



**PARENT
EDITION**



Stronger TOGETHER

A Guide for Safely Reopening Schools

GADSDEN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL

The School Board of Gadsden County, Florida



"Putting Children First"

Roger P. Milton
Superintendent

Audrey Lewis
Board Chairwoman
District 1

Steve Scott
District 2

Leroy McMillan
District 3

Charlie Frost
District 4

Tyrone D. Smith
District 5

Gadsden County School District Goals

1

Follow Public Health Guidelines

2

Maintain an Inclusive & Supportive Culture

3

Establish Systematic Protocols

Superintendent's Reopening Message

The Gadsden County School District (GCSD) reopening plan will maintain a degree of fluidity as revised rules and regulations are presented by the Florida Department of Education, the Gadsden County Health Department (GCHD) as well as the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

Our District leaders and Task Force have worked extensively with the Gadsden County Health Department (GCHD) and CDC guidelines to inform all recommendations. The District leaders will continue to use the guidance to create template notification letters, adjust hygiene protocols, and create proper spacing and flow of movement throughout each of our buildings.

With these safeguards in place, **the Gadsden County School Board approved schools start on August 31st** with parents having two return options.

Superintendent's Reopening Message.... (cont.)

Please know that the mental and physical health of our students and staff are our top priority. We are all concerned about creating an environment that is conducive to learning while mitigating the spread of COVID-19.

Due to our current dynamics, **we will reopen on August 31, 2020. All of our schools will open through two options, face to face or through an innovative learning environment which is remote learning.** Opportunities will exist for students to be on site five days per week as per the Governor and the Department of Education. Safe social interactions are an important part of reopening schools fully after evaluating our progress and conditions.

Superintendent's Reopening Message.... (cont.)

GCSD will put reasonable safeguards in place to reopen our schools. We have leaned heavily on the CDC guidelines and made educational decisions at the local level in collaboration with our staff, families, and calibration with surrounding school districts. It is possible that we will be forced to shift between instructional delivery models if conditions change throughout the year. We will be better prepared for shifts this year.

Thank you to everyone who is part of our team. We didn't choose this path, but we will be ready for where it takes us!

Gadsden County Schools Reopening Options

GCSD Schools will reopen on **August 31st** utilizing the following options:

- Option A - Face to Face
- Option B - Innovative Learning Environment (Remote Learning)

Official Remote Learning Request Forms are available on our district and schools' website and will be due to the schools no later **July 31st**.

For more information, please visit our schools' websites or contact the schools directly.

Innovative Learning Environment Option

Students participating in the Innovative Learning Environment Model will be assigned a dedicated distance learning teacher. This option will include a fixed schedule and will consist of both **synchronous** and **asynchronous** learning experiences.

Students in this model will begin every morning with a live, in-person morning meeting. Synchronous instruction will be provided for all core classes. In addition to the core subjects, students in this model will have interactive read-alouds, art, music, PE, and Library at most of our campuses. Specific schedules will get more defined as we learn about family preferences.

Face to Face Learning Option

Preventing the Spread of COVID-19 at school:

- Physical Distancing
- Hygiene Measures
- Cleaning & Maintenance
- Lunch, Recess, & Extracurricular Restrictions

Physical Distancing

What will be done to promote physical distancing?

We will encourage physical distancing throughout the day as possible. Schedules will be developed to reduce numbers of students in common areas during breaks, lunches, and reduce large gatherings. Classrooms will utilize space by spreading desks and tables around the room, as well as using vacant classrooms and outdoor spaces, as available.

Physical Distancing ... (cont.)

Will temperature checks be taken for all staff and students each day?

Staff temperatures will be checked at the main office daily. Student self-screening will take place before starting each day. Students exhibiting symptoms after arriving at school will receive temperature checks, consistent with the guidelines from the American Pediatrics Association.

Physical Distancing ... (cont.)

What precautions will be taken for ensuring disinfection of surfaces on buses?

Disinfecting of buses and implementing protocols will ensure the health and safety of students that utilize District transportation. Windows or roof ventilation will be open to maximize ventilation during transport. Students may sit with siblings or cohort classmates. Final spacing plans are still in development.

Physical Distancing ... (cont.)

Will students need to refrain from physical contact with their teachers and peers?

We will follow the physical distancing guidelines per the most current health order as most feasible. However, we also recognize the need for social connection and interaction. Parents should speak and work with their children about maintaining appropriate physical distance and boundaries and the importance of wearing a mask when physical distance is not possible.

Physical Distancing ... (cont.)

Will there be changes to the arrival/departure procedures?

Per County Health Department requirements, drivers are to remain in their vehicles, to the extent possible, when dropping off or picking up students. When in-person drop-off or pick-up is needed, only a single parent or caregiver should enter the facility to pick up or drop off the child. All adults entering campus for in-person pick-up or drop-off must wear a face covering.

Hygiene Measures

Are face coverings required?

Under the current guidelines, face coverings are required for all staff members and students with some medical exceptions.

Will schools review hygiene with students?

Hygiene practices will be reviewed regularly with students. We will teach and reinforce washing hands, avoiding contact with one's eyes, nose, and mouth, and covering coughs and sneezes. We are adding hand sanitizer stations to high traffic areas on all campuses.

Cleaning & Maintenance

What measures will be implemented on campus to ensure the safety of staff and students?

Cleaning and Disinfecting: GCSD will take essential actions to create a physical environment that promotes student and staff safety through established protocols and procedures. These will include daily disinfection of areas used by students and staff, focusing on high-touch surfaces such as door handles and restrooms during the day.

Lunch, Recess, & Extracurricular Activities

What precautions will be taken for issuing food services on campus?

What meal options will be provided for online learners?

Staggered lunch times will be developed through the site-specific logistic planning to reduce the number of students at lunch time. Hand sanitizer stations will be located near food service areas to support personal hygiene. Lunch options are being explored by each school that may include students eating lunch in the classrooms or outside some days.

Lunch, Recess, & Extracurricular Activities

What will lunch and recess look like?

School schedules will be developed to reduce numbers of students in common areas during breaks, lunches and reduce large gatherings. We will provide schools with signage or markings to indicate spacing for any area where students may line up such as the lunch area.

Lunch, Recess, & Extracurricular Activities

Will sports and extra-curricular activities be permitted for the 2020-21 school year?

Students will have the option to participate in on-campus sports and extracurricular activities as available. As high school athletics are governed by the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA), we will adhere to the guidelines set forth by the organization.

Gadsden County Schools Reopening Options

GCSD Schools will reopen on **August 31st** utilizing the following options:

- Option A - Face to Face
- Option B - Innovative Learning Environment (Remote Learning)

Official Remote Learning Request Forms are available on our district and schools' website and will be due to the schools no later **July 31st**.

For more information, please visit our schools' websites or contact the schools directly.