

Ware County Schools

Opening Plan

for the 2023-2024 School Year



Overview

Ware County Schools has developed this guide containing information regarding a safe opening of our campuses for the 2023-2024 school year. The document was produced with guidance from our local health partners and the Georgia Department of Education's document entitled Georgia's K-12 Recovery Plan as well as Georgia Department of Public Health's school reopening guidance document.

The information in our Opening Plan may be updated as we take into consideration revisions in the guidelines made by local, state, and federal officials.

Ware County Schools Return to School Committee

Bert Smith Superintendent	Mrs. Brenda Kirkland Nurse Coordinator	Mr. David Hitt, Principal Waycross Middle School
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Dr. Sonya Bennett Director of Student Achievement 6-12	Mr. Joe Meadows Director of Transportation	Mrs. Jeri Ray, Principal Wacona Elementary School
Mrs. Paige Coker Director of Special Projects	Mr. Dean Moody Director of Federal Programs	Mrs. Donna Solomon, Principal Ruskin Elementary School
Mrs. Mandy Harper Director of Special Education	Mrs. Laura Deen Director of School Nutrition	Mrs. Loni Hines, Principal Memorial Drive Elementary School
Mrs. Mandy Harper Director of Student Services	Mrs. Melissa Shields Title II Coordinator	Mr. Le Var Garner, Acting Principal Center Elementary School
Mr. Robert Benchoff Director of Facilities/Maintenance	Mr. Dennis Wainwright Technology Coordinator	Dr. Shawanna Johnson, Principal DAFFODIL Pre-K
Mrs. Mary Ann Chaney Director of Finance	Dr. Tyrone Kellogg, Principal Ware County High School	
Dr. Shawn Benefield Testing & Professional Learning Coordinator	Dr. Shelli Tyre, Principal Ware County Middle School	

Ware County Schools Board of Education Members

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Ware County Board of Education

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Table of Contents

- [Safety Procedures](#)
 - [Faculty and Staff Members](#)
 - [Students](#)
 - [Parents and Visitors](#)
 - [Classrooms](#)
- [Transportation](#)
- [Instructional Plans](#)
 - [Traditional \(In-person\)](#)
- [School Meals](#)
- [Athletics and Extracurricular Activities](#)
- [Collaboration with Parents and Family Members](#)
- [Communication](#)

Safety Procedures

The Ware County School District will take into consideration the recommendations provided by Georgia Department of Public Health, Centers for Disease Control, and Georgia High School Association as we develop and implement safety procedures for faculty and staff members, students, and parents/visitors.

Safety Procedures - Faculty and Staff Members

- Staff members will follow the the Ware County Schools Return to Work COVID-19 procedures.
- Staff members will self-monitor temperature and symptoms before reporting to work.
- Staff members who are sick should stay home.
- All staff members will practice hygiene measures designed to prevent transmission of COVID-19 and other communicable illnesses.

Safety Procedures - Students

- School nurses and staff will monitor students for symptoms.
- Students who are sick must stay home.
- Students who report to campus sick will be sent home immediately.
- Each school will develop procedures for clinic wellness visits that prevent healthy students from mingling with those who are ill.

Safety Procedures - Parents and Visitors

- Parents and visitors will have access to the school building.
- Parent meetings may be conducted face-to-face or virtually, unless there are extenuating circumstances preventing virtual meetings.

Safety Procedures - Classrooms

- All classrooms will be stocked with hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes.
- Heating and air conditioning units will be maintained to ensure proper ventilation and air exchange.
- Throughout the school day, custodians and staff members will clean high-touch areas, including desk tops, table tops, door handles, computers, restrooms, etc.
- Electrostatic sprayers will be utilized to disinfect classrooms, cafeterias, locker rooms, and other common areas.

Transportation

- Students who are sick should not board the bus.
- Bus windows may be lowered during the route to provide ventilation, weather permitting.
- Bus routes are designed to limit the transfer of students from one bus to another to the extent possible.

Instructional Plans

- Traditional (In-person)
 - Students will attend school five days per week on a regular schedule.
 - For quarantines and school closures, students will complete work online with their traditional teacher(s) through Google Classroom and other resources.
- Remote/Digital Learning Option (Online)
 - Ware County Schools will not offer a digital learning option this year. Families may visit <https://www.ware.k12.ga.us/page/virtual-learning-options> to learn more about digital learning.

Instructional Plan - Traditional (In-person)

- Face-to-face instruction and assessment at school takes place on school campus.
- Google Classroom will be used by K-12 teachers and students to prepare for movement from “Brick to Click” (Traditional to Digital) situations in the event of school closures due to COVID-19, weather, etc.
- Grading expectations, behavior expectations, and promotion guidelines are consistent with Ware County Schools guidelines.
- In the event of school closures or quarantines, instruction and locally created assessments will occur online remotely using Google Classroom and other resources to digitally engage students in rigorous instruction and assessment based on students’ needs (Gifted, AP, Advanced Content, Special Education, REP, EIP, etc.).

School Meals

- There will be occasions when students eat breakfast and lunch in classrooms or outdoors.
- Schools may extend dining hours/schedules in order to reduce the number of students in the cafeteria at one time.
- In the event Ware County Schools must offer services strictly online, meals will be provided to students at specific pick-up locations.
- Water will be available at filling stations. Students should bring their own clear water bottle to school.

Athletics and Extracurricular Activities

- All athletic events will be conducted under the guidelines of the Georgia High School Association.
- All extracurricular activities will take into consideration all safety guidelines recommended by the CDC and Georgia Department of Public Health.

Collaboration with Parents and Family Members

- Please support the Ware County School District and its efforts, policies, and protocols. We appreciate your efforts in helping us keep our students and staff members safe.
- Please monitor your child for high temperature or COVID symptoms daily.
- Please keep your child home if they are sick or exhibit any symptoms, such as fever or cough.
- Please teach your child good hygiene practices, including washing hands frequently and using hand sanitizer when available.
- Please support your child by watching for stress and anxiety; notify school staff with concerns.
- Please communicate with your child's teacher and school by phone, email, or text if you have questions or concerns.
- Please know we have examined all possibilities to be sure we are making decisions that are safe for both staff and students while allowing for optimal learning environments.
- Please be considerate of changes due to unforeseen circumstances beyond the district's control.

Communication

- Please visit our system website at www.ware.k12.ga.us for the latest information.
- School-specific information can be accessed by visiting www.ware.k12.ga.us and selecting your school from the Schools dropdown menu.
- We will continue to use our school and system Facebook pages, our Thrillshare call-out system, and the Waycross Journal Herald to share important updates.
- Please ensure that your child's school has updated contact information for your family.