

DEKALB COUNTY
SCHOOLS

Re-Opening Plan for Students and Families
2021-2022

Table of Contents

- Letter to Stakeholders - slides 3
- Important Dates - slides 4
- Health and Wellness - slides 5-13
- Instructional Services - slides 14-18
- Student Support Services - slides 19-22
- FAQs - slides 23-24



Letter to Stakeholders

First, we would like to share our gratitude to all the teachers, administrators, and school personnel for their hard work during the 2020-2021 school year. Whether it was additional cleaning, carrying meals to classrooms, teaching in new ways, or any of the many other responsibilities you took on this past year, we want to thank you. We also want to thank the parents for entrusting us with your children and their safety during this unprecedented time. You were incredibly supportive and understanding. Thank you! Last but not least, we thank our students for adapting to the changes so quickly and overcoming adversity.

We can all agree that the 2020-2021 school year was anything but ordinary. It will be remembered with sadness for many of our neighbors. To those who experienced loss, our thoughts and prayers are with you. For others, it will be remembered as a time when routines were removed, and anticipated events were stolen away due to safety precautions. Although we can not undo the past, we hope that you, like us, have learned to appreciate the joys and freedoms that we have. We hope that you stop and take the time to enjoy the little moments and love your friends and family.

Our 2021-2022 school year goals are to return to normalcy as much as possible in day-to-day routines, provide high-quality learning opportunities, and continue to support all students' needs. We will still maintain many safety protocols, which will be outlined in this Re-Opening Plan. Still, we will also reduce some requirements due to the current recommendations from the CDC and the ADPH. To protect students and staff, we will continuously monitor health and safety conditions.

We look forward to another successful school year and know that DeKalb County Schools and all the communities it represents will once again overcome every obstacle.

Brian Thomas - Assistant Superintendent
Jennifer Williams - Assistant Superintendent

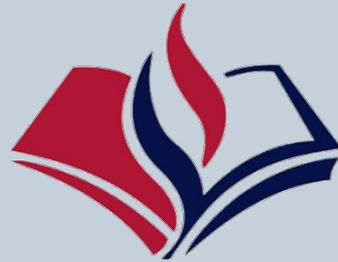


Important Dates

- July 31 - Last day to register for DVA (Students in grades 6-12)
- August 2-5 - Institute and Employee Work Days
- August 6 - Students first day of school



Health and Wellness



DEKALB COUNTY
SCHOOLS



Health & Wellness Measures - School

- Custodial staff will continue school sanitation measures to provide a safe environment for students.
- Common Area Sanitations- Common areas and surfaces(handrails, doorknobs, etc...) will be sanitized throughout the day by custodial staff. All efforts will be made to minimize contact with common surfaces.
- Classroom sanitation and cleaning will be a joint effort by the school custodial staff, classroom teachers and other school personnel.
 - The DeKalb County Board of Education will provide sanitation equipment, material, sanitizer, soap, training, etc... to ensure proper sanitation of each local school.
 - The local school custodial staff will work to sanitize classrooms and common spaces daily.
 - Classroom teachers will be provided sanitizing liquid to spot clean as needed and to sanitize desks, counters, etc...



Health & Wellness Measures - School

- Hand Sanitizer will be available throughout the school campus(entrances, hallways, cafeteria, common areas, etc...).
- Sanitizing chemicals and mopping equipment specifically designed to kill COVID-19 and prevent cross contamination will be purchased and consistently used across the system.
- Quick-drying sanitizing products will also be used to quickly sanitize areas while students are not present.
- District and supporting vendors will provide school-level guidance for cleaning and disinfecting buildings, facilities, and playgrounds.
- Air filters should be changed regularly.



Health & Wellness Measures - School

- Signage about frequent hand washing/hygiene and other appropriate measures as recommended by the CDC will be widely posted, disseminated, and encouraged through various methods of communication.
- Water bottle fillers have been installed throughout the schools.
- Third Party vendor will routinely audit necessary materials and supply chains for cleaning and disinfecting supplies for classrooms, restrooms, handwashing sinks, and other school facilities.
- School leaders will conduct and document facility walkthroughs with custodial staff and custodial services to ensure the classrooms, common spaces, and the exterior are prepared and safe for staff and students.



Health & Wellness Measures - Transportation

- The local school district has provided sanitizing equipment to each local school and will ensure that each bus is thoroughly sanitized by assigned personnel.
- Masks are required on school buses for drivers and passengers this is in accordance with the [January 29, 2021 CDC order](#).



Health & Wellness Measures- Training

Training

- Staff members will be presented Standard Precaution Training as a preventative measure to support student knowledge on how to prevent the spreading of virus and other airborne illness.
- Staff will encourage hand washing and basic respiratory hygiene, such as covering the mouth when coughing.
- Each school nurse will be a resource person for student educational activities, such as age-appropriate educational videos on hand-washing, covering one's mouth when coughing or sneezing, and how to wear a mask if needed.
- Posters will also be made available for classrooms and school hallways.
- Health tips regarding hygiene will be shared on social media and website.



Health & Wellness Measures- Parent and Home Prevention

- 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 to school. Students who have an elevated temperature greater than 98.6°F and/or are exhibiting symptoms should stay at home.
- Parents will be encouraged to give appropriate contact information and make plans to ensure someone could check student out if needed.
- The district will work with the Alabama Department of Public Health and the DeKalb County Emergency Management Agency to share vaccination clinic locations for students and locations for COVID-19 screening.



Safety & Wellness Measures- Nurse Office Visits

Nurse Office Visits

- Teachers will limit well-child visits with minor problems (ex. Keep Band-aids on hand for minor cuts and abrasions and clothing for student bathroom accidents).
- Teachers/Staff will call a school nurse before sending a student to them to limit the number of students in the health room and limit exposure.
- School Nurse will work closely with administrators in developing a plan to isolate sick children until someone comes and gets them.
- School Nurse will continue to develop Individual Health Plans for students with chronic health problems.
- School Nurse will assess the student and take appropriate actions.
- School Nurse will sanitize and disinfect as needed.
- **Only sick students will be sent home. The Alabama Department of Public Health is the only entity that will quarantine students or staff due to being a close contact.**



Safety & Wellness Measures - Extra-curricular

- All athletic teams, band, cheer, academic clubs will follow guidance as applicable during meetings, practices, transportation, competition and other organized activities provided by the AHSAA, ADPH, ALSDE and the Dekalb County Board of Education.
- Only Essential Personnel should be directly involved on sidelines or club-based practices, competitions, etc..



Instructional Services



DEKALB COUNTY
SCHOOLS



What type of instruction will my child receive as they enter school in August?



Traditional Instruction

- All students in grades PK-12 can participate in traditional instruction.
- Traditional-learning students are anticipated to participate in on-campus instruction for the duration of the year; however, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, students enrolled in traditional learning may be required to transition to remote learning led by the student-assigned classroom teacher.
- Students who are new to the system will enroll through the county registrar. [Information](#) is available on the website.



Virtual Instruction

- DeKalb Virtual Academy (DVA) is an online instructional opportunity for students in grades 6-12.
- DVA is a rigorous program in which most learning takes place at home.
- Some tests are required to be taken at the virtual academy at 1724 McCurdy Ave N, Rainsville.
- The application period is open from June 1 through July 31.
- To enroll visit www.dekalbk12.org or use the [application link](#).



Learning Tools

- In 2020, DeKalb County Schools implemented a 1-to-1 Chromebook Initiative.
- All students in grades 3rd-12th in both traditional and virtual learning will be provided a Chromebook upon meeting all requirements and completion of the [Chromebook Usage Agreement](#).
- A [Spanish version of the Chromebook Usage Agreement](#) is available.
- Chromebooks will be used to support both in-person instruction and virtual learning.
- In the event a school or multiple schools transition to remote learning, students will use Chromebooks to receive instruction from classroom teachers.



Learning Tools Continued

Key Points

- Each student and their guardian must read and sign the [Chromebook Usage Agreement](#).
- When Chromebooks are distributed during the allocated time at the beginning of each school year, each student must pay the annual Technology Usage Fee. The fee will be \$50 for the first child in each household (primary place of residence) and \$25 for each additional child within the same household. For students receiving free or reduced lunch, the fee will be \$25 for the first child in each household (primary place of residence) and \$25 for each additional child within the same household. **(This fee is WAIVED for the 2021-2022 school year.)**
- Students shall be responsible to pay for and replace any items of the One-to-One gear that is permanently damaged due to carelessness, loss, or negligence.
- At the end of a student's seventh and twelfth-grade year, ownership of the One-to-One gear may be transferred to the student, or their guardian if the student is under 18 years of age, provided certain criteria is met.
- The full policy and procedures may be viewed [here](#).



What are the expectations for student attendance during the 2021-2022 school year?

- Students who attend traditional school will be expected to attend on a regular basis in accordance with the board-approved attendance policy. The local school administration will consider extenuating circumstances related to COVID-19.
- If traditional school transitions to a remote learning environment, attendance will be taken through participation in the assigned remote learning activities.
- Virtual students will utilize activity and participation through the virtual curriculum as attendance.
- Students who are absent should timely submit a note for their absence to the school administrator in accordance with board policy.
- In the case of COVID-related absence, the student is strongly encouraged to notify the school administrator and submit a physician's note in a timely manner to the school.

Student Support Services



DEKALB COUNTY
SCHOOLS



Will any changes be made to the breakfast and lunch program due to COVID-19?

- Outside visitors and/or family guests will not be allowed to dine in the school cafeteria.
- DeKalb County Schools that participated in student self-service will return to self-service.
- Cafeteria workers will monitor the serving lines to ensure students are practicing safe food service.
- Students will be required to sanitize their hands before entering the serving line.
- After each group of students, cafeteria workers will replace the utensils used to serve the food with clean, sanitized utensils as well as clean and sanitize the surfaces of the serving line.
- Families are encouraged to prepay to reduce and/or eliminate the handling of money. [EZSchoolPay](#)
- Should school(s) transition from traditional learning to remote learning due to COVID-19, the system will endeavor to provide students with meals upon request. A plan for preparation and delivery will be provided.



Social & Emotional Well-Being Support

- DeKalb County Schools is committed to providing the supports students and families social and emotional well-being. The district employs two full-time social workers and has a third social worker through a grant. Social workers provide resources to families, complete home visits, and support students.
- The district also partners with the Children Advocacy Center (CAC). Counselors employed by the CAC provide counseling services at each school location upon parental approval.
- We also have school counselors who are trained to meet student needs.
- More information is available at <https://dekalbcounselors.com/>.



Student Services Support

- DeKalb County Schools will continue to provide appropriate accommodations and services for children with disabilities, English learners, migratory, homeless, and children in foster care.



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Are students required to wear a mask?

A: On school buses, students and drivers are required to wear masks. At all other school functions, students will not be required to wear masks but can choose to wear masks at their discretion. This is subject to change if a state health order mandates the wearing of masks.

Q. What will determine if a transition to remote learning is necessary?

A. Currently, no guidance has been presented from the ALSDE, ADPH or the CDC regarding an infection rate that would trigger a transition to remote learning. Decisions will be made regarding the transition from traditional learning to remote learning based on consultation and guidance from ADPH, ALSDE, and CDC.



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: If a student or teacher test positive for COVID-19, will the entire class be asked to quarantine?

A. DeKalb County Schools will not quarantine students who have come into contact with a positive case. The Alabama Department of Public Health will notify families if a student is required to quarantine.