

Clarke County
Schools
Return to In-Person
Instructional Plan
for
2021-2022



Mr. Larry Bagley
Superintendent of
Education

Revised October 25, 2021

CLARKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
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Dear Stakeholders:

As all of you are aware, schools closed in Alabama on March 16, 2020, and remained closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. The 2020-2021 school year presented its own unique set of challenges, brought about by the height of the pandemic. Instruction was provided both virtually and in-person, but COVID continued to interfere in one way or another with the educational process. Moving forward, our goal is to continue to be vigilant in battling COVID 19 as necessary, mitigate any negative effects on student learning, and return to face to face instruction.

Our recovery plan will have four main focuses which are derived from the ALSDE's Road to Recovery Plan. We will continue to make student and staff wellness a priority. We will purchase high quality instructional materials. We will provide the best professional learning opportunities for teachers. We will also address any unfinished learning that students have as a result of COVID-19.

I have no doubt that the situation surrounding COVID will continue to evolve over time. Our plan will change in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the Centers for Disease Control, the Alabama Department of Public Health, and the Alabama State Department of Education. *Revisions or references to changes in the plan can be found on page 3 of this document.*

I would like to thank everyone whose hard work and cooperation has helped us emerge on the other side of this pandemic.

Sincerely,

Larry Bagley
Superintendent, Clarke County School

Current Practices and Guidelines:

Revised 10/25/2021

As the Clarke County School System begins the 2021-2022 school year, the following guidance is offered based on recommendations by the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE), the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

- Clarke County Schools expect all students to return for face-to-face instruction for the 2021-2022 school year.
- Vaccinations are encouraged for teachers and students over the age of 12.
- We will continue to practice social distancing to attempt to mitigate the spread of COVID.
- Masks are still required for passengers and the driver on all school buses in compliance with the federal mandate for public transportation.
- Schools will be required to report suspected and diagnosed cases of COVID to ADPH.
- Individuals who test positive will be required to quarantine for 10 days.
- Everyone should practice frequent handwashing and practice respiratory etiquette.
- All employees and students who exhibit symptoms of COVID should remain at home and contact their medical provider.
- At this time, there are no restrictions on attendance at extra-curricular activities.
- If your student has been exposed to COVID outside of school, your student should not attend school for 10 days. After 10 days, if your student is asymptomatic, they may return to school. This will reduce the transmission of COVID, and help ensure the safety of students and staff.

We reserve the right to adjust this policy as additional information is forthcoming from the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE), the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Student and Staff

Health and Safety

Guiding Principles:

- ❖ We will be transparent about what we know and what we do not know yet. We will offer clear communication about what we can control and what is beyond our control.
- ❖ This plan will be updated and communicated as the CDC and the Alabama Department of Public Health release the COVID protocol for reopening schools for the 2021-2022 school year.
- ❖ We will strive to keep the student at the heart of every decision.
- ❖ We will listen to stakeholders' concerns and attempt to assist in problem solving.
- ❖ We will utilize all of the best scientific data to make informed decisions.

Communication:

We will communicate with parents utilizing our website, clarkecountyschools.org. We will also communicate through our Clarke County Schools app, Facebook, and local media.



Safety Measures for the Home: (First Screening)

- Parents are the front line of defense against spreading any contagious illness. Please make sure your child does not have a temperature each morning before sending them to school. Students should not board buses if they have fever or are exhibiting symptoms of COVID 19, or any other contagious condition. Students with a fever of 100.4 or higher should not attend school.
- Parents should teach and reinforce proper handwashing, coughing in the elbow, not sharing personal items, and self-reporting any symptoms to the teacher or the nurse.
- Parents will be encouraged to maintain appropriate contact information for themselves as well as all the emergency contacts for the student.

Safety Measures for the Bus: (Second Screening)

- Buses will display signage detailing safety protocols related to COVID
- Hand sanitizer will be available to students on the bus.
- Buses will be sanitized before each route.

Safety Measures for the School: (Third Screening)

- If a student or employee becomes ill after arriving at school, the nurse should be notified.
- The teacher should have someone (administrator, office personnel, or another available staff member) escort the student to the nurse's office.
- The nurse will hold the student in quarantine until the parent arrives. Employees should quarantine until such time as they can leave campus.
- It is the responsibility and duty of the Alabama Department of Public Health to notify individuals of possible exposure to COVID-19.

Nurse Office Visits:

- Teachers/Staff should notify the school nurse before sending a student to them to limit the number of students in the nurse's office and limit exposure.
- The school nurse will work closely with administrators in developing a plan to isolate sick children until someone comes to get them.
- Each school will have an identified quarantine area for students or staff suspected of possible COVID contamination.
- The school nurse will continue to develop Individual Health Plans for students with chronic health problems.
- School Nurses will sanitize and disinfect as needed.

Student Mental Health:

- We have employed two full-time mental health professionals beginning in the 2021-2022 school year. These mental health professionals will be available to assist students with their mental health needs.

- Students will have access to school guidance counselors to assist them in maintaining positive mental health.
- Schools will also work in conjunction with Southwest Alabama Mental Health to make sure students' mental health needs are met.
- We have established a sensory room in the elementary school which houses our developmentally delayed preschool.



Healthy Hygiene Practices:

- Students will have multiple opportunities to wash their hands each day using soap and water.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be available at designated locations on each campus and in each classroom.
- Hand sanitizer will be available to students on the bus.



Facility Upgrades Air Quality Improvements

- All air conditioner units over twelve years old will be replaced.
- All exterior doors will be replaced.
- All windows not meeting code requirements will be replaced.
- Carpet in classrooms will be replaced with tile.
- Carpeted gym floors will be replaced with tile.
- Some roofs will be replaced.
- Water fountains will be replaced.
- Necessary upgrades will be made to nursing facilities.

Intensified Cleaning and Disinfecting:

- Janitorial staff will increase the frequency and intensity of the cleaning and disinfecting of restrooms and common areas.
- A private company has been employed to perform deep cleaning on a rotational basis.
- Industrial cleaning machines have been purchased for schools who do not already have them.
- Buses will be sanitized before each route.

Social Distancing Practices:

Clarke County School staff and students will employ social distancing strategies as much as possible.

Ongoing Monitoring Practices:

Clarke County Schools will collaborate with local and state health departments to monitor cases, exposures, hospitalizations and any other pertinent data. In the event of an elevated number of cases in local health data or in the event of presumed or confirmed cases directly impacting schools or central offices, Clarke County will collaborate with the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) authorities to implement all necessary health and safety protocols. This could include short-term closure of one or more Clarke County facilities until health officials deem it safe to reopen. More information on preparations for future closures will be discussed as needed



Student Transportation:

- Signage has been developed and will be placed on buses indicating the COVID-19 symptoms students should be aware of and when they should not ride the bus.
- School personnel will notify the transportation department of any bus riding student who exhibits COVID symptoms while at school. Extra cleaning precautions will be taken with any bus which has transported a COVID positive student.
- Students who are sick or exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 will be asked not to ride the school bus until they meet the CDC Criteria for returning to school.
- The Transportation Supervisor will work closely with School Administration and parents to ensure students adhere to the bus rules.
- Students will not be returned home on their regular bus route if they are exhibiting signs and symptoms of COVID-19 at school. Parents/ Guardians will be responsible for transportation

Cleaning the Buses:

- All drivers and shop personnel will be trained and will assist with the cleaning and sanitizing of the buses.
- All buses will be cleaned and sanitized with a CDC approved antiviral cleaner.
- Buses will be cleaned and sanitized after each route.
- Special attention will be given to sanitation of high touch areas of the bus.
- A bus that has been determined to have been transporting individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 will undergo a 24-hour quarantine and deep cleaning prior to transporting students again. A spare bus will be used until the cleaning process can be completed.
- Cleaning and sanitation of buses will be monitored by bus shop staff.



One of the best ways to improve student learning and fill in any instructional gaps is to provide teachers with high-quality instructional materials and offer them the support they need to use those resources effectively.

During the 2020-2021 school year, electronic devices were purchased for each enrolled student. These devices will continue to provide individual instructional opportunities for students in the school setting.

The following list of high-quality materials has been selected by administrators, teachers, and staff to be utilized to address student learning needs beginning in the fall of 2021.

Mathematics Materials

- All consumable school supplies will be purchased for every student.
- Big Ideas math curriculum purchased for K-12.
- Savvas math curriculum purchased for Finite Math, Pre-Calculus, and Calculus.
- STAR 360 containing STAR Math has been purchased for K-12.
- Freckle Math purchased for Jackson High School and Jackson Intermediate School.

Reading Materials

- All consumable school supplies will be purchased for every student.
- STAR 360 containing STAR Reading has been purchased K-12.
- The AMPLIFY assessment has been purchased for all elementary schools.
- The new ELA curriculum will be purchased in the spring of 2022.
- Accelerated Reader has been purchased for K-8.
- SPIRE Reading Intervention has been purchased for the elementary schools.
- Phonics First has been purchased for elementary schools.
- Handwriting without Tears has been purchased for elementary schools.

Professional Development

- Eligible secondary science and math teachers have an opportunity to become a TEAMS teacher
- Eligible Clarke County teachers will have an opportunity to participate in the National Board for Professional Teacher Standards program.
- New teachers will be trained in LETRS/Science of Reading.
- Teachers will participate in ARI professional development.
- Teachers will be trained in the new ELA course of study.
- Teachers will participate in AMSTI professional development.
- Teachers will participate in professional development for all newly purchased curriculum.
- All K-3 teachers have been trained in compliance with the Literacy Law.



Remediation of Unfinished Learning

COVID-19 had a tremendous impact on the amount of instructional time students had in a classroom setting.

We are implementing the following services/remediations to counter the negative effects of COVID on student learning.

Remediation Efforts

- Summer school is being held on each of our seven campuses beginning in the summer of 2021.
- Teachers will be hired to provide high dosage tutoring during the school year.
- Extra classroom teachers have been hired to reduce the pupil teacher ratio.

- High school students have the opportunity to participate in Credit Recovery.
- High School students have the opportunity to participate in ACT Boot Camps at no cost.
- High schools are developing alternative scheduling to provide time for remediation efforts.