



Winfield City Schools' Plan to Reopening Schools in August 2021

Amended February 21, 2023

This is a live document. Please scroll down as updates are added to the bottom of the document.

The Return to Instruction Plan was reviewed and board approved
at the board meeting on February 21, 2023.



WINFIELD CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Randy Thomley
Interim Superintendent

Sonia Chism
Chief School Financial Officer

P.O. Box 70
481 Apple Avenue
Winfield, Alabama 35594
Phone (205) 487-4255 Fax
(205) 487-4603

Board Members
Tommy Bowen
Chris Carothers
James Garner
Dana Peoples
Chad May

Winfield City Schools' Path to Reopening

"The secret of change is to focus all your energy not on fighting the old, but on building the new." – Socrates.

Winfield City Schools' Path to Recovery for K-12 schools will continue to be a changing document for students and employees throughout the 2021-22 school year.

This recovery plan includes guidance from local and state health officials and is closely aligned with the guidelines released from state and national leaders. It is designed to help school prioritize the health and safety of our students and staff as school buildings are reopened in August.

Winfield City Schools' Path to Recovery focuses on the health and physical requirements necessary for reopening our buildings to our students. We will continue to provide guidance and recommendations to schools on navigating the academic, social and emotional effects of Covid-19 pandemic on our students and staff.

There are 5 Guiding Principles, based on guidance from the ALSDE, which we will use to make all planning, decisions, and execution of plans to return to school in the 2021-22 school year.

1. We will be transparent. We will share what we know and what we do not know and be clear about what we can control and what is outside of our control.
2. We will be equitable. We will center all decisions on what is best for students, families, and educators.
3. We will listen to all stakeholders.
4. We will put safety first. We will leverage science, data, and public health leadership to inform the choices that we make.

5. We will be decisive. Given the size and scope of the challenge, we must move deliberately and make tough choices. We may need to adapt and if so, we will adapt quickly.

Student success is contingent on communication and execution of the plan.

1. We will communicate and over communicate. Check our [website](#) for frequent updates. Download our App below. Follow us on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), or [Facebook](#).
2. Parents must be honest and forthright in communicating with the schools (i.e. Covid symptoms, positive test results)
3. WCS will establish processes that will prioritize safety.
4. Parents will adhere to the processes (i.e. checkouts, deliveries, etc.)

For additional guidance on addressing community spread, see the [CDC's Consideration for Schools](#).

For the latest information, all parents should download the Winfield City Schools' App using the appropriate link: [Apple Device](#) or [Android Device](#)

Disclaimer

The information in the document does not, and is not intended to, constitute legal advice. Instead, all information, content, and materials available in this document are for general informational purposes only. Information in this document may not constitute to most recent legal regulations. This document contains links to other third party websites. These sites are only for the convenience of the user. Winfield City Schools does not recommend or endorse the contents of the third party sites. All liability with respect to action taken or not taken based on the contents of this document are hereby expressly disclaimed. The content in this document is provided "as is." No representations are made that the content is error-free. The document is not an exhaustive list of every action that Winfield City Schools will need to return to school or remain at school. Guidance by the ALSDE is not mandated. Winfield City Schools has the authority and flexibility to meet their students' individual needs and be responsive to the community.

General Guidance

WCS' Persons with Covid-19

All employees and students who are diagnosed with Covid-19 must stay home for 10 days AND be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school.

Home Screening

Home is the first point in the screening continuum. WCS will educate and support families on identifying the symptoms that indicate students and staff must stay at home. Families should self-report symptoms of illness, which could include fever,

new onset cough, fatigue, runny nose, etc.) Please contact your school nurse if symptoms are identified at home.

Elementary – Mandi Ballard 205-487-2305 [Email](#)

Middle School – Holly Gruwell 205-487-6901 [Email](#)

High School – Kristy Ayers 205-487-6900 [Email](#)

Temperature Checks

All persons entering WCBOE properties may have their temperatures checked upon request. No person with a temperature of greater than 99.5 °F will remain on school property. We have purchased no-contact infrared thermometers for each extra-curricular activity, each school office, each nurse and each grade level K-8 to use as needed. All hallways in the high school will also have a thermometer available to check temperatures when needed.

Guests

Winfield City School always welcomes guest, but we will limit visitors based upon conditions established in our reopening plan and current rate of infection in our state and county.

Face Coverings

Recommendations regarding face coverings differ based on the level of community spread. Information should be provided to staff, students and 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. ([CDC Face Coverings](#)).

Currently, Governor Ivey's recommendation for our state, after April 9th, all students and faculty may wear face coverings. **We believe that our current data suggests the best interests of our faculty, staff, and students will be to begin our school year with masking in all buildings.** We will watch closely to see if changes in the data of the number of infections allow for a removal of the mask mandate.

Hand Sanitizer

Hand sanitizer should contain at least 60% alcohol and only used with staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer ([CDC Hand Hygiene](#)).

- Hand sanitizing stations have been purchased for each school entrance
- Hand sanitizer will be provided in each classroom, bathroom, and lunchroom for students to use when necessary.

Clean and Disinfect

Ensure safe and correct application of disinfectants and keep out of reach of children ([Disinfecting Facilities](#)).

Winfield City Schools will:

- Provide school-level guidance for [cleaning and disinfecting](#) all core assets, including buildings.
- Have custodial and staff review and make actionable guidance regarding cleaning and disinfection.
- Maintain facilities for normal school operations.
- Clean frequently touched surfaces including doors, benches, bathrooms, etc. with either an [EPA-approved disinfectant](#) or diluted bleach solution (1/3 cup of bleach in one gallon of water) at least twice daily.
- Change air filters regularly.
- Place signage regarding [frequent handwashing, cough etiquette, and nose blowing](#).
- Inventory necessary materials and supply chains for cleaning and disinfection supplies.
- Keep restrooms and handwashing stations supplied with soap and hand sanitizer.

Isolation Room

- All schools have an isolation room for symptomatic students.
- This will be located in close proximity to the nurse's office.

Large Gathering and Assemblies

- Currently we plan to have after school events with no attendance restrictions. Events and attendance may be limited or cancelled should conditions change.

Signage

- Picture signs indicating the following will be strategically placed in WCBOE buildings.
 - Hand Washing
 - One-way signs
 - Social distancing techniques
 - Entry, exit signs
 - Feeling ill – Covid-19 signs

Daily Activities

Instructional Delivery

Winfield City Schools will offer the following instruction:

- Traditional
 - In-person instruction
 - Daily physical attendance at school required.

Transportation

- Bus drivers will be required to wear face coverings while on their bus routes.
- School busing operations will proceed normally unless otherwise indicated
- Students will be required to wear face coverings until they exit the bus.
- Visible signage to communicate Covid-19 symptoms and students who should not be riding the bus will be displayed.
- Students should face forward and not lean across seats.
- Eating on the bus is prohibited by state and federal regulations.
- All students will have an assigned seat. Consideration to students in the same household will be given priority.
- Students participating in extra- and co-curricular activities will have an assigned seat. Consideration will be given to households and specialized groups who have worked in close proximity for a period of time (i.e. positions, groups, sections).
- Bus drivers will spray common touch points inside the bus with a disinfectant prior to the start of a route, between runs, and immediately following the completion of a run. Hand-held mist sprayers have been purchased to assist with this process.
 - This task will be performed for the morning and afternoon routes and will include the transportation of students for extra- and co-curricular activities.
 - Areas of attention are:
 - Seats
 - Isle and floor between seats
 - Handrails
 - Front leading edge of entrance doors
 - Driver controls

Arrival Procedures

- Arrival should be no earlier than 30 minutes prior to the start of class.
- Students will report to their assigned area when they arrive.
- Students should sanitize their hands after they enter the building. Sanitizing stations will be placed at student entrances and pump bottles will be inside their classroom.
- **Parents should notify the school if their child is allergic to any form or common ingredients of hand sanitizer.**

Meals

- All meal payments can be made by going to www.paypams.com

Transition Procedures (Movement)

- All students will transition to classes in one direction
 - Social distancing will be enforced.
 - Students will walk along the walls without touching the wall.
- Teachers will encourage hand washing often.
- Teachers will disinfect classroom at the end of each day.

Dismissal Procedures

- Each school will determine dismissal procedures and notify parents before school begins.
- All will strictly adhere to the guidance.

Field Trips

Winfield City Schools understand the educational and cultural values of field trips. Each field trip request may be approved or denied based on a variety of factors.

- Field trips may be approved per consideration of destination, number of students attending, and availability of buses/drivers.

Co- and Extracurricular Activities

- WCS will adhere to guidance as disseminated by governing and national entities (i.e. Alabama High School Athletic Association, etc.).
- All tickets for home sporting events may be purchased on-line at GoFan.co. These tickets will be digital and will not require the handling of cash.

Concessions

All concession stands will adhere to the Alabama Department of Public Health guidance (i.e. local city/restaurant rules apply).

After School Activities

All after school activities will follow social distancing guidelines and sanitize areas before and after use.

After school programs may close pending severity of the virus.

*This plan is not extensive and does not cover every scenario that may take place. **This plan may change again, multiple times, before and during the school year.** We ask for your patience and understanding as we make it through this year together. We will do our*

best to provide a clean, safe environment for your child. There will be challenges that we will face, but we will always have the students' and staffs' best interest in mind as we make decisions.

Amended January 6, 2022

Winfield City Schools in ordinance with the ADPH and CDC recommend the new isolation guidelines. It is recommended that if you test positive or you are a household contact you follow the 5 and 5 guidelines. (Isolate 5 full days and mask 5 full days). If you are a close contact it is recommended that you test on day 5.

If you cannot mask you must stay home and continue isolation for 10 days.

If you or the students do not follow the mask guidelines at school you will be asked to leave school.

Day of test is considered day 1 of isolation and day 6 is your return day if you are positive.

If you are a contact the day of the test of the infected person is day 1 and day 6 is your return day.

If you are a household exposure and you state that you are fully vaccinated and boosted you may return to work with mask for 10 days. If a child is vaccinated they may return to school with mask for 10 days. Both need to continue to monitor for symptoms and be tested if symptoms arise.

If you are an athlete you must wear your mask if not actively participating. It will be the coaches responsibility to ensure masking and monitor for symptoms.

Teachers are permitted to amend their seating charts in classrooms and lunchrooms as needed to protect themselves and others.

Amended March 7, 2022

This afternoon the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued updated masking guidelines. In general, in areas where COVID is posing a low or medium threat to hospitals, people can stop wearing masks.

With respect to masking on school buses, please note the following from the CDC: Effective February 25, 2022, CDC is exercising its enforcement discretion to not require that people wear masks on buses or vans operated by public or private school systems, including early care and education/child care programs. CDC is making this change to align with [updated guidance](#) that no longer recommends universal indoor mask wearing in K-12 and early education settings in [areas with a low or medium COVID-19 Community Level](#).

Amended June 28, 2022

The Winfield City Schools will begin the 2022-23 school year by treating COVID as we do other viral infections. Currently, a person with a viral infection must remain out of school until they are fever and symptom free for 24 hours without symptom reducing medication. We will not do contact tracing. If contacts become symptomatic, they will follow the same guidelines (symptom free for 24 hours without medication). We will continue to honor any Dr. excuse that extends the days of absence.

Amended February 21, 2023

The Return to Instruction Plan was reviewed and board approved at the board meeting on February 21, 2023.