



ESCAMBIA COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM

Back to School Guidance

2021 – 2022

Return to School Plan

GUIDING PRINCIPALS FOR ESCAMBIA COUNTY SCHOOLS



- **Transparent** - as relates to what we know and what we do not know. Clear communication about what we can control and what is outside of our control.
- **Equitable** - Decisions focus on what is best for all students, families, and staff, especially those most impacted by educational inequities and COVID-19.
- **Listen** to stakeholders and experts to understand the realities on the ground and brainstorm creative solutions.
- **Safety first.** We will leverage science, data, and public health leadership to inform decisions.
- **Decisive.** Given the size and scope of the challenge, we must move deliberately and make tough choices. We will make mistakes, and we will adapt quickly as variables on the ground change.

Instructional Delivery Models for Escambia County Students

TRADITIONAL SCHOOL – IN-SCHOOL



Traditional

- All students, All Day: Face to Face Instructional Delivery by Teachers. Teaching and learning will take place utilizing traditional and non-traditional methods. Supplemental curriculum resources and online learning methods will be utilized.

VIRTUAL ONLINE LEARNING

Online Virtual Learning :

- Beginning with the 2021-2022 school year, Escambia County School System will provide the option of a virtual education for students in grades four (4) through twelve (12). Students selecting the virtual option will complete coursework through the virtual program. Students choosing this option should contact their local school.
- Student must meet the eligibility requirement criteria to participate in the virtual option.
- Students will work off campus using online/digital platforms.

SCHEDULE FOR RETURNING TO SCHOOL

TRADITIONAL SCHOOL – IN-SCHOOL



Traditional

- Currently Escambia County Schools plans to open schools in a staggered manner to help students and staff have time to review new procedures and learning requirements.
- August 9th 2021, for students with last names beginning with A-M will report to school.
- August 10th, all students with last names beginning with N-Z.
- August 11th, all students will return to school for regularly scheduled classes.

HEALTH AND SAFETY PROCEDURES



CLEANLINESS AND HYGIENE

- Daily cleaning and disinfecting of classrooms, restrooms, and common areas.
- Extra cleaning and sanitizing schedules will be implemented in all school areas and restrooms.
- Frequent hand washing will be built into the students' daily schedule.
- Hand sanitizer will be readily available.

FACE MASKS

- Masks are not mandated. We strongly recommend and encourage for all students, teachers, staff, and visitors to wear masks.
- Masking is “required” for passengers and drivers on school buses.
- Any change in use of facial coverings will be governed by ALSDE and the Alabama Health Department directives.

HEALTH AND SAFETY PROCEDURES

PARENT/GUARDIAN HEALTH GUIDANCE



- Monitor child's temperature every morning. Students with temperature of 100.4 should stay home and consider following up with their health care provider.
- Monitor for the following COVID-19 symptoms every morning and keep students home who have loss of taste, congestion, shortness of breath, or gastrointestinal symptoms.
- Teach and monitor child's use of tissues and hand sanitizers, not sharing items/supplies with other students.
- Notify the school immediately if the student is exposed to COVID-19, the student tests positive for COVID-19, or a household member tests positive for COVID-19.

HEALTH AND SAFETY PROCEDURES

STAFF/STUDENTS HEALTH GUIDANCE



- Vaccinations are encouraged for teachers and students over the age of 12. Vaccinated individuals identified as a close contact will not have to quarantine so long as the individual remains asymptomatic.
- Individuals who test positive or are diagnosed with COVID will quarantine according to ADPH guidelines.
- Staff and students who are close contacts will be subject to the ADPH guidelines.
- All students and staff who have symptoms of COVID should remain at home and contact their healthcare provider for testing and care. Notify the school immediately if the student is exposed to COVID-19, or if the student **or** household member tests positive for COVID-19.

HEALTH AND SAFETY PROCEDURES

STAFF/STUDENTS HEALTH GUIDANCE



➤ **SOCIAL DISTANCING**

- Line spacing, staggered and/or one way class changes.
- Classroom seating arrangements.
- Cohorts will be kept together as much as possible.
- Visitors will be limited and may not be allowed.

➤ **Athletics & Field Trips**

- Athletic events will be scheduled and regulated in accordance with guidance provided by the Alabama High School Athletic Association.
- Field trips are temporarily suspended; club and other activities will be considered, but may be limited according to guidance by the ALSDE, ADPH, or local conditions.

HEALTH AND SAFETY PROCEDURES



TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

- Assign students to seats; seat students with members of same household.
- Stagger bus loading and unloading.
- Sanitize buses following morning and afternoon routes.
- According to the Department of Transportation, students riding a bus will be required to wear a mask.

CHILD NUTRITION SERVICES

- Meals will be served in cafeteria. If conditions warrant, meals may need to be taken in classrooms, outdoor, and other available open spaces to follow social distancing requirements. This is subject to change.
- The Child Nutrition Program will follow all guidance from USDA, ALSDE, and ADPH regarding safe operating and food service procedures. The Child Nutrition Program will adhere to current USDA school nutrition guidelines and practices.

HEALTH AND SAFETY PROCEDURES



Visitors

- School and classroom visitors will be limited to provide for adequate social distancing and a safe environment for all.
- When possible, parent/teacher meetings should be conducted using video conferencing technology.
- Visitors are encouraged to be mindful that visitation conditions could change and entry may be prohibited based on the health status of the community. Visitor restrictions will be determined based on the level of infection threat as identified by the Department of Public Health.

Classrooms and Transitioning between Classes

- Classrooms will provide social distance to the greatest extent possible.
- Hand sanitizer and disinfectant will be available in all classrooms.
- Hallways will be “one way” to the greatest extent possible in order to provide greater social distancing.

ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES



- School attendance has always been important and it remains important for the highest levels of student success.
- Excused Absence Code: COVID-19 Excused
- The following scenarios should be practiced and will be considered “COVID-19 Excused” when a parent provides a note regarding the absence related to COVID symptoms.
- Parents should monitor their child’s temperature every morning. Students with a temperature of 100.4 or higher should stay home and consider COVID testing if there is no other explanation.
- Monitor for the following symptoms of COVID and keep students home if present: loss of taste, cough, congestion, shortness of breath, or gastrointestinal symptoms.
- Notify the school immediately if the student **or** household member tests positive for COVID-19.



Disclaimer: This plan will be subjected to review and revision as guidelines from the Alabama Department of Public Health, Alabama State Department of Education, Centers for Disease Control are updated to reflect current situations. The information provided in this document does not, and is not intended to constitute legal or health advice. Instead, all information, content and materials available in this document are for general information purposes only. Information in this document may not constitute the most current legal regulations. Escambia County Schools does not recommend or endorse the contents of third party sites. All liability with respect to action taken or not taken based on the contents of this document are hereby expressly disclaimed. The content in this document is provided “as is.” No representations are made that the content of this document is error-free. The document is not an exhaustive list of every action that Escambia County Schools will need to return to school or remain at school. Guidance by the Alabama State Department of Education is not mandated. Escambia County Schools has the authority and flexibility to meet their individual needs and be responsive to the community.

