations were based on current student numbers. You can, however, complete a new zone waiver and you will be placed on a waiting list. If there is a seat that opens, students from the waiting list will be chosen by lottery according to our existing controlled open [enrollment policy](#).

9. Will I get to keep my same teacher?

Maybe. There are certain conditions where a student may be able to remain with their same teacher. Keep in mind that in grades 6-12, there are typically changes to students' schedules second semester. At elementary, it depends on the current scheduling method (2a or 2b). It also depends on the number of students from Option 2 and 3 switching back to Option 1 causing the need to balance class size.

10. Why is Option 2 being eliminated?

Option 2 (Okeechobee Synch) was a temporary type of education that was allowed by the Commissioner of Education during the first semester. The Commissioner's Executive Order allowing this option is set to expire. Regardless of this expiration, when examining overall performance of these students, the workload on the teachers at school and parents at home trying to keep up with its format, and the fact that to date there are no known secondary infections stemming from schools, it was determined by Board action on Tuesday, October 13, 2020 that Option 2 be eliminated.

11. What if my child cannot return to school because of a medical condition?

The district is continuing to offer Option 3 (Okeechobee Virtual). Please see item #1 above for the registration link.

12. Will I be able to change my option after the deadline?

Because these options were new in concept for students, parents and the district, we allowed students to move between options. The video on Option 3, linked above, should give you additional information on a virtual setting. We encourage you to choose wisely. Deadline to apply is November 13, 2020. All requests to change options after November 13 will be considered based on medical necessity only.

13. Is it safe for my child to return to Option 1 (Face to Face)?

Only you can make that decision for your child. There are too many individual circumstances with your child, his or her personal health conditions, and fluctuations in the number of cases and positivity rate for us to make a recommendation. Thousands of students and employees have been attending school every day. As of October 22, 2020, the Department of Health shared there have been 34 positive cases of Covid-19 among students attending our schools. Although we have had exclusions, there are no known secondary infections resulting from school attendance. We continue to wear masks, wash hands, socially distance when possible, and clean frequently touched surfaces.

14. If exclusions due to COVID-19 are necessary, how will instruction continue with Option 2 going away?

If students are excluded from school, they will receive work from the teacher that can be done online. The instruction will not be "live" like our current Option 2, but students will need to log in and complete work daily during their exclusion period (synchronous to asynchronous).

15. If my child returns to Option 1 (Face to Face), will he/she be eligible to receive lunch and breakfast at no cost?

Yes. The district participates in the community eligibility option meaning all students receive meals at no cost.

16. Will social distancing be possible with Option 2 students returning to campus?

Social distancing (> 6ft) may be available in some locations on campus. School facilities, classrooms, etc. were not built to accommodate social distancing. We practice social distancing when possible but recognize that in all practicality, due to school building design and the number of students and staff, it is not completely possible.

17. Are masks still mandatory?

Yes. On October 13, 2020, the School Board voted to continue to wear face masks until the end of the 1st semester and allow mask breaks when social distancing is possible at the discretion of the teacher. Masks are required on the bus regardless of social distance due to the small, confined space of the bus. Religious and medical exemptions shall continue and reminders should include limitations of movement during mask breaks.

18. Can I enroll my child in after care?

School district offered aftercare is currently full. If you wish to be put on the waiting list, please ask for an application in the front office of your child's school.

19. Do I need to do anything if I am not changing my instructional option and I am not changing my method of getting to and from school?

No. Your status will carry forward from one semester to the next.

20. If my child is struggling, is there help available?

Yes. Please contact your child's school for information about after-school tutoring or credit retrieval options.