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SY 20 - 21 Second Semester Plan for Reopening Schools

December 7, 2020
Dr. Lisa Herring, Superintendent

Agenda For Today's Update

- Purpose
 - To **understand factors for reopening** and **review the schedule and recommended process for the second semester for the APS Reopening Model** -Return + Learn
- Roadmap
 - To present an **updated plan** for how APS will provide learning options during the second semester
- Takeaway
 - APS is providing you choice to select the model that best meets the needs of their student(s) including in-person learning options

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**REOPENING FACTORS
+
KEY CONSIDERATIONS**



Why Reopen in January?

- Different circumstances than in October with timing of the surge
- Current research regarding children and community spread in schools
- APS Comprehensive Covid-19 Testing Protocol (in partnership with Health Care Experts)
- Effective launch of **in-person targeted intervention supports**, which have given us the opportunity to evaluate our mitigation strategies and strengthen health and safety protocols
- Vaccination progress
- Risks and well-being considerations for students if not reopening

CDC Indicators for Dynamic School Decision-Making

INDICATORS	Lowest Risk of Transmission in Schools	Lower Risk of Transmission in Schools	Moderate Risk of Transmission in Schools	Higher Risk of Transmission in Schools	Highest Risk of Transmission in Schools
Number of new cases per 100,000 persons within the last 14 days*	<5	5 to <20	20 to <50	50 to ≤ 200	>200
Percentage of RT-PCR tests that are positive during the last 14 days**	<3%	3% to <5%	5% to <8%	8% to ≤ 10%	>10%
Ability of the school to implement 5 key mitigation strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistent and correct use of masks Social distancing to the largest extent possible Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette Cleaning and disinfection Contact tracing in collaboration with local health department 	Implemented <u>all 5</u> strategies correctly and consistently	Implemented <u>all 5</u> strategies correctly but inconsistently	Implemented <u>3-4</u> strategies correctly and consistently	Implemented <u>1-2</u> strategies correctly and consistently	Implemented <u>no</u> strategies

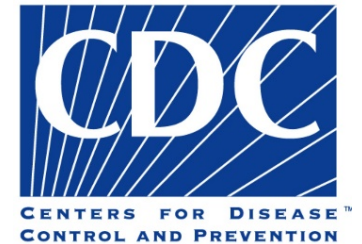
*Number of new cases per 100,000 persons within the last 14 days is calculated by adding the number of new cases in the county (or other community type) in the last 14 days divided by the population in the county (or other community type) and multiplying by 100,000.

**Percentage of RT-PCR tests in the community (e.g., county) that are positive during the last 14 days is calculated by dividing the number of positive tests over the last 14 days by the total number of tests resulted over the last 14 days. Diagnostic tests are viral (RT-PCR) diagnostic and screening laboratory tests (excludes antibody testing and PT-PCR testing for surveillance purposes). Learn more: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/resources/calculating-percent-positivity.html>



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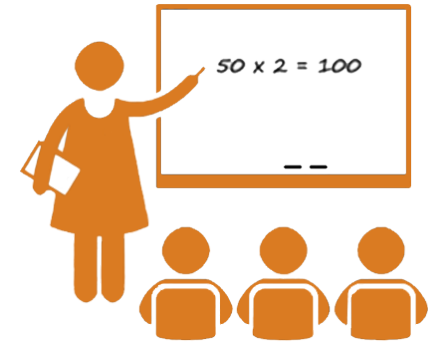
Healthcare Advisors



School Capacity for In-Person Learning:

Schools with 60% or greater return for in-person instruction will **have flexibility** to modify the instructional model.

- Flexibility is required to implement the COVID-19 mitigation strategies and safety protocols
- Parents should anticipate the likelihood of hybrid schedules for schools with a return for in-person capacity greater than 60%



The **Atlanta Capacity Dashboard** tool provides models for our school and district leaders on how classrooms and shared campus spaces can be configured to meet the social (physical) distancing recommendations provided by the CDC.

The tool features the following components:

- Classroom Layout Generator Tool
- Classroom Capacity Model
- District Summary
- Cluster Summary
- Capacity Detail

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PROTECT



GOAL

Implement learning models that promote the academic, physical, mental, social, and emotional wellbeing of all students.

APSprotects

Student, Staff + Facility Safety

Atlanta Public Schools (APS) is constantly working proactively to keep our students and staff healthy and safe, especially in our COVID-19 environment. Here are just a few of our ongoing health and safety efforts:

AIR



- Invested \$68 million to upgrade our heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems
- Serviced and monitored over 20,000 pieces of HVAC equipment in schools and buildings
- Upgrading HVAC system filters to most efficient version the system can handle
- Increasing pre-occupancy and post-occupancy HVAC run times from two hours to three hours

WATER



- Continuous flushing and disinfecting of water sources in buildings (water fountains, sinks, showers, etc.)
- Proactive testing for Legionella pneumophila
- Use of bottled water and bottle filling stations in schools

BUILDINGS + BUSES



- Use of fogging machines for commercial-grade cleaning/sanitizing of schools and buses
- Twice daily wipe downs and overnight cleaning of high touch common areas
- Use of hand sanitizing stations in common areas and classrooms
- Set building capacity levels at 60% for in-person learning to implement social distancing to the greatest extent possible
- Limited use of APS facilities by outside organizations

PEOPLE



- Developed a comprehensive COVID-19 testing strategy
- Providing personal protective equipment (PPE) for students and staff and requiring the use of PPE in schools and buildings
- Additional screening measures and temperature checks upon entry into buildings
- Practicing social distancing and other protocols per CDC guidance
- Limiting class sizes and the number of people in buildings

For more information on the District's health and safety efforts, visit www.atlantapublicschools.us/reopen



Comprehensive COVID-19 Testing Strategy

In collaboration with public health officials, community partners, local universities and healthcare organizations, APS is developing a comprehensive COVID-19 testing strategy. Testing will be made available for the following:

- Students, teachers and staff with symptoms identified through health screening protocols
- Students, teachers and staff who have had contact with someone with COVID-19 in the school or workplace
- All students, faculty, and staff with possible exposure in the context of outbreak settings

Health & Safety Guidelines (All School Levels)



Screening Measures

Students, staff, contractors, and volunteers will be screened upon entry at all buildings by trained staff. APS will strictly adhere to illness guidelines **including temperature assessment**.



Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

APS will follow PPE guidelines recommended by DPH and CDC to assist schools and other locations. The following items will be made available in classrooms:

- Sanitizer station
- Disinfectant spray bottle
- Paper Towels
- Face-masks (limited for replacement)



What are the health screening procedures?

- All students and employees will be required to wear a mask that covers their mouth and nose at all times. Daily cleaning protocols will be established to ensure that workplaces, workstations, equipment and facilities are clean. Hand sanitizer stations will be installed in common areas.
- Students and employees will participate in daily temperature screening and complete a daily questionnaire if they are experiencing symptoms or have been exposed to COVID-19 (parents will be asked to assess students before sending them to school each day) .
- The results of the self-assessment will determine if the individual should go to school/work or remain at home. Conducting regular screenings for symptoms and ongoing self-monitoring will help reduce exposure and limit the risk of spreading the disease.

Health & Safety Guidelines (All School Levels)



Requirements

APS will procure and distribute personal protective equipment for students and employees to use when in buildings (a mask, hand sanitizer, non-contact thermometers, and disposable gloves). All PPE will be purchased centrally and delivered to locations before reopening.

- Care Room
- Mask
- Face Coverings
- Gloves
- Gowns
- Face Shields
- Sanitizer
- Disinfectant
- Access to water and soap

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PLAN




GOAL

Implement learning models that promote the academic, physical, mental, social, and emotional wellbeing of all students.

Revised Reopen Strategy for Second Semester

APS developed a phased-in approach for reopening district schools for January 2021. This approach maintains the three instructional delivery models that include the following options:

1




Virtual with Your School

Designed for families who don't feel comfortable sending their children back to school but ultimately plan to rejoin their enrolled school in the future.

Based on the number of parents who choose this option, the local school will work to provide a virtual option for students.

2




In-Person at Your School

Designed for families who feel comfortable with returning their children to a face-to-face, in-school environment.

It provides the opportunity for students to return to campus and interact directly -but safely- with their teachers and classmates.

3

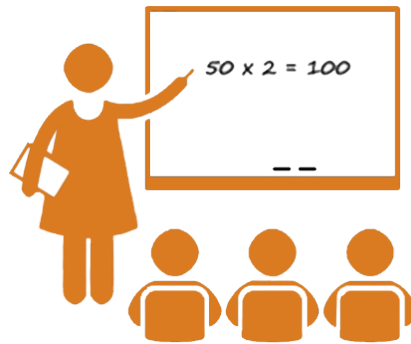


Virtual with Atlanta Virtual Academy

Designed for families who wish to remain in the virtual environment regardless of shifts in delivery models at the local school.

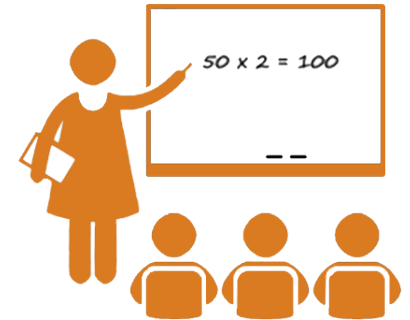
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PROCESS



GOAL

Implement learning models that promote the academic, physical, mental, social, and emotional wellbeing of all students.



Elementary Reopening Plan Student Schedule

January 25 **PreK-2 and Special Education (Low Incidence PreK through Grade 5) In-Person option begins**

February 1 **Grades 3-5 In-Person option begins**

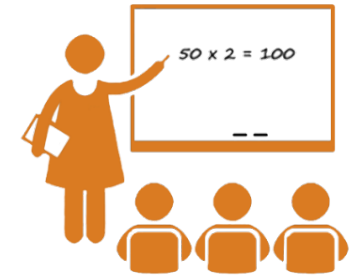
Traditional school hours begin January 25*

[M/T/Th/F]

Elementary 8:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

*All virtual and in-person students will follow the school hours as outlined

Middle and High School Reopening Plan Student Schedule



January 25

***Special Education (Low Incidence Grades 6 -12)**

February 1

Grades 6, 9, 10 In-Person option begins

February 4

Grades 7, 8, 11, 12 In-Person option begins

Traditional school hours begin January 25*

[M/T/Th/F]

Middle

9:05 a.m.- 4:05 p.m.

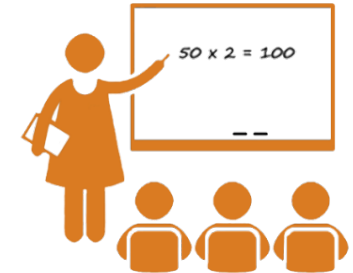
High

8:30 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.

***All virtual and in-person students will follow the school hours as outlined**



Reopening Plan-Schedule Overview



December 3-21

Intent to return window opens

January 19

**Teachers return for in-person instruction
(teach virtually from classrooms)**

January 25

**PreK-2 and Special Ed. (Low Incidence K-12)
students return for in-person learning**

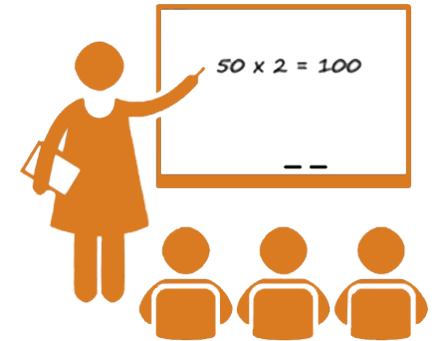
February 1

**Grades 3-5, 6, 9, 10 students return for in-person
learning**

February 4

**Grades 7, 8, 11, 12 students return for in-person
learning**

Asynchronous (Independent Learning) Days



Activities on Asynchronous Wednesdays include:

Student- Independent Learning and Intervention

Staff- Professional Learning and Student Intervention

Teacher- Planning and Prep for simultaneous teaching

Health and Operation Protocol on Wednesdays:

District- Meal Delivery

Deep Cleaning

COVID Testing (ongoing)

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PARENT INTENT TO RETURN FORM





Parent Selection and Process for Second Semester



Traditional School Families: Traditional families will have the option to select from the three learning models that best suit their student. Parents will complete a declaration form that outlines their intent for a particular learning model.

Charter & Partner School Families:

Families with students in charter and partner schools should expect soon thereafter to hear directly from those schools as to the exact plans they may adopt.

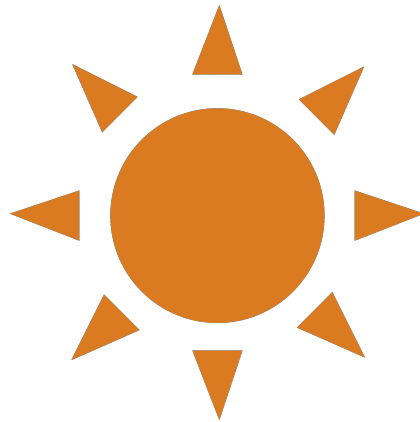
Parent Intent to Return Form for January 2021 Reopen



- Beginning on December 3, 2020, parents will have the option to select a learning model for their student(s) for the third quarter of the academic school year. The dates for the third quarter are January 19 through March 15.
- **The deadline to complete the form is December 21. Form responses may be changed until the declaration period closes.**
- **Parents do not have to go back and edit the form if they made a selection earlier this year that they wish to maintain.**
- **Parents who DO NOT complete this form by the deadline will remain in the current instructional learning model selected previously** (virtual instruction with your local school or Atlanta Virtual Academy).

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SPRING + SUMMER STUDENT ACADEMIC RECOVERY PLAN



Spring and Summer Programming for Academic Recovery and Intervention Plan

Spring Traditional Schools Academic Intervention:

Schools will continue school-based interventions based on the identified needs of their students (inclusive of mental health, wellness, and behavior supports)

Summer Traditional Schools Academic Recovery/Intervention:

We are developing summer academic recovery plans to be inclusive of the following items:

- Weeks in June 2021
- Five Days per Week
- Areas of Focus: Literacy & Mathematics
- Integration of Whole Child Framework (Mental Health, Wellness and Behavior Supports)
- Comprehensive Assessment Program
- Multi-Year Implementation

***Note – Academic Recovery Programming will continue during the 21-22 academic school year.

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Appendix

After we return to school (hybrid or full-time model), what is the criteria for COVID related future closings?

If the district resumes in-person learning, the decision to return to virtual instruction will take into account a number of factors in addition to levels of community transmission (spread), such as:

- the importance of in-person education to the social, emotional, and academic growth and well-being of students;
- whether cases have been identified among students and staff; (including the number of cases and any reported outbreaks)
- other indicators that local public health officials are using to assess the status of COVID-19 in their area (including COVID testing sites, hospitalizations, deaths, percentages of new positive cases, etc.); and
- whether student and staff cohorts have been implemented within the school, which would allow for the quarantining of affected cohorts rather than full school closure.

After re-opening, what will outbreak related closures look like?

According to DPH, “A COVID-19 outbreak in a school setting is defined as: Two or more laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases among students or staff with illness onsets within a 14-day period, who are epidemiologically linked (e.g., have a common exposure or have been in contact with each other), do not share a household, and were not identified as close contacts of each other in another setting during standard case investigation or contact tracing.” If an outbreak is confirmed, school closures will be implemented for the timeframe designated by local public health officials.

What happens if someone tests positive for COVID?

If a student, teacher or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 and has exposed others at the school, classrooms and office areas may need to close temporarily as students, teachers, and staff isolate and the area is cleaned. In consultation with the local public health department, the school district may also decide whether school closure is warranted, including the length of time the closure may be necessary.

Who will need to quarantine?

- In the event of an identified positive case of COVID-19, all close contacts (as identified by case investigation in collaboration with health services) must be excluded (recommended for quarantining) from the school until fourteen days after last contact with the positive case (usually last day the case attended). If a close contact becomes ill and is diagnosed with COVID-19, they must remain excluded for their isolation period and until told they are no longer contagious.
- If co-horting was practiced so that the positive case would have only had contact with those in the same classroom, the other teachers, staff and students in the school do not need to be quarantined.
- If classes were not co-horted, the school needs to assess everyone in the school that the positive case may have come into contact with and exclude them for the 14-day quarantine period.

What is the time frame for reporting exposures to parents?

Once a positive case has been identified, parents are contacted within the same day if possible (not to exceed a period of 24 hours) to inform them of potential exposures. Written communication is sent per our procedures for notification that include the date of exposure, length of quarantine period and public health resources.