

HARDEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
REOPENING PLAN
2020-21



HARDEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

REOPENING PLAN – 2020-21

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a tremendous challenge for both our school district and our community. This past spring our school district was put in the most difficult position of being forced to close our traditional school system and revert to a 100% virtual educational process. Our turnaround timeline was approximately one week and due to the efforts and cooperation of our employees, students, parents and the community, we were able to complete the 2019-20 school year and provide a quality education for our 5,200 students.

As dictated by Governor Ron DeSantis' executive order, we will be back open for business for the 2020-21 school year with teachers reporting back for pre-planning on August 3 followed by our students on August 12. Further direction by the governor includes a school district reopening plan designed by a task force and approved by the local school board. The task force included teachers, administrators, parents, union representatives, school board members, and the local health department.

The reopening of the school district will allow parents and students to choose between three different educational plans for the 2020-21 school year. A fourth option will be available for high school students exclusively. Each family will have the opportunity to decide which plan best suits their needs and concerns. These educational choices are the foundation of our reopening plan based on medical and public health expertise in consultation with the needs and realities of school operations.

While health and safety considerations are paramount, our understanding and belief are that social interaction and in-person instruction is essential to our children's emotional well-being as well as their educational growth and advancement. The Hardee County School District remains fully committed to navigating any changes to this situation and adjust our plans as needed. As we strive to minimize the overall effects of COVID-19, the health and safety of the entire school district remains our priority.

➤ Instructional Models

- Three choices for students: Traditional, Hardee Innovative Learning Opportunity (HILO), or My District Virtual School (MDVS)

Traditional: Face-to-face is traditional in-school learning in classrooms in assigned school Monday – Friday. There could be a move to full-time distance learning if required by the Department of Health or a Governor’s Executive Order. In the event of a quarantine, students will be provided an opportunity to continue learning during the quarantine period through school-based distance learning or paper packets with instructional support

Virtual HILO (Hardee Innovative Learning Opportunity): Students will have the same teacher as if they were in the classroom and will be assigned on a quarterly basis. Registrations will be available at each student’s home school

My District Virtual School (MDVS): Students will be taught virtually by MDVS teachers

Hybrid HILO (High school students only): Virtual education 3 days a week and face-to-face education 2 days per week.

- Students will return to school on Wednesday, August 12 instead of Monday, August 10

- **General safety precautions**

- Prior to sending children to school, via the bus, walking, or parent drop-off, it is highly recommended that families and staff take temperatures prior to coming to school. Any person with a temperature in excess of 100.4 degrees should not attend school
- Students and staff should also screen themselves for respiratory symptoms such as coughs and a shortness of breath prior to coming to school each day
- Students and staff confirmed to have COVID-19 must be cleared by their Primary Care Physician or Health Department with written documentation before they are permitted to return to school
- Any student or staff member traveling internationally or on a cruise ship will be expected to self-quarantine for 14 days
- Parents and visitors will have limited access to the school campuses. This includes parents walking students to their child’s classroom and volunteering on school sites

- Physical distancing will be implemented when possible and feasible throughout the school day. Schools will use directional signage, signs encouraging social distancing, and floor decals throughout
- Students and staff will wash their hands or use hand sanitizer throughout the day
- Water fountains will be closed. Students may bring a personal water bottle to school
- Six-foot social distancing is the goal to the maximum extent possible. However, a lesser distance is acceptable if six feet is not achievable to meet the needs of students. Pursuant to the recommendation of the World Health Organization, every effort will be made to maintain the minimum spacing of three feet
- If a student gets sick at school, the following procedures will be enacted:
 - ❖ Remove the student from the classroom to a designated quarantine area
 - ❖ Implement a health assessment by the school nurse
 - ❖ Contact the parent or guardian for pick-up
 - ❖ Provide information to parent or guardian on their next step
 - ❖ Report to the local health department to begin contact tracing

- **Election dates**
 - Primary election is Tuesday, August 18
 - General election is Tuesday, November 3
 - School district will be open for business as usual on both dates

- **Face coverings or face masks**
 - Face masks for both students and staff are encouraged, highly recommended and required by the school district when in common areas, hallways, traveling on school buses, arrival to school and for afternoon dismissal. The use of facemasks within the classroom will be at the discretion of the individual teacher based on the activity and proper social distancing
 - Accommodations for face mask covering protocols can be made for students and staff based on their individual health needs

- COVID-19 spreads mainly from person to person through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or speaks. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.
- Face masks may slow the spread of the virus and help people who may have the virus and do not know it from transmitting it to others
- Refer to each individual school's dress code policy for appropriate face coverings
- Face masks will not be supplied by the school district

- **Temperature checks**
 - Each school and department will be furnished with a sufficient number of thermal scanners
 - Daily spot-check temperature checks will be conducted at all schools
 - Any student with a temperature in excess of 100.4 will immediately be sent to the office where the school nurse will be contacted

- **Food service**
 - Breakfast and lunch will continue to be provided at no charge to the students
 - All food served in the cafeterias will be pre-packaged and/or bagged
 - Additional picnic tables will be purchased for all schools to enable students to practice social distancing while dining
 - Students will wear a face covering and use hand sanitizer and practice social distancing when waiting in line for food
 - At the elementary school level, a number of classes will have their meals in their classrooms on a rotating basis
 - Daily deep-cleaning and sanitizing of all cafeterias and kitchens will be standard practice
 - Students will be assigned the same seats on a daily basis to enable contact tracing if needed

- **Transportation**

- ✓ Seating charts will be created to facilitate coordinated loading & unloading
- ✓ Air flow throughout the buses will be increased by opening selected windows
- ✓ Nightly disinfecting will be performed
- ✓ Bus drivers will disinfect handrails, seat tops, and entrance doors between runs
- ✓ Appropriate signage and seat markings will be placed on each bus
- ✓ While waiting to be picked up by a school bus, students must practice social distancing and wear a face covering
- ✓ Students will be required to wear face masks while riding on a school bus
- ✓ Increased education for bus drivers on cleaning and disinfection procedures and COVID-19 symptoms will be provided
- ✓ Trained employees will deep clean buses each evening. The buses will be misted with disinfectant to include the air conditioning vents

➤ **Classrooms and the school day**

- ✓ Physical distancing will be implemented when possible
- ✓ Keep students in cohort groups whenever possible
- ✓ Serve meals in smaller group settings and various locations throughout the campus
- ✓ Space desks further apart and facing the same direction when feasible. This may involve the removal of unnecessary furniture and items from the classroom
- ✓ Stagger lunches, recesses and other transition times
- ✓ Refrain from hosting large gatherings such as assemblies and orientations. These gatherings can be done in smaller groups or through a virtual method
- ✓ Limit the use of shared materials and spaces
- ✓ The school district will determine additional considerations and supports needed for students and staff with disabilities and complex medical needs to ensure the safety of these students and the individuals providing services to these students
- ✓ The school nurse will have a designated isolation area in the event that a child or a staff member comes to school and presents COVID-19 symptoms

➤ **Technology**

- ✓ Guidelines have been developed that promote secure, effective, and consistent use of instructional time and platform features that ease navigation for students and parents to content, lessons, assignments, and announcements
- ✓ Virtual education options provide for a fluid transition back to face-to-face instruction once parents are comfortable having their child return to school
- ✓ Each student will be assigned their own Chromebook to help eliminate contamination from student to student
- ✓ Teachers will be utilizing Google Classroom or other learning management systems as the platform for learning for all students
- ✓ Due to the heavy reliance being placed on the use of technology for learning, it is important that students fully charge their Chromebook at home each evening to ensure that they have a functioning device for the following school day
- ✓ Additional training will be provided to classroom teachers on the proper and effective usage of the virtual learning system
- ✓ Digital and virtual learning will be an academic recovery tool for students who may become ill and/or who need to quarantine during the school year

➤ **Sanitation & cleaning**

- ✓ Schools will follow disinfection procedures and guidelines in accordance with CDC recommendations for cleaning and disinfecting classrooms, workspaces, and common areas
- ✓ Custodial staff will work during each school day to support the learning environment
- ✓ Custodial staff will work between student cohorts to clean and disinfect all high-touch surface throughout the school
- ✓ In the event of a COVID-19 confirmed positive, the facilities department will initiate an electrostatic spray cleaning of a school
- ✓ Student desks and chairs will be cleaned with a disinfectant between class changes at the secondary level

- ✓ Hand sanitizer will be available to students and staff throughout each school building
- ✓ Custodial staff will deploy after-hours high-touch surface disinfection of classroom spaces with hospital-grade misting machines
- ***These procedures could possibly change based on updated, revised, or new recommendations from the Hardee County Health Department, Florida Department of Health, CDC, or a Governor's Executive Order***

Hardee Innovative Learning Opportunity (HILO)

➤ **Attendance**

Students will be expected to be in attendance on a daily basis and complete their work during the regularly scheduled school day. Students will sign-in for each class through a virtual platform. Failure to do so will result in the student being marked tardy or absent. The Hardee County School District 2020-21 school board-approved calendar will be utilized by HILO students

➤ **Grading**

In both the traditional school and the HILO program, student work will be graded utilizing the same standards and requirements. There will be not be a lower expectation of student work if enrolled in the HILO program

➤ **Fidelity Declaration**

Students and parents will be required to sign an agreement confirming that the student assignments and assessments are the exclusive work of the student and were not completed by either a parent or another person. Parents will be a part of the educational process by ensuring that their child completes the program's requirements

➤ **Testing & Assessments**

A testing and assessment center will be implemented for students to complete their assessments in a proctored situation monitored by school district personnel. Dates, times, and the location will be announced as students register for their course assessments

➤ **Teacher Contact Hours**

HILO teachers will be available for student and/or parent conferences during designated teacher office hours. Teachers are not expected to conference in the evening or on weekends

➤ **Technology Concerns**

Each student must have access to a reliable internet connection as a Chromebook will be provided to the student. The school district is unable to provide internet access on an individual basis. Students and parents will be provided the school district contact information in the event that they need assistance with a technology issue

➤ **Teaching Staff**

HILO and traditional school students will receive their instruction by certified teachers that are employees of the Hardee County School District. The success of the student will be dependent on the support and involvement of the parent as the “Learning Coach”. My District Virtual students (MDVS) will be taught by Florida certified teachers that are contracted through a virtual provider

➤ **Misuse of School District Technology**

Each school within the district will monitor appropriate use of digital devices and software for HILO students. Inappropriate use may result in the termination of the student’s enrollment in the program

➤ **Meal Availability**

Students may pick-up their lunch and breakfast at their assigned school at a designated time and location

➤ **Special Activities**

HILO and traditional students will be allowed to participate in any extracurricular activities of their assigned school

➤ **Special Needs Students**

All requirements for special needs students will be satisfied in accordance with state and federal laws. These services may be provided at the school site or through a virtual format

➤ **HILO Program Transition Process**

Students will be allowed to return to face-to-face instruction at the end of each academic quarter unless the student has failed to complete their assignments, it is

determined that the HILO program is failing to meet the needs of the student, or that the student is considered truant

HILO HYBRID PROGRAM

- Virtual education 3 days per week and face-to-face education 2 days per week
- Depending on the student's last name, they will either be assigned to attend school on Monday and Wednesday or on Tuesday and Thursday. The days that they do not report to school, students will be expected to work virtually on their school work. The students may sign-in to Google Classroom at the regularly scheduled time of each course during the school day, however, it will not be required.
- Overall teachers would provide students 102 minutes of in-person support each week
- Teachers will be expected to monitor the learning progress of the HILO students
- A typical weekly schedule would run Even Day, Even Day, Odd Day, Odd Day with Fridays alternating between Even and Odd Days