



Hale County School System

Return to In-Person Instruction Plan

2021-2022



Hale County Schools Return to In-Person Instruction Plan

- This document is intended to provide guidance and information regarding the in-person instruction of our schools and will be updated as needed.
- The purpose of this instructional plan is to provide a guaranteed and viable curriculum for all students in the Hale County School System.
- This plan will allow students to participate in a traditional school setting or Hale County Virtual Academy (Grades 9-12).
- The health and welfare of our students and staff is a top priority.

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

The Hale County School System is committed to providing high-quality instruction, emotional support, and a safe learning environment for all students. We are looking forward to the 2021-2022 school year and are working diligently to embrace a plan that meets the needs of students and staff. We know that we cannot anticipate every challenge that may be forthcoming in the year ahead, but we will be working closely with health experts, state officials, school leaders, industry specialists, families, and others to be as prepared as possible. We thank you for your continued support, and together we will make this a successful school year!

Michael C. Ryans, Superintendent

Disclaimer

The information provided in this document does not and is not intended to constitute legal advice. Instead, information is for general purposes only and does not constitute the most current legal regulations. All liability with respect to action taken or not taken based on this document's contents are hereby disclaimed. The content in this document is provided "as is." No representations are made that the content is error-free. The document is not an exhaustive list of every action that Hale County Schools will need to return to school or to remain at school. We will follow the guidance of the Alabama Department of Education and hope to meet the needs of our community and be responsive to those needs.

- Note: Due to the unpredictability of COVID-19, this plan is subject to change prior to the opening of school as well as while school is in session.

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Teaching and Learning Guidelines

Standard Practices

Implement standard operating procedures along with the following preventative measures:

- Provide hand sanitizer or hand soap for students/employees.
- Conduct cleaning of classrooms and high-touch surfaces daily.
- Limit sharing of items and other supplies.
- All students will follow the Board approved school year calendar.
- Establish an academic baseline:
 - Administer formative and benchmark assessments throughout the school year.
 - Monitor students' progress and academic plan throughout the school year (IEP, 504, RTI, GEP, IELP, etc.)
- Provide additional instructional supports to at-risk students.
- Conduct meetings (for staff, departments, special services, parent-teacher conferences, etc.) remotely when possible.

School Options For the 2021-2022 School Year

- Traditional Learning: Students in Grades Pre-K - 12 will take place in the classroom and may involve combination of paper and digital tools.
- Virtual Learning: Students in Grades 9 - 12 may apply for the Hale County Virtual Academy.
 - If accepted to be enrolled in the Hale County Virtual Academy, students (Grades 9 - 12) will be assigned coursework that comes completely from a digital platform (ACCESS) and is facilitated by ACCESS instructors. HCVA's deadline to apply is July 30, 2021.
 - Students in Grades 9th - 12th may choose traditional or virtual learning. The Hale County Board of Education provides a virtual learning education option for Grades 9 - 12 that includes, at a minimum, all courses that are needed to obtain a high school diploma. Courses will be delivered through the Alabama State Department of Education ACCESS program.

Instructional Options

Traditional Learning

- Students in Grades K-12 in traditional learning will receive an electronic device upon meeting all requirements and completion of the Electronic Device Usage Agreement.
- Students will use the device to participate in learning activities.
- Students must abide by all policies and procedures when utilizing the device.

Hale County Virtual Academy (Grades 9 – 12)

- Students (Grades 9 - 12) accepted in the Hale County Virtual Academy will receive an electronic device upon meeting all requirements and completion of the Electronic Device Usage Agreement.
- Students (Grades 9 - 12) will use the devices to access the online instructional program ACCESS.
- Students must abide by all policies and procedures when utilizing the device.

School Procedures

Each School will have a plan for the following topics. However, typical guidance is as follows:

Morning Arrivals-

- Students will report to the designated areas. Procedures will be determined by the school principal.

Elementary Transitions-

- The local school will develop a transition plan based on their number of students and facility layout.

Elementary Snack-

- Elementary students will be assigned a specific time and location whereby they will order and receive their snack.

Middle and High School Transitions-

- The local school will develop a transition plan based on their number of students and facility layout.

Middle and High School Break-

- Middle and High School students will be assigned a specific time and location whereby they will order and receive their snack.

Assemblies-

- Given that social distancing guidelines and post-assembly sanitation requirements are maintained.

*****Social distancing school procedures should be determined in conjunction with ALSDE and the ADPH.**

School Procedures

The following revisions will apply for the 2021-2022 school year.

- PE - Physical Education classes will resume as normal, with appropriate sanitizing and cleaning procedures.
- Transportation- See Transportation for specific information.
- Water fountains- Water Fountains will be utilized for the 2021-2022 school year with appropriate sanitizing and cleaning procedures and schedules.
- Restroom Sanitation- Restrooms will be cleaned following standard procedures and schedules.
- Lockers - Students will return to normal use of lockers.
- Library - Library procedures will resume as normal, with appropriate sanitizing and cleaning procedures.
- Classroom sanitation and cleaning will continue to be a high priority. The proper equipment, materials, and supplies to insure that the school is clean and presentable will be provided.
- The decision of how each classroom is setup and arranged will be at the discretion of the individual teacher and school administrator.

Health, Wellness, Safety, and Prevention Guidelines

Standard Practice(s)

Implement standard operating procedures along with the following preventative measures throughout the school day upon entering the building, while in classrooms, and during transitions:

- Teach and reinforce good hygiene measures such as handwashing, covering coughs, and face coverings if necessary.
- Provide hand soap or hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, paper towels, and no-touch trash cans in all bathrooms, classrooms, and frequently trafficked areas.
- Provide hand sanitizing stations throughout buildings.
- Post signage to communicate COVID-19 information.
- Clean/disinfect frequently touched surfaces and shared objects after each use.
- Ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible.
- Conduct deep cleaning of schools prior to returning; schedule periodic cleanings during weekends or school holidays/breaks (to the extent feasible).

Health, Wellness, Safety, and Prevention Guidelines

Continued

- Limit non-essential visitors and activities involving external groups or organizations.
- Limit unnecessary congregations of students and employees.
- Monitor arrival/dismissal to keep students moving to their destination.
- Follow protocols for students/employees who experience symptoms while at school.
- Visitors will remain in the lobby upon entering the building until directed by an employee.
- Establish a protocol for student arrival/dismissal.
- Conduct additional cleaning of hallways and high-touch surfaces throughout the school day.
- Designate areas of the hallway (lanes) to walk in order to keep students separated (to the extent feasible).
- Provide additional time for class changes and other transitions throughout the school day.
- Organize rooms for appropriate social distancing.

Safety and Wellness

- 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 a temperature of 100.4 or higher 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.
- Parents should discourage students from taking non-essential items to school. Items taken to school should be sanitized as feasibly possible.

Safety and Wellness

In the event a student notifies the teacher that they or someone in their home has tested positive for COVID-19:

- The teacher should notify school administrators and the school nurse.
- If the student was recently in attendance at the school, the custodian should be notified so that the area can be sanitized properly.
- The Alabama Department of Public Health will notify individuals of possible exposure to COVID-19.

Extracurricular Activities

Additional Guidance may be forthcoming.

- Students must self-report to administrators, sponsors, or coaches if they have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. The student will then need to abide by applicable protocols. Mainly, students in this category will need to be quarantined for an extended period of time. Parents and students should understand that no student who misses any school-related activities will be punished.
- Athletic practices and competitions will follow AHSAA guidelines in all regards. Information will be shared as it is received.
- 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 Hale County Board of Education.

Child Nutrition Guidelines

Standard Practice(s)

Implement standard operating procedures along with the following preventative measures:

- Provide hand sanitizer or hand soap for students and employees.
- Ensure all students/staff can wash hands before eating and after eating.
- Conduct cleaning of cafeterias and high-touch surfaces throughout the school day.
- Utilize Plexiglas shields for cashiers.
- Follow serving models that promote distancing:
 - Serve meals in cafeterias with:
 - Serving lines marked on floors for social distancing.
 - Mark spaced lines on floors for distancing to enter the cafeteria; designate entrance and exit flow patterns.
 - Prohibit food and utensils sharing.
 - Utilize disposable plates and utensils.
 - Schedule a rotation of classes eating in the cafeteria.

Child Nutrition Guidelines

Standard Practice(s)

- Occupancy in cafeterias will be reduced by:
 - Spaced seating
 - Rotating schedules
- Meals will be served in the cafeteria, or designated area; occupancy in the cafeteria will be at full capacity unless otherwise indicated by Covid-19 rates.
- Meal service will be a combination of self-service and staff-service. Service will be determined by administrators, CNP managers, and the CNP Director.
- Snack and food items will be limited to the student bringing items; no items brought from home may be shared with other students or groups.
- Water will be available for students.
- MySchoolBucks is the preferred method for deposits. There is a fee associated with each MSB transaction. If cash or checks are sent from home, parents will place them in a sealed envelope with the student and teacher name on the envelope.
- Local school CNP staff will adhere to current USDA and ADPH guidelines and practices.

Transportation

Standard Practice(s)

To safely and timely transport students to school in a manner that adheres to ADPH guidance and current best practices.

- The local school district has provided sanitizing equipment to each local school and will ensure that each bus is thoroughly sanitized by assigned personnel after each trip by an assigned employee.
- Upon entering the bus, students will apply hand sanitizer.
- Visible signage to communicate COVID-19 information.
- Students should face forward and not lean across seats.
- Eating on the bus is prohibited by federal and state regulations. (Exemptions will be granted for medical related situations.)
- All students will have an assigned seat. Consideration to students in the same household will be given priority.
- Roof hatches or windows will be open, to allow fresh air to circulate when possible.
- Each bus driver will also be provided disinfectant for spot cleaning and sanitizing efforts.
- Students who begin to show symptoms during transportation will be assigned a specific seat for the duration of the route. Upon arrival at the local school, the driver will communicate with the school administration and/or school nurse as to the observed or noted symptoms.

SEL (Social Emotional Learning)

Standard Practice(s)

- Provide resources for staff self-care.
- Provide professional learning for integrating Social Emotional Learning routines and activities into learning environments.
- Leverage staff to offer support ways that demonstrate empathy, respect, and curiosity about the child's learning and social-emotional needs.
- Provide appropriate student and parent resources.

*Additional resources and assistance will be provided from the Hale County School System and local school.

Special Populations

- 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.
- Develop a daily/weekly schedule that will facilitate social distancing, as much as possible, while continuing to meet the needs of the students as are identified in each IEP, 504, I-ELP, etc...
- Special populations will adhere to all general education guidance and protocol.
- Administrators, teachers, staff, and related service providers will adhere to all guidance provided from the program supervisor.
- Students with IEP, 504 and I-ELP's who wish to continue to receive services virtually will need to request and participate in the appropriate committee meeting to consider the appropriateness of the program for student success. This determination will be a team decision.

Special Populations

- The student's IEP, 504, and I-ELP teams will determine the most appropriate mode of instruction delivery for that individual student.
- The teams can reconvene at the request of any member to discuss progress and appropriateness of the selected program and delivery mode.
- Related services will be provided traditionally (face to face), telehealth, or direct services.
- The IEP, 504, and I-ELP teams may meet virtually or in person. Face to face meetings will be conducting utilizing ADPH and ALSDE guidelines (face coverings encouraged, social distancing, etc.).

Career Technical Education

Standard Practice(s)

- Teachers identify priority standards for course mastery, credentialing, CTE lab expectations.
- Students will travel to the Hale County College and Career Academy daily for scheduled classes.
- College and Career Academy office will work to identify and address any needs that may be associated with CTE credentialing.
- Continued partnership with local community colleges for dual tech courses will ensue.
- Instructors will be responsible for:
 - cleaning and sanitizing the lab and classroom workspace after utilization.
 - cleaning any equipment used by students after utilization.
 - documenting equipment and the workspace area used.

General Guidance

ALERT I	ALERT II	ALERT III	ALERT IV
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School System Status

The Alabama State Department of Education has recommended using the Alabama Department of Public Health's map to determine the status of schools.

- **Alert Level I** - Cases are rare, and contact tracing can be used to control the virus.
- **Alert Level II** - A moderate number of cases exist with most cases from a known source.
- **Alert Level III** - Many cases exist, including community spread, with undetected cases likely.
- **Alert Level IV** - Widespread outbreak is growing with many undetected cases.