



**Urban Pathways
Charter Schools**

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Continuity of Education Plan

School District	Urban Pathways 6-12 Charter School
Superintendent	Kathleen Garland, CEO
Address	914 Penn Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15222
Email/Phone	kgarland@upcs.net/724-714-2719
Website	www.upcs.net

Goal of Plan

- Communicate guidance and expectations for faculty, staff, students, and parents in using an online instructional model.
- Effectively deliver education using an asynchronous format.
- Provide optional opportunities for students to engage with the faculty and staff in synchronous meetings.
- Recognize that this model of instructional delivery is new for some and exercise patience and understanding as faculty, staff, and students adjust.
- Each faculty member will make a good faith effort to deliver the curriculum as it is intended.
- Ensure that students are provided with a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE), to the best of our ability given the conditions.

Overview of Plan

Urban Pathways 6-12 Charter School is sensitive to the evolving faculty, staff, and family situations in our community as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and wants to provide an educational experience for our students, faculty, and staff that furthers continuity of instruction while being understanding and flexible in nature.

The online instruction model is intended to continue the asynchronous nature of delivering instruction while adding a component that facilitates the “continuity of education” expected by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Faculty will continue to deliver instruction in an asynchronous format through the online instructional model. In other words, each day, instruction, which can include lessons, assignments, projects, assessments, activities, etc., will be delivered to students. Students



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then have flexibility throughout the course of the day to use periods of time that are conducive for them to complete the instruction. This approach understands that a student may have a myriad of other educational and personal demands on their time throughout a day.

Faculty, as they design the learning experience for students, will provide the appropriate amount of instruction, guided and/or independent activities, and types and frequency of assessments. Each faculty member will make a good faith effort to deliver the curriculum as it is intended, understanding that it may not be possible to get fully, or as deeply, through it.

The last day of online instruction will be June 11, 2020.

Expectations for Teaching and Learning

UPCS is proceeding with Planned Instruction. Planned Instruction is formal teaching and learning similar to that which occurs in a classroom setting. Within this process, teachers use planned courses of instruction of new concepts/skills aligned to grade level standards. Teachers assess the learning of their students and make adjustments to instruction based upon student progress. In order to receive grades and credit, students must attend online classes regularly and complete the course requirements.

For any questions or concerns regarding Expectations for Teaching and Learning, contact Nicole Homich at nhomich@upcs.net or Shannon Conner at sconner@upcs.net.

Communication Tools and Strategies

Critical communication with families is occurring through phone blasts, emails, and information placed on the District's website. The UPCS website (www.upcs.net) is a critical component of the communication plan, as it offers families the ability to translate information into a preferred language.

Instructionally, communication about Planned Instruction activities occurs through faculty posting information in Google Classroom and the student/parent portal, referred to as MMS. Teachers use Google Suite Tools like Google Chat or Google Meet to meet with students in real-time. Individual teachers may also use other tools as well.

For any questions or concerns regarding Communication Tools, contact James Frank at jfrank@upcs.net.



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Access (Devices, Platforms, Handouts)

Students were provided a Chromebook by UPCS 6-12. Technology help is available for the students. Students with hardware issues should work with their mentor teacher to submit a ticket to helpdesk@upcs.net. The students/parents can bring their Chromebooks and chargers to the school on Fridays from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm for support.

UPCS has made information available to families about Internet resources from commercial providers. UPCS will work with families in situations where internet connectivity remains an issue.

For any questions or concerns regarding Access, contact James Frank at jfrank@upcs.net.

Staff General Expectations

- Instruction will be a continuation of the curriculum. Faculty will utilize the Understanding by Design Curriculum Framework to guide the delivery of instruction.
- Big Ideas, Core Concepts and Competencies, and Essential Questions aligned to the PA Core Standards and Assessment Anchors and, where appropriate, Eligible Content will be the faculty's focus.
- Assignments that are not technology dependent will be provided as necessary for families with connectivity issues.
- Where appropriate, faculty will use formative and/or summative assessments to gauge the students' progress and needs.
- Faculty will have lessons (instruction, assignments, projects, assessments, activities, etc.) posted for students each day for each core class.
- Faculty will be available using an "Office Hours" model between the hours of 10:00 am - 1:00 pm.
- Office Hours will be used to facilitate the teaching and learning process:
 - Responding to student or parent/guardian inquiries via email or
 - Virtual (synchronous) meetings
- Planning and preparation
- Creating and posting lessons, assignments, instructional resources, video tutorials, etc.
- Grading assignments
- Participating in meetings as necessary, i.e., Staffings, IEP, 504, etc.
- Collaborating with colleagues
- Participating in training, as needed

For any questions or concerns regarding Staff Expectations, contact James Frank at jfrank@upcs.net.



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Student Expectations

Students are expected to participate in learning every weekday. In accordance with Planned Instruction and in order to receive grades and credit, students must attend regularly and complete the course requirements.

For any questions or concerns regarding Student Expectations, contact Nicole Homich at nhomich@upcs.net or Shannon Conner at sconner@upcs.net.

Attendance / Accountability

Instruction is being delivered in an asynchronous format. Students are expected to fully participate in the planned instruction provided by their teachers and will be assessed accordingly. Students are counted as present at school by logging into their core courses each day.

For any questions or concerns regarding Attendance/Accountability, contact Jennifer Mack at jmack@upcs.net.

Good Faith Efforts for Access and Equity for All Students

Beginning March 30, 2020, the Urban Pathways 6-12 Charter School will begin the implementation of the online instructional model with all of our students in order to provide continuity of educational services during the school closure. UPCS 6-12 will continue to provide students with disabilities with a free appropriate public education (FAPE) providing special education services to the maximum extent feasible during this time.

If a parent/guardian has any concerns about their child's ability to access online programming or virtual services, they are to contact their child's mentor teacher to discuss resources and/or alternatives for the implementation of your child's program.

For any questions or concerns regarding Access and Equity, contact Kathleen Garland at kgarland@upcs.net.

Special Education Supports

- Teachers will make contact with all parents on their caseloads.



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- A new NOREP will be completed and mailed to parents explaining the new mode of instruction.
- Sections of the IEP may be revised.
- IEP and 504 meetings will continue as scheduled through online or phone conferences.
- The school psychologist, social worker or guidance counselors will provide tele therapy or communicate via phone with students identified for services.
- School Based Therapy will be provided through Wesley Spectrum via telephone.
- Speech, Occupational, Physical, Audiology, will be provided Individually through teletherapy.
- The students are provided a chrome book for all educational purposes and meeting IEP goals.

Students with disabilities will have access to instructional materials and specially designed instruction remotely. Our Special Education teachers are collaborating with the Regular Education teachers to ensure all assignments are modified to meet individual accommodations. Counseling and speech therapy services are being provided remotely as well. Examples of methods that may be used to provide specially designed instruction and related services remotely include Google Classroom, Google Meet or Zoom (video conferencing), phone calls, email, worksheets, videos, and/or consultation or planning with parents to monitor progress. The student's special education teacher and related service providers will contact families to discuss how instructional materials and services will be provided to the student.

For any questions or concerns regarding Special Education, contact Dr. Ed Mandell at emandell@upcs.net.

EL Supports

The EL teacher has virtual face-to-face meetings every Monday with the middle school students and the high school students. He has virtual face-to-face office hours scheduled for students to attend every Wednesday. The EL teacher is also available every day for students via Zoom, email or phone.

For any questions or concerns regarding EL supports, contact Dr. Ed Mandell at emandell@upcs.net.

Gifted Education

For any questions or concerns regarding Gifted Education, contact Dr. Ed Mandell at emandell@upcs.net.



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Building/Grade Level Contacts

UPCS 6-12 - Kathleen Garland- kgarland@upcs.net
UPCS 6-12 - James Frank - jfrank@upcs.net
UPCS 6-8 - Shannon Conner - sconner@upcs.net
UPCS 9-12 - Nicole Homich - nhomich@upcs.net

Resource Links

Planned Instruction and/or Enrichment and Review:

- Google Apps for Education (Google Classroom, GMail, Google Meet, etc.)
- IXL.com
- Xello.com
- Go Math online textbook and resources (grades 6-8): my.hrw.com
- Into Lit online textbook and resources (grades 6-8):
<https://www.hmhco.com/one/login/>
- Big Ideas Math online textbook and resources (grades 9-11): bigideasmath.com

For any questions or concerns regarding Resource Links, contact Nicole Homich at nhomich@upcs.net.