CULLMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS BETTER TOGETHER

Return to In-Person Instruction Plan for 2023-2024



#CullmanCountySchoolsBetterTogether

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Introduction: Letter from Dr. Barnette

The past 18 months have been unprecedented to say the least. Everyone in Cullman County has worked hard over the past year to have as much face-to-face instruction as possible and have as normal as possible extracurricular activities. I so appreciate our Cullman County families, students, faculty, and staff for their dedication to making 2020-2021 a successful school year.

The challenge before us, leading into the 2021-2022 school year, is to return to full in-person instruction and make sure all our students' needs are met academically, socially, and emotionally.

To be very clear, the 2021-2022 school year will still be a challenging year as we close the gap on learning lost during the pandemic. But, once again, please remember with great challenges, come great opportunity and rewards. I know that our teachers are up to this challenge and this plan lays the foundation to have face-to-face instruction throughout this school year.

In closing, this document is not all-inclusive, but rather is meant to serve as a tool to support your work in making the 2021-2022 school year successful. While we will use what we have learned during the pandemic to improve learning, it is important to me to create a normal-as-possible school year for our students. I look forward to the new school year and know through our collective efforts we will serve the students of **Cullman County Schools better together.**



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Cullman County Schools Traditional and Virtual Learning

Parents may select between two options for students to receive instruction for the 2023-2024 school year.

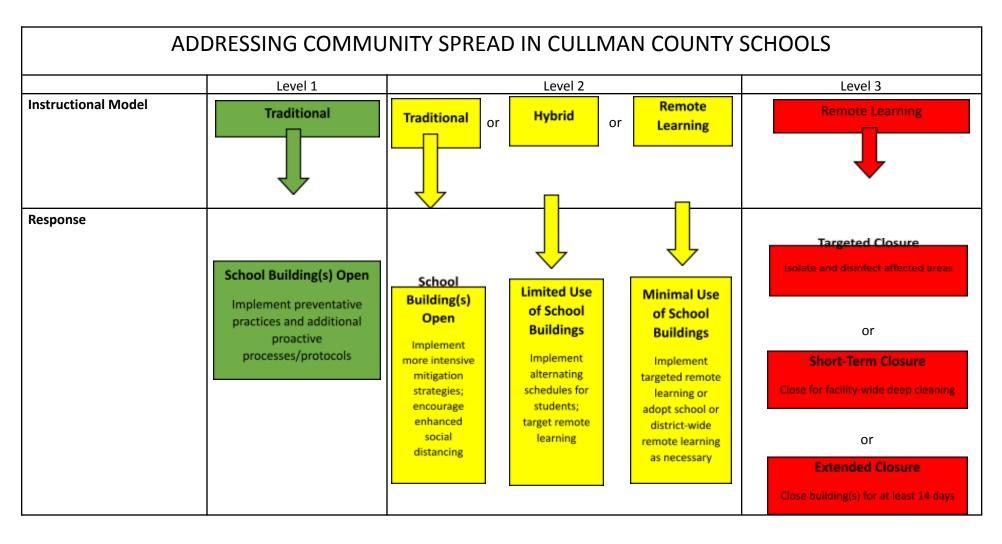
Traditional Learning

- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, traditional learning students may be required
 to transition to hybrid or remote learning students, not to be confused with
 virtual learning which is a separate program. Classroom teachers will be
 responsible for instruction (Seesaw, Google Classroom/Google Meet).
- The students of parents who select the traditional learning option will return to school and will receive face-to-face instruction from classroom teachers.
- Students who are new to the system will enroll at the local school.
- Students enrolled in traditional learning may transition to hybrid or remote learning throughout the school year.
- Students who enroll in traditional learning will remain in traditional learning for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year unless an exception is granted due to extenuating circumstances.

Virtual Learning

- Students enrolled at CCVA are assigned coursework that comes completely from a digital platform and is facilitated by CCBOE instructors.
- It is the principal's discretion whether students attend the school in an on-campus manner under certain circumstances.
- Applications can be found on the CCBOE website.
- Students enrolled in CCVA, will be required to complete the program for a minimum of one semester.





Definitions Recommendations regarding face Hand sanitizers should contain at least Ensure safe and correct application of disinfectants and coverings differ based on the level of 60% alcohol and only used with staff **Face Coverings** Clean/Disinfect Hand Sanitizer community spread and can be found and older children who can safely use keep out of reach of children. throughout this document. Information hand sanitizer. Hand soap should be should be provided to staff, students, and used for younger children. families on proper use, removal, and washing of cloth face coverings. Any policy regarding face coverings should be



sensitive to the needs of students and staff with medical issues that make the wearing of a face covering inadvisable

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Level 1 Cullman County Schools will: Personal Hygiene: • Teach and reinforce good hygiene measures such as handwashing, covering coughs, and face coverings. • Provide hand soap and hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. • Allow students and staff to bring hand sanitizer to use from home. • Allow students to wear appropriate face masks/covering, and other appropriate PPE as desired. Masks/PPE should be free of inappropriate or offensive messages/images. • Teachers and staff are welcome to wear masks at their general discretion for their safety during the school day. Any required use of masks will be governed by the Alabama Health Order as directed by Governor Kay Ivey. • Contract tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine in collaboration with health departments. Facility Sanitation: • Post signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate about COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols. • Provide teachers with appropriate PPE, foggers, and other preventative supplies. • Maintain a comprehensive schedule for sanitation of facilities (door handles, stairwells, faucet handles, playground equipment, light switches, desks, tables, chairs, keyboards, cafeteria tables, etc.) • Clean/disinfect frequently touched surfaces at least daily and shared objects after each use.	In addition to Level 1 precautions, Cullman County Schools will: Provide masks and other appropriate PPE to staff. Promote frequent hand washing and sanitation breaks. Limit sharing of personal items and supplies such as writing utensils Keep students' personal items separate and in individually labeled cubbies, containers, or lockers. Limit use of classroom materials to small groups and disinfect between uses or provide adequate supplies to assign for individual student use. Avoid shared use of any items that cannot be easily cleaned and disinfected (stuffed toys, clay, etc.).	In addition to the other precautions, Cullman County Schools will: • Use social media and other communications to inform parents, students, and staff about COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures, good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols.

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HOOL BUILDINGS		Level 1 Cullman County Schools will: Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as: Post signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate about COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols. Provide hand sanitizer for students and staff.	In addition to Level 1 precautions, Cullman County Schools will: Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as: Student pick up/drop off: staggered entry and release (by grade, class, or bus numbers), marked spacing for pickup. Mark spaced lines to enter the building and designate entrance and exit flow paths.	In addition to the other precautions, Cullman County Schools will: School buildings that are operating at targeted closure; only allow essential staff to report in-person to carry out functions that are necessary. • District/school leaders will remain vigilant and purposeful as they determine roles, responsibilities, and reporting requirements for staff, refraining from blanket reporting requirements.
TRANSPORTING STUDENTS		preventative measures such as: Equipment/Vehicle: Clean and disinfect buses and/or county vehicles prior to route/trip. Clean frequently touched surfaces such as door handles, arm rest, grab handles, etc. Air out buses when not in use. Ensure ventilation of the bus and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible, as long as this does not pose a safety or health risk to students or staff. Hygiene Hand sanitizer is provided for students and bus drivers and allow hand sanitizer brought from home. Parents will screen students before leaving home and self-report symptoms of illness to school. Leave the first two seats behind the driver open, if possible A seat will be designated for a student who is ill if needed.	Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as: • Limit field trips. • Encourage parents to transport their personal children. Hygiene • Provide face masks for bus drivers; encourage students to wear face masks/coverings. • Utilize spaced seating (to the extent practicable).	Student transportation will not be provided for schools under temporary closure.
		Level 1 Cullman County Schools will: Implement standard operating procedures while taking	Level 2 In addition to Level 1 precautions, Cullman County Schools will:	Level 3 In addition to the other precautions, Cullman County Schools will:
		 Bottle filling stations are available for students and staff on every campus. Conduct deep cleaning of schools prior to students/staff returning; may schedule periodic cleanings during weekends or school holidays/breaks (to the extent practicable). Ensure upgraded ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible. 		

	 Limit unnecessary congregations of students and staff. Screen students and staff (to the extent practicable): Isolate and send home if internal temperature over 100.4°F (38°C). Consider safety and privacy concerns (confidentiality should be maintained). First period or homeroom teachers will welcome students in their classroom upon arrival to school each day. There will not be a common area for students to congregate so special attention will need to be made to coordinate school arrival by transportation, car-riders and classroom teachers, who are required to be on campus 15 minutes prior to the start of school. Student supervision will be arranged by the principal. Limit visitors to the office area only Request that parents wait outside the building after following check-out procedures at the office. Implement measures so that persons exposed can be more easily traced Use sign in sheets for in-person meetings. Use assigned seating for each class. 	District/school leaders will leverage virtual tools and platforms wherever possible to conduct essential business and keep in-person reporting to an absolute minimum during school closures.
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Cullman County Schools will: Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as: Provide hand sanitizer for students and staff. Allow student hand washing before and after meal service. Conduct cleaning of cafeterias and break area and high-touch surfaces throughout the school day by staff (no students). Avoid sharing of foods and utensils. Monitor the congregation of students to ensure social distancing.	 In addition to Level 1 precautions, Cullman County Schools will: Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as: Lunchrooms should not exceed 50 percent occupancy. Mark spaced lines to enter the cafeteria serving lines and break area (to the extent practicable); designate entrances and exit flow paths. Stagger the use of the lunchroom if applicable to the school. Use disposable plates, utensils, etc. 	Cullman County Schools will: Provide meal pick-up service for schools under targeted, short-term, or extended closure.

 Limit food sold in the break/snack stand to prepacked food, as much as possible. Encourage families to pay online. 	 Meals will be offered as pre-portioned, grab-and-go. Provide a plastic cup of water served by the CNP staff, however refills will not be allowed. Request students to recite their lunch number instead of entering it on a keypad. Lunchrooms will be off limits to anyone other than essential personnel. Alternative Serving Models: Serving meals/break in classrooms Serving meals/break in cafeterias with: Spaced serving lines (marked on floors) Spaced seating (utilize outdoor space as practicable and appropriate). Pre-packaged boxes or bags for each student instead of traditional serving lines. 	
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Cullman County Schools will: Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as: • Encourage social distancing. • Specialists, labs, libraries, and other specialized services or locations will be thoroughly cleaned between each group of students.	In addition to Level 1 precautions, Cullman County Schools will: Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as: • As able, specialists, labs, libraries, and other specialized services or locations should be brought to the classrooms instead of having students' transit to those locations. • Limit the mixing of groups to the extent practicable • Utilize static grouping of students with teachers rotating to classrooms. • Plan staggered class (ex: by hall, odd/even room numbers, grade/discipline) changes to decrease number of students in hallways at one time. Additional procedures that may be considered: • Utilize a reduced number of transitions in the daily schedule. • Limit the mixing of groups to the extent practicable • Utilize scheduling modifications of A/B rotations. Students with a last name beginning with the letters	Cullman County Schools will: Suspend in person instruction and implement remote learning for students if COVID-19 metrics worsen significantly.

		 A-K will be Group A. Students with a last name beginning with the letters L-Z will be Group B. Households with multiple last names will follow the last name of the oldest child. Group A will attend school on Monday and Tuesday, Group B will attend school on Thursday and Friday. Teachers and staff will attend school Monday – Friday. Have the same group of students stay with the same staff (all day for young children and as much as feasible for older children.) CATA, CARE, CDC schedule may discontinue. 	
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
GROUP GATHER RINGS:	Cullman County Schools will: Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as: • Continue to encourage social distancing when practical. • Adhere to Alabama High School Athletic Association Guidelines for Sports and Activities.	In addition to Level 1 precautions, Cullman County Schools will: Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as:	Cullman County Schools will: School buildings are closed. • Facilities will not be available to external organizations.
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
	Cullman County Schools will: Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as: • Use the master schedule to balance class numbers as much as possible-remove unused desks and furniture in classrooms.	In addition to Level 1 precautions, Cullman County Schools will: Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as: Implement a Modified Hybrid Schedule	In addition to the other precautions, Cullman County Schools will: Schools are operating on a targeted closure of school buildings.
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Establish an academic baseline

- Administer universal screening based on district guidelines for grade level
- o AlaKiDS-K
- o STAR 360 K-3
- o Edmentum 4-9
- o Edmentum 10-12 as needed
- Teachers will analyze data from universal screening to identify where students are academically.
- Establish digital classroom assignments as a common practice to make transitioning to remote learning easier for students and parents.
- Utilize district digital platforms from the beginning of school during face-to-face instruction to develop ease of use for students. (ClassLink, Seesaw, Google Classroom, Google Meet, Edmentum, Nearpod, Into Math, Discovery Ed., Reading Horizons, Raz Plus, Flocabulary).
- Teachers will complete monthly checks via their schools' Google Classroom to indicate the standards that have been taught and the number of student mastery and identify struggling students.
- Teachers will provide a plan for remediation of struggling students with a focus on students with disabilities and IEP's.
- Benchmark tests will be completed by students identified on the district assessment chart at the end of the first and third nine weeks.
- PE, band, music, and extracurricular activities will continue
 with additional precautionary procedures.

Unfinished Learning Support

- Summer Learning Reading Camps grades K-3
- Summer Learning Camps grades 4-5
- Traditional Summer School grades 6-12
- After-school tutoring support
- Intervention/Transition classes provided by additional instructors.
- Sp. Ed. support provided by additional instructors and aides.

- Hybrid and/or remote assignments should align with the in-person instruction and assignments as closely as possible.
- Teachers will communicate with students in remote learning via multiple communication methods familiar to those students (Phone call, email, Remind, Google Classroom, Google Meet, Seesaw, etc.) daily.
- Teacher will continue providing instruction and assignments via established digital platforms.

Support for Teachers and Families

	 High Quality Professional Development will be provided for teachers throughout the school year. District Instructional Technology Support and Instructional Coaches will be available upon request to support teachers. 		
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
SECTIVIT POSSITIVITIONS	Cullman County Schools will: Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as: Revise students' IEPs in coordination with general and special education teachers to reflect the child's evolving needs based on assessment data and parent feedback. Support schools to incorporate accommodations for students with IEPs. Make sure general and special education teachers collaborate and share IEP revisions and accommodations. Students will follow Individual Education Plans for face-to-face, hybrid, and remote learning. Students with 504 plans will be handled on an individual basis. EL students will continue to follow their LEP. Homebound teachers, staff, students, and family members will be encouraged to wear face coverings and other PPE during time of service.	In addition to Level 1 precautions, Cullman County Schools will: Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as: Students with IEP/504 plans are given the opportunity to continue in person instruction daily to address their individual learning needs.	Cullman County Schools will: All IEPs will be implemented during distance learning including related services.
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
	Cullman County Schools will: Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as: • Maintain student devices as needed to support traditional classroom, hybrid, or remote learning. • Clean shared devices as documented in the Sanitization and Personal Hygiene section of this plan. • Staff, students, and parents will be updated on access and use of new and existing instructional resources. • Teachers will be provided with professional development and support for digital instructional devices and resources as needed.	In addition to Level 1 precautions, Cullman County Schools will: Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as: • Provide additional student and staff devices and connectivity as available. • Provide email and phone support for student and staff devices. • Provide on-site scheduled drop off / pick up support for staff and student devices. • Provide a list of public resources available to support student learning.	Cullman County Schools will: ● Potentially establish additional areas with free Wi-Fi accessibility.

	 Provide on-site support for student and staff devices using the Technology Work Order System. Purchased Chromebooks for grades 2nd and 7th will continue to the next grade with the students. Utilize community wifi at the high schools' parking lots provided by Cullman Electric Coop Utilize the wifi on buses as needed. 	● Park Wi-Fi buses in common community areas.	
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
	Cullman County Schools will:		Cullman County Schools will:
	Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventat	tive measures such as:	•
ĺ	• Provide professional development by social workers, counselors	s, mental health therapist to all teachers and administrators	
	on the following:		
	o Recognize that students may experience a significant regression	on in social and emotional skills due to trauma, anxiety, grief,	
	depression, etc. (YMHFA training and books)		
	o Recognize that student behaviors can be a result of trauma, an		
	o Recognize the importance of social and emotional learning as		
	o Identify and support the participation of all students, at all tim prolonged isolation (Intervention counselor).	es, specifically during this extended time of uncertainty and	
Ĭ	Counselors will provide guidance in teacher classrooms meeting ASCA requirements and emphasize social and emotional learning.		
	• Schools will provide students, families, and staff with information and resources that pertain to mental health, well-being		
	through print, social media, and other methods routinely (Mental Health Services Coordinator). • Schools will create opportunities for students to improve self-worth and self-esteem upon returning to school.		
	• Schools will provide referral information for mental health services (School-based Mental Health Services, GoGuardian and		
	other early warning systems). • Teachers will teach advisory lessons provided by the district that emphasize resiliency, coping skills, social and emotional learning, and mental health well-being that follows the district-wide schedule (Advisory Lesson Development with		
	Emphasis on Suicide Prevention & SEL). • Counselor will administer a counseling and guidance needs assessment.		
	Counselors will keep up-to-date lessons, resources, and relevant information on guidance website pages on a scheduled		
	basis.		
	• Small group counseling will consist of the same homeroom in grades k-8 using social distancing guidelines.		
П	• Faculties will reinforce (face-to-face) the Jason Flatt Law and Suicide Awareness Information (Jason Flatt/Jamari Williams Presentation).		
	• Faculties will reinforce (face-to-face) the LEA Anti-bullying Law (the Jamari T Williams Law, Jason Flatt/Jamari Williams Presentation).		
	• Schools should ensure all families are provided with a free/redu	uced school lunch form.	
	Schools should develop a plan and assign multiple points of contact at the local school for contacting homeless and at-risk		
	students in the event of remote learning.		

	All efforts should be given to not send students to the nurses' o Schools will be mindful of student privacy and share informatio Provide EAP for all full-time employees. Level 1 Cullman County Schools will:	Level 2 In addition to Level 1 precautions, Cullman County	Level 3 Cullman County Schools will:
COMMUNICATION	Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as: Communicate opening protocols to staff and what they can expect when they return to work. Communicate opening protocols to families about what they can expect when students return to school. Disseminate (via verbal, written, digital, social media, etc.) COVID-19 information and combat misinformation through multiple channels to staff, students, and families. Ensure that families can access communication channels to appropriate staff at the school with questions and concerns. District and school websites will be updated to include the In-person Instructional Plan. Utilize the Media & Communications Specialist to maintain effective lines of communication with parents and all stakeholders. Communication training for office personnel by AASCS will be provided to each school.	Schools will: Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as: If schools are operating on A/B rotation Schedule: • Teachers will communicate with students via multiple classroom communication methods familiar to those students (Phone call, email, Remind, Google Classroom, Google Meet, Seesaw, etc.) daily during regular school hours. • Teachers will communicate to parents the expectations for online learning, assignments, testing. • Schools will educate parents and families on ways to access digital resources for online learning as needed. • Administration will ensure local announcements are communicated to students and families a minimum of 2 times a week. • Post signage in main entrances and in key areas throughout school buildings and facilities to remind students and staff to use face coverings, wash hands, and stay 6 feet apart whenever possible. • Checklist will be posted at entrances stating the criteria for entering the building. • Signs will be made available in English and Spanish.	 Teachers will communicate with students via multiple classroom communication methods familiar to those students (Phone call, email, Remind, Google Classroom, Google Meet, Seesaw, etc.) daily during regular school hours. During targeted closure of schools, district and local administrators will communicate with students, families, and staff on a weekly basis.

Additional procedures will be provided at each local school campus.