



Coffee County School System

Parent Information for the Reopening of Schools

2020-2021

The Coffee County Schools Reopening Plan outlines programs and protocols for returning to school for the 2020-2021 school year in a safe and methodical manner. This plan is intended to meet the individualized learning needs of students while giving priority to the health and well-being of our students, employees, and their families.

All elements of school operations have and will change depending on the degree of spread of COVID-19 in the community, in a particular school, or in a particular classroom. It should be noted that this is a working document that provides guidance based on guidelines available at the time of publication. It can and will be updated as new guidance becomes available.

Highlights of Plan

- Traditional vs. Digital Learning
- Safety and Wellness Measures
- Transportation
- Child Nutrition
- Special Programs

Letter from Superintendent Kevin D. Killingsworth

Dear Coffee County Schools' Stakeholders:

In the wake of the COVID 19 pandemic, many of the routines of our daily lives have dramatically changed. Every aspect of a school's daily routines will continue to change; some of these changes will be drastic changes beyond our control. There are thousands of questions out there with not many answers from the experts concerning the reopening of schools. Our leadership team has been developing a plan from the list of recommendations we were given. Amid all the uncertainty we face today, I can assure everyone that the Coffee County School System's leadership team is working diligently to make plans for a productive and effective school year. It will not be an easy undertaking, to say the least. To the very best of my ability, with assistance from the stakeholders of Coffee County Schools, I will continue to work tirelessly to make the daily routines be the best they can under the circumstances.

The following information is not intended to be all-inclusive or a finalized document. It has been designed to serve as guidance as we approach the start of the 2020-2021 school year. The reopening plan may well change as new mandates and recommendations are released from the ALSDE, ADPH, AHSAA, and Governor Ivey, to name a few. I humbly request patience and understanding from all stakeholders during these ever-changing times. I ask that we face the challenges that lie ahead together, so we can offer the safest and best educational environment to all of our students and staff.

Kevin D. Killingsworth
Superintendent
Coffee County Schools

School Calendar and Schedules

Schools will start for students on Monday, August 10, 2020. The [Coffee County School's 2020-2021 calendar](#) is available on the district's website.

The school start times will be modified to provide the safest environment for students and staff. School start times will be disseminated as our start date gets closer.

Instructional Options

*****The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) released guidance for school re-entry. In this guidance, AAP firmly states, "the AAP strongly advocates that all policy considerations for the coming school year should start with a goal of having students physically present in school."**

[COVID-19 Planning Considerations: Guidance for School Re-entry Article Link](#)

Instructional Options for Coffee County Students
Traditional Learning
Traditional Learning - For families who desire for their children to have in-person learning in a school building five days a week, the traditional learning model will allow students to return to their school buildings with social distancing protocols in place. The traditional model will move to digital remote learning from home if the COVID-19 spread becomes substantial in the community or in a building. School closures will only occur under the advisement of the ADPH.
Digital Online Learning (K-8) "Coffee County Anywhere Digital Classroom" CCADC
Online Learning Grades PreK-8 - This option is ideal for students and parents who wish to stay connected to their school but prefer digital learning from home during this time. This option offers digital instruction from an online platform facilitated by a Coffee County School teacher. Because schools will design the School-Based Digital Learning option to suit the students and teachers at their particular school, the details of the program may vary from school to school. Students enrolled in School-Based Digital Learning will have the option of learning online from home for the first nine weeks. The program will be evaluated with input from parents at the end of each nine-week period and modified as needed. This option will phase out when public health agencies determine that COVID-19 is no longer a major concern for the community. A student who enrolls in the School-Based Digital Learning option will have until August 28, 2020, to decide if this choice is right for them or if they should return to traditional instruction. After that date, transition requests back to the traditional on-campus environment can only occur at the end of each nine-week grading period. **Students who select digital learning options should have reliable access to the Internet and a reliable device.
Virtual Online Learning (9-12)
Online Learning Grades 9-12 - This option has been available for students in Coffee County for several years. *Approval of Virtual School Application is required for this option. **Students who select virtual options should have reliable access to the Internet and a reliable device.

Coffee County Schools will continue to provide a robust digital network to ensure that students may have filtered Internet access anywhere on our campuses, including designated parking areas.

Sanitizing and Disinfecting

Coffee County Schools will follow general guidelines and recommendations for the operation of school buildings. Because elementary, middle, and high schools function differently and because each building is unique, administrators at each school will develop guidelines specific to their site. The procedures and protocols are in place for cleaning.

Faculty and staff are trained in an array of health and safety practices by healthcare professionals with guidance from the Alabama State Department of Education and the Alabama Department of Public Health. All teachers and staff will be provided ample cleaning supplies to utilize during the school day and throughout the 2020-2021 school year. Sanitizing and disinfecting of common areas and classrooms will take place daily at all schools and will uphold high standards in preventative measures against the spread of COVID-19 and other illnesses.

Physical Health and Well-Being

The administrative team of each school has devised plans for the safest and most efficient transfer of students in hallways, before school, between classes, and after school. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to educate students on the importance of maintaining physical distance, when possible, as well as the option of wearing a mask/face covering when physical distancing is not feasible.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- All staff will be provided with PPE and training per COVID 19 protocols.

Parents

- **Reminder, parents are the FIRST POINT of SCREENING**
- If a child has a pre-existing condition, parents are advised to speak with their child's primary care physician about returning to school.
- Parents will be encouraged to take students' temperatures and assess students before sending them to school. Students who have a temperature of 100.4 or higher and/or are exhibiting symptoms should stay at home.
- Every parent will be required to update all contact information and make plans to ensure someone could check students out if needed. Every child needs to have at least three emergency contacts.

Nurse Office Visits

- School Nurse will work closely with administrators in developing a plan to isolate sick children until someone comes and gets them. Isolation areas have been designed to allow sick children to remain under the supervision of the nurse, but isolated from other students until picked up from school.
- School Nurse will assess the student and take appropriate actions. School Nurse will sanitize and disinfect as needed.
- Should a student or faculty member be diagnosed with COVID-19, contact tracing will be conducted by the Coffee County Health Department. Determination of steps to be taken after reviewing the identified case will be coordinated between Coffee County Schools and the Coffee County Health Department.

Check-in and Check-out

- To help prevent the spread of the virus and reduce the risk of exposure to our staff and students, visitors are not permitted to enter the school. Curbside check-in and check-out will be utilized to minimize exposure. Visitors and parents should park and call the front office upon arrival. Students will be escorted by a staff member to and from the building/vehicle to ensure the safety of all students.

Extra-Curricular Activities

- Coffee County Schools will adhere to all AHSAA guidelines as they become available.
- Only essential personnel will be allowed on sidelines/benches, club-based practices, events, competitions, etc.
- No class parties or field trips are being scheduled at this time.

Transportation

Coffee County Schools aims to safely and timely transport students to school in a manner that considers the ADPH guidance and current best practices.

- To reduce the number of students riding school buses, all who can transport their child(ren) to and from school are encouraged to do so for the upcoming school year.
- *Parents should not place students on the bus if they are exhibiting signs or symptoms of COVID-19.*
- All bus drivers will be issued proper PPE equipment including face masks/face shields and gloves.
- Students are strongly encouraged to wear masks while being transported on buses. Face masks will be provided when requested.
- All buses will be equipped with hand sanitizer dispensers to allow students to use when entering and exiting the bus.
- All buses will be disinfected before and after each route.
- All bus drivers will be provided with sanitizer for spot cleaning and sanitizing as necessary.
- All buses will have at least one seat designated for isolation of any students showing symptoms associated with COVID-19.

Child Nutrition Program (CNP)

- To begin the school year, only Pre-K and Kindergarten students will eat lunch in the cafeteria; social distancing guidelines will be adhered to during cafeteria usage.
- All students will eat breakfast in their classrooms or other designated areas.
- All teachers (other than PreK and K), visitors, and/or family guests will not be allowed to dine in the school cafeteria.
- Meals will be distributed in covered containers.
- Local school CNP employees will adhere to all current school nutrition guidelines and practices and will wear gloves, face masks, and/or face shields.
- Families are encouraged to prepay using the My Payments Plus (<https://www2.mypaymentsplus.com/welcome>) online system to reduce the handling of money.
- Should school(s) transition from traditional learning to remote learning due to COVID-19, the system will develop a plan to provide students with meals at that time.

Special Programs

- Students with special health considerations should be in communication with the local school's educational support committee (IEP, 504, I-ELP, etc...) to support their student learning assignments.
- Students with IEP, 504, and I-ELP's who wish to enroll in digital learning (Coffee County Anywhere Digital Classroom) or virtual school will need to request and participate in the appropriate committee meeting to consider the appropriateness of the program for student success.

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