



Whitefield Public School

# Return to LEARN 2.0 – Safe Return & Continuity of Services Plan 2023-2024

Updated 6/22/23

After successfully returning to learn in a traditional in-person format during the 2020-2021 school year, Whitefield Public School will remain open for in-person learning for the 2023-2024 school year. In an effort to ensure that every student receives the best education possible, each enrolled student will participate in traditional in-person learning unless a virtual option is approved by Whitefield Public School's Administration.

Whitefield Public School will continue to monitor community health and adjust this plan accordingly. As we navigate through these ever- changing times, we are very appreciative of the patience and support of our students, staff, and families. As community partners, we are all working towards the same goal: providing our students a safe, effective, in-person learning experience.

On the following pages, you will find information that will serve as a guide to answer questions that you may have about our reopening. Our policies and procedures will remain flexible as we adjust to new information.

## Learning Options

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For the 2022 - 2023 school year, students will have two options to meet their learning goals. They are outlined below.

### ➤ Traditional School

- Students who choose traditional school will return to their school site as normal on August 10th, 2023 (1st - 8th grades).
- Pre-K and Kindergarten students will return to school on August 15, 2023.
- Teachers will provide face to face instruction.
- Students will attend class in person.
- Distance learning days have been built into the school calendar to offer students a smooth transition to virtual learning, should a shutdown due to Covid-19 occur.
- Students will be provided a device if needed to continue services should a shutdown occur.

### ➤ Virtual School/Distance Learning

- ***This option must be approved by the Superintendent.***
- (Grades Pre-K through 8) - Students who choose this method will receive their instruction 100% online. This will be a fully-online curriculum and students will need to be prepared to meet all of the curriculum and attendance requirements, through frequent online login and communication with their teacher.
- A certified teacher will supervise remotely and provide support utilizing various educational software and/or Google Classroom. The software and curriculum will align with the Oklahoma Academic Standards.
- Virtual classes will begin on Thursday, August 10, 2023.
- Students will be provided a device if needed to complete their learning requirements from home.

## Transportation

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We anticipate that buses will be running their normal routes, with added safety precautions, such as maximizing air flow throughout the bus. Students will be required to adhere to a seating chart that will serve as an added safety measure. When possible we strongly encourage parents to transport their students to school to provide extra room for social distancing on buses.

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## **Masks**

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At this time, masks will be optional for students, as well as staff. We encourage parents to purchase masks for their children in the case that masks do become mandatory in the future.

## **Athletics/Activities**

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Presently, Whitefield Public School will proceed with all planned athletic and school activities, with added safety precautions in place. We will be following the guidance and recommendations of the OSSAA (Oklahoma Secondary Schools Activity Association), and will keep you informed of any changes that arise in scheduling of planned activities.

## **Cafeteria**

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Students will be allowed to eat their meals in the cafeteria with accommodations being made to encourage social distancing as much as possible.

## **Parent/Teacher Meetings**

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Our parent/teacher conferences will occur as normally scheduled. We are asking that parents do not enter their child's school building without an appointment. All individuals entering the school site will be required to check in at the office. Temperature checks may be done at that time and a mask will be recommended.

## **COVID-19 Policy**

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All recommendations for our response to the COVID-19 have been outlined in our "COVID-19 Policy" that can be found on our school website. This document has the guidelines and protocol that will be followed, should a situation arise. Again, as the COVID-19 situation changes and recommendations from the CDC change, our policy will also be adjusted to reflect those changes. You may find this document on our website [www.whitefield.k12.ok.us](http://www.whitefield.k12.ok.us).

## **Alignment with Safety Recommendations established by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC):**

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1. **Universal and Correct Wearing of Masks:** Properly fitted masks covering the mouth and nose are highly recommended to be worn on buses and in situations where students are not able to social distance during times of yellow, orange, or red alert according to the State Department of Education COVID map.

2. Modifying Facilities for Social Distancing: Facilities are marked to show the recommended 3-6 feet of distance in seating and standing areas wherever possible throughout the Whitefield Public School District. In classrooms, students are seated to minimize exposure.
3. Hand-washing and Respiratory Etiquette: Students are trained and reminded in classrooms about the health benefits of proper and frequent hand-washing as well as respiratory etiquette of covering the mouth during coughs and sneezes. Signage is posted throughout all facilities with these reminders. Hand sanitizer is available in classrooms, offices, cafeteria, and anywhere that students or patrons may pass.
4. Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities including Improving Ventilation: Whitefield Public School uses industrial misting equipment to sanitize classrooms, buses, and other seating. Air purification systems have been placed in every classroom.
5. Contact Tracing Combined with Isolation and Quarantine, Collaborating with State, Local, and Tribal Health Departments: The Superintendent has attended training zoom calls with the Oklahoma State Health Department, sometimes weekly, to be informed on the status of infections, testing, vaccines, and CDC guidance for prevention habits, isolation, and quarantine in order to keep our students and staff as safe as possible to maintain in-person learning for Whitefield Public School students.
6. Diagnostic and Screening Testing: Free COVID testing is available to all School students, staff, and families. Appointments may be scheduled through area clinics, county health department, and the Choctaw Nation Health Clinic. Whitefield Public School remains in close collaboration with the County Health Department and the Choctaw Nation who also offer COVID support to our employees for screening and for vaccinations.
7. Vaccination Efforts for the School Community: Haskell County Health Clinic reserved two days for Whitefield Public School staff and other educators to receive vaccinations in March and April. In addition, the Choctaw tribe offered vaccinations for Native students and local educators. The Choctaw tribe later extended their offer to the families of educators. We have on-going collaboration with both the County Health Department and the Choctaw Nation for COVID support.
8. Appropriate accommodations for students with Disabilities with Respect for Health and Safety Policies: At times when school is moved to remote learning due to COVID, students with disabilities are offered the option to learn in person in classrooms that

have been deep cleaned and sanitized. ESSER COVID Relief funds have been used to purchase adaptive technology for students with disabilities to use when they are required to engage in remote learning due to quarantine, deep cleaning, or inclement weather.

9. Coordination with State and Local Health Officials: Whitefield Public School has worked in collaboration with the State and County Health Departments to develop contact tracing protocols, Implementation of COVID testing, and vaccination schedules.

## Return to LEARN Plan Development

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This plan was developed through collaboration with students, teachers, parents, administrators, support staff, board members, community leaders, and public health officials. Public input was considered and utilized in the development of this plan. A COVID-19 School Reopening Task Force gathered to provide insight into concerns about bringing children and staff back to school sites in light of the ever changing COVID-19 conditions. To develop the best practices for our reopening, model plans were consulted from national education organizations, multiple health and safety organizations, as well as other public school districts.

The creation of this plan is based on two guiding principles:

1. Limit exposure where possible: Some suggestions provided by other plans are not reasonable for our specific conditions due to space, human behaviors, or budget constraints.
2. Learning must remain constant: Building on the experiences of distance learning during the school closure last spring, Whitefield Public School is ready to deliver instructions to students virtually or face to face. We know disruption during a public health crisis like COVID-19 is very likely. Although we can expect disruption during the school year, consistent lesson delivery from teacher to student will remain strong either through a more traditional face-to-face method or through virtual learning at home. Google Classroom will be the learning management system for Pre-K through grade 8. We have listened to parent requests for a streamlined virtual learning environment, and teachers have been preparing improved virtual learning with new content and accountability.