

## Attala County School District

### Reopening Guidelines

#### Back Together – Better Than Ever

(Board approved 8/3/2020, Board approved revision 1/12/2021, Board approved revision 6/28/2021, Board approved revision 8/2/2021)

The Attala County School District is preparing for the start of the 2021-2022 school year. At this time, ACSD plans to begin traditional face-to-face in person classes on August 6<sup>th</sup> 2021 following guidelines from the Mississippi Department of Health (MSDH), and the Center for Disease Control (CDC). While crafting the return to school plan for the ACSD, our administrative team has collaborated with state and local medical professionals as well as other Mississippi districts, solicited community input, and participated in state and nation-wide Zoom meetings related to the latest updates and research data. We will continue to closely monitor the health data for our district and surrounding areas. As always, if there is any change, we will communicate via: AIMS all call messaging, district /school twitter feeds, district website, district email, Remind messaging, and phone calls or text messaging through SchoolStatus.

The research and evidence are clear that a traditional return to school is best for our students, staff, and community. Our goal is to provide a quality education, while at the same time providing necessary health, safety, and social-emotional support.

Revisions to this plan may occur to ensure alignment with the latest expert guidance from national, state and local authorities. We sincerely appreciate our stakeholders' patience as we strive to address the ongoing needs of our school district during these unprecedented times.

### **Traditional instructional**

#### **Model:**

*Schools will return to a traditional 5 day week schedule with all students and staff returning.*

### **Safety Precautions:**

- Face masks are required for all students and staff inside the school buildings.
- Students and staff are encouraged to bring face coverings/masks to use from home. ACSD will provide masks for those who request them.
- ACSD will teach and reinforce good hygiene measures such as hand washing and covering coughs.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided in all classrooms, hallways and entryways.
- All frequently touched surfaces will be Cleaned/disinfected daily and shared objects will be disinfected after each use.
- Water bottle filling stations will be available on campuses. Students are encouraged to bring clear water bottles from home to use throughout the day.
- ACSD will conduct deep cleaning of schools prior to students/staff returning.
- All students and staff will be screened prior to them entering buildings (**Isolate and send home anyone who has an internal temperature over 100.4° F**)
- Ventilation systems will be checked for proper operation.
- ACSD will follow the social distancing guidelines from the CDC and MSDH (currently 3 feet within the classroom).

### **Transportation of Students:**

- Parents are encouraged to transport their students to school to limit the number of students on school buses.
- Face masks are required for all students and bus drivers during morning and afternoon bus routes.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided for students and bus drivers.
- Buses will be disinfected after the conclusion of each route. (morning and afternoon)
- Students will have assigned seating.
- Spaced seating will be utilized. (to the extent practicable)

### **Serving meals in cafeterias with:**

- Spaced serving lines
- Spaced seating (utilize outdoor space as practicable and appropriate)
- Longer meal periods for more staggered meal delivery in secondary schools

### **High School Athletics:**

- *Follow Mississippi High School Athletic Association guidelines for sporting events and practices*

### **Visitors to Campus:**

- Protocols will be in place for visitors on each school campus.
- All visitors will be screened for symptoms.
- All visitors will be required to wear face masks.

## **Distance/Online Learning**

During times of emergency closures, the teachers and staff of the Attala County School District may have to deliver educational services through distance learning. Distance learning is defined as a technological delivery model in which regularly scheduled real-time instruction occurs during the school day where students and instructors are not in the same place. Distance learning will be conducted via, Canvas, the district's learning management system. District employees will be trained in using technology to deliver academic content in order to continue to support high quality student learning.

The District recognizes that the health, safety, and well-being of students and staff are the primary concerns during times of emergency. Educators, administrators, and parents will have to collaborate creatively to ensure students continue to have access to appropriate educational materials and continue to receive daily interaction with teachers. Teacher and student responsibilities and expectations will not change during any distance learning instruction.

Teacher's responsibilities are as follows:

- Teachers will have all required technology such as laptops or tablets with them to provide remote instruction;
- Teachers will provide guidance and feedback on class work through Canvas, SchoolStatus, or email.
- Teachers will be available for communication during normal work hours;
- Teachers shall provide daily synchronous/interactive instruction and dialogue;
- Teachers will provide instruction during the student's regular scheduled time, along with appropriate and reasonable accommodations to those who have a 504 plan or an IEP.
- Teachers will provide a minimum of 330 minutes of actual teaching, as required by Miss. Code Ann. 37-13-67 and comply with State Board Policy Chapter 56 Rule 56.2

Student's responsibilities are as follows:

- Students will be available for their courses during instructional periods and will complete assignments given by their teachers;
- Students will continue to follow the expectations set by their individual classroom teachers;
- Students will be provided a chromebook at the beginning of the year. MiFi hotspots are available for anyone who does not have internet access at home. Furthermore, there is high speed internet availability in the parking lots of each campus.
- Students will address any questions or concerns to their individual teachers;
- Students must complete a minimum of 330 minutes of actual daily instruction, in order to meet ACSD attendance requirements.

## **Distance/Online Learning**

### Students with Disabilities

During times of emergency, individual education must take place for all students, including students with disabilities. District employees will make decisions regarding distance learning based upon what is best for each individual student. The District will continue to comply with all applicable state and federal laws including the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students with disabilities will continue to receive a free and appropriate public education (FAPE), however, special education and related services may be provided virtually, online, and/or telephonically in order to maintain the health and safety of both the students and teachers.

If, during an emergency closure, it becomes unfeasible or unsafe to provide certain IEP services such as hands-on physical therapy or occupational therapy, these services will be provided online. This includes, but is not limited to, extensions of time for assignments, videos with accurate captioning or embedded sign language, accessible online reading materials, and other services through video conferencing.

Where technology itself imposes a barrier to access or where educational materials simply are not available in an accessible format, children with disabilities will be provided with equally effective alternate access to the curriculum or services provided to other students. This includes, but is not limited to, distributing print material, reading educational material over the phone, and/or audio recordings.

## Preventing the Spread of Illness

- Parents/guardians should perform an assessment of their child(ren)'s health before leaving home. If your child feels unwell, or has any of the following symptoms, please do not allow him or her to come to school and contact your healthcare provider. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea, vomiting, and/or diarrhea.
- Students, faculty, and staff should stay home when they are sick, when they have a temperature of more than 100°F, or when they do not pass the daily at-home screening examination.
- Students and staff who live with anyone diagnosed with COVID-19 should stay home from school until the risk of transmission has passed.
- Parents will be required to report positive test results to the school principal or nurse.
- Employees will be required to report positive test results to their supervisor.
- Positive test results will be recorded to the school nurse for tracking purposes.
- When confirmation is received of a known positive case of COVID-19, ACSD will notify the local health department.
- Contact tracing will be used to identify students and staff who have been in direct contact according to CDC/MSDH guidelines.
- Persons with COVID-19 should isolate for 10 days and also be free of fever for 24 hours before returning to school.
- The parents of students and staff identified as a direct contact to a known positive will be notified and encouraged to seek medical guidance from their healthcare provider.
- All federal, state, and local regulations protecting the identity and confidentiality of persons with COVID-19 will be strictly enforced.
- Everyone should practice good hygiene measures such as hand washing often with soap and water for 20 seconds and covering coughs and sneezes.
- Faculty and staff temperatures will be taken daily. Students' temperatures will be taken upon arrival on each campus. Faculty and staff will assist in monitoring students for symptoms and will refer anyone with symptoms to the school nurse/school designee for evaluation.
- Parents are encouraged to bring their students to and from school in their own automobiles.
- Hand sanitizer will be on all buses, in hallways, classrooms, bathrooms, and at school entrances and exits.
- Stations will be set up to quarantine students with symptoms.
- ACSD will support employees and eligible students in their efforts to receive COVID-19 vaccinations. Furthermore, the district will coordinate with local health care providers to ensure COVID-19 vaccinations are available for employees and eligible students.

## **Instruction**

### **Supporting Teaching and Learning**

#### **Establish an academic baseline**

- Administer formative assessments at the first of the school year.
- Conduct meetings with teachers to identify where students are academically behind.

#### **Target interventions and support**

- Provide additional instructional supports to:
  - Students at-risk of not graduating on time.
  - Students with disabilities (compensatory services).
  - Students who struggled in the prior distance/remote learning program.
  - Other students identified by teachers and parents as being behind academically.
- Address learning loss
  - Help students catch up/get ahead through Tier 2 interventions within the classroom
  - Provide additional Tier 2 and Tier 3 interventions in small groups with the interventionist
  - Provide summer school

#### **Social and Emotional Support**

- Provide teacher training to help recognize signs of anxiety, as a result of coming back to school.
- Provide training for counselors on appropriate interventions and supports.
- School district psychologist will provide interventions and supports for students.

#### **Professional Development**

- ACSD administers a needs assessment each spring to identify and address our teacher's needs with professional learning and instructional support, including those to enhance both in-person and online learning.