

COVID-19 Closure
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
(updated April 7, 2020)

When do you expect for school to reopen?

The Governor's Order states that all K-12 schools remain closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. All schools, including VSDB, will open when the Governor issues an order to reopen.

How will my child continue to learn?

Aligned with guidance from the Virginia Department of Education, VSDB will continue to support your child's learning through work packets that will be mailed to you at a minimum of every two weeks. The packets are developed by your child's educational team and are individualized to meet the unique needs of your child. Material in the packets is prescriptive to your child's educational program and will review concepts taught and/or expand on related new topics.

Why is VSDB sending work packets that are paper-based and not doing online instruction?

Per federal and state regulations, instruction and educational activities must be provided in a format that all students can access equally. In other words, what you do for one student must be done for all. VSDB serves students throughout Virginia. As a result, due to the lack of internet in some areas and the unavailability of required technology, and the individual learning needs of each student, VSDB is unable to ensure that online instruction is accessible or available to all. At this time, VSDB has decided to do paper packets only in order to ensure that all students can access the work sent to homes. VSDB is exploring various options in order to expand instructional methods beyond paper based activities only.

Will the work in the packets be graded?

The work in the packets is to support continued learning. Guidance from the Virginia Department of Education supports that work done at home during the COVID-19 closure not be graded. Therefore, VSDB will not grade work done at home during the COVID-19 closure, since the purpose of the work is to support the retention and possible expansion of material already taught during the school year.

When my child has completed the packets, what do I do with them?

When your child completes the work, please keep the packet. We will collect packets at a later date, possibly at the start of the school year on Registration Day. Although the work is not graded teachers will review the work for overall progress of each student.

My child was supposed to graduate this year. Will they still graduate? How will I get his/her diploma?

The Virginia Department of Education has stated that every effort will be made to support those students who are scheduled to graduate. Each student's academic progress, prior to the COVID-19 closure, will be evaluated to determine that student's progress and ability to graduate. VSDB will mail diplomas to each student who qualifies for graduation. VSDB school counselors will be in touch with each parent to discuss the status of their potential graduate.

How will I get the VSDB yearbook that I already paid for?

At this point, with the COVID-19 situation, VSDB is unsure when the books will be delivered. If your child graduates, VSDB will mail the yearbook to you. Otherwise, we hope to have the yearbooks to give you at the start of the new school year on Registration Day.

How do I get my child's items left in the residential hall?

Residential staff has carefully packed up each student's belongings and has stored them in the student's room. At this point, with the COVID-19 travel restrictions, VSDB is not able to deliver items to the route hubs for pick-up. For now, VSDB will store the items and update you if anything changes. If VSDB is unable to deliver the items, they may be picked up at the start of the school year on Registration Day. For graduating students not returning to campus, VSDB will make arrangements with parents to retrieve their child's belongings.

How will I get my child's medication that is at VSDB?

If your child still has medication at VSDB, Infirmary staff will contact you to confirm your address and mail medication home within two weeks.

How do I get the money that is left on my child's VSDB account?

The Business Office will collect any money that is left on student accounts and mail you a check. When you get the check, please cash it as soon as possible so that the Business Office will know you have received it.

What do I do about my child's IEP?

Guidance from the Virginia Department of Education states that all schools must continue to follow the timelines for Special Education. VSDB continues to have IEP meetings by phone and/or video technology. As before, you will receive a draft of the IEP in the mail. Once your student's IEP meeting has occurred, you will receive the final IEP packet in the mail. **Please be sure to sign the signature page where indicated and mail the signature page back to VSDB in the self addressed stamped envelope. It is very important that we get your or your adult student's signature page back.**

VSDB is working with the Virginia Department of Education to implement the ability to collect an electronic signature. We will update you as we move forward.

Any questions regarding your student's IEP, please contact:

Karen Joyner/VSDB IEP Coordinator at: karen.kaminski-joyner@vsdb.k12.va.us

If my child was to have testing done for their IEP. Will that still occur?

At this time, with students not at VSDB due to the COVID-19 closure, testing is not able to be done. If your child was scheduled to have testing done, Karen Joyner/VSDB IEP Coordinator, will be contacting you to obtain permission to delay testing until VSDB reopens.

What is the best way to communicate with VSDB?

VSDB's primary way of communicating with parents is the VSDB Notification System. The notification system allows VSDB to send out messages by voice, email, and text. However, the voice and text option is limited to only two to three sentences. The email option allows for more information to be sent. It is best for all parents to sign up for all three options. If you are not signed up for the email option, please let us know. You may send your email address to:

Pat Trice/Superintendent at : patricia.trice@vsdbs.virginia.gov

Questions?

For general questions, please contact the Superintendent, Pat Trice
patricia.trice@vsdbs.virginia.gov

For school questions, please contact the VSDB Principal, Keith Van Fossen
keith.vanfossen@vsdb.k12.va.us

For residential program question, please contact the Director of Student Life, Becky Watson
becky.watson@vsdb.k12.va.us

VSDB main number: (540) 332-9000