



**FAYETTEVILLE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**
Since 1871

COVID-19 GUIDANCE: A PLAN FOR SAFE END-OF-YEAR ON-CAMPUS ACTIVITIES AND CONTINUITY OF INSTRUCTION

As part of the American Rescue Plan Act, Fayetteville Public Schools will post for parents and the general public a summary of its plan for the safe continuation of in-person learning and continuity of services.

Public comment on these plans is open. The final summary will be posted to the Fayetteville Public Schools website by April 15, 2021.

FPS staff members and the community are invited to make comments [here](#).

The Arkansas Division of Elementary and Secondary Education released End of Year Guidance for Schools. Fayetteville Public Schools provides updates on the Plan for End-of-Year On-Campus Activities and Continuity of Instruction below.

Students and staff members will continue to follow the [Ready for Learning Plan](#) and [Reopening Guide](#) which are available on the FPS Website, as are daily updates to the [COVID Dashboard](#).

The [FPS Ready for Learning Committee](#) has been instrumental in development of these plans and updates.

Updates to these plans, in consideration of this guidance, are below and supersede any guidance previously posted.

PUBLIC HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS

Fayetteville Public Schools will continue to implement district procedures until June 30, 2021 that have allowed for onsite learning and have limited disruptions throughout the school year.

The following district procedures will continue to be implemented in all schools and district buildings:

- Students and staff will be encouraged to stay home when sick.
- Universal and correct use of masks on school campuses
- Cleaning and disinfecting to maintain healthy facilities
- Increased air circulation/ventilation
- Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
- Physical distancing requirements
(Staff and students will seek maximum distance to the greatest extent possible).
- Respond when positive cases are identified in combination with isolation and quarantine.

The [Arkansas Department of Health Guidance](#) will continue to provide recommended practices related to public health considerations.

CONTINUED PRACTICES TO MITIGATE THE LIKELIHOOD OF COVID-19 SPREAD INSIDE THE SCHOOL

Update Regarding Masks/Face Coverings

Fayetteville Public Schools will continue the COVID-19 safety protocols outlined in [school board policy 1.19](#) through June 30, 2021. The protocols include:

- *requiring a face mask for all students, staff members, and anyone who enters any of our buildings or attends any school activities,*
- *frequent hand washing, and*
- *social distancing whenever possible.*

These protocols will remain in place until further notice.

Update Regarding Physical Distancing

FPS will continue to follow the recommendations of ADH and CDC, while promoting social distancing and accommodating as much as possible in the classrooms. FPS will continue to follow district policy requiring students and staff members to wear masks.

- CDC has updated requirements for physical distancing to allow a minimum of three (3) feet in a classroom setting.
- When possible, all classrooms will attempt to maximize physical distancing in classrooms and throughout the campus.

Hand Washing/Cleaning

Handwashing and cleaning will occur throughout the day, including and not limited to, beginning of school day and before and after recesses, lunch, and bathroom breaks.

- Schools have a hand sanitizer and/or hand washing stations with soap and water at each entrance. Students, teachers, and staff are encouraged to sanitize and/or wash their hands frequently.
- Maintain no rugs, carpet squares, or soft furnishings to ensure proper cleaning
- Buildings will continue to be cleaned and sanitized.
- Buses will continue to be cleaned.

Screening

- Screening procedures will continue through June 30, 2021
- [Campus Temperature Checks](#)

Visits to Schools

To prevent COVID-19 spread, Fayetteville Public Schools will not allow visitors in classrooms for the remainder of the school year.

Meetings

Meetings will be held virtually when possible.

Ventilation/Air Circulation

FPS will utilize [CDC guidelines](#) to increase ventilation to prevent COVID-19.

UPDATES REGARDING THE USE OF NON-CLASSROOM SPACES/ACTIVITIES

Field Trips

- In an effort to reduce the number of students on a school bus and to reduce the risk of entering other public facilities (i.e., museums, state parks, businesses, libraries, and educational programs with hands-on learning exhibits), Fayetteville Public Schools has implemented a procedure for virtual field trips only for the 2020-2021 school year.

Extracurricular Activities

Any extracurricular activities provided will follow ADH guidance for non-AAA extracurricular activities.

Student End-of-Year Events

- Student recognition ceremonies, end of year events, and/or concerts will be considered on a case-by-case basis during the remainder of 2020-2021 school year.
- FPS staff will submit plans detailing safety protocols for approval.

Athletics

FPS will continue to follow guidelines outlined by the [Arkansas Activities Association](#).

Facilities Rentals

- No facility rentals through August 2021, due to construction
- Revisit the option for some facility rentals in some buildings in September 2021

RESPONDING TO POSITIVE COVID-19 CASES IN A SCHOOL

Fayetteville Public Schools offers an online COVID-19 report form for students and staff members to report their positive case, quarantine case, and/or questions they have for FPS Point of Contact.

Following ADE/DESE Point of Contact (POC) guidelines, school nurses and POC contact Possible Close Contacts, isolate the students and staff identified and send students or staff home with quarantine instructions.

Quarantine Guidelines

Per ADH guidelines, parents of students and staff receive letters providing quarantine guidance at the time of being placed into quarantine.

Parents and staff were sent updated quarantine guidelines via email provided below:

Please see this [updated guidance from the Arkansas Department of Health](#) regarding quarantine and those who have been vaccinated:

Individuals who have been fully vaccinated **DO NOT** have to quarantine if they meet **ALL** of the following criteria:

- Are fully vaccinated (more than two (2) weeks following receipt of the second dose of the vaccine),

- Are within three (3) months following receipt of their last dose, and
- Have remained asymptomatic since the current COVID-19 exposure.

NOTE: Persons who do not meet all three (3) of the above criteria should continue to follow the current quarantine requirements after exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.

If you have questions, please contact Melissa Thomas, Director of Health Services, at melissa.thomas@fayar.net.

Educational Options

The [Learning Options](#) will remain the same for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year. Students who are in quarantine will learn virtually via Zoom or through Fayetteville Virtual Academy. All efforts will be made to ensure that students remain connected to their school, if or when they are unable to attend in person.

YEAR END ACTIVITIES

Guest Speakers in Schools

Teachers and staff are encouraged to invite guest speakers via video to provide students with educational experiences.

Academic Competitions for Students

- Students will be allowed to enter academic competitions either virtually or in person. These competitions include, but are not limited to, CTE, FFA, Robotics, and other regional, state, and national competitions.
- District staff will preview the guidelines for each competition before determining if students will be allowed to participate virtually or in person.
- Students will be required to wear a mask and follow social distancing guidelines during travel to the competition and throughout the competition.

Prom

Fayetteville High School will host prom. It will be limited to seniors only and their dates to minimize the number of students gathering.

Graduation

Thursday, May 13, 2021

- Graduation will be held at Bud Walton Arena at the University of Arkansas.

- Graduates will be assigned to ceremonies alphabetically by last name (see below).
- 288 graduates allowed on area floor per ceremony
- Students will be properly distanced from each other with 6 feet apart.
- Each graduate will receive six (6) tickets; U of A provides tickets and scanners.
- U of A will block off seating and will provide ample staff to ensure COVID guidelines are being followed.
- Students will check-in, in the tunnel.
- No processions or recessions are permitted.
- 1-hour ceremonies with 45 minutes in between required to clean (Bud Walton Arena staff)
- Stage size will be reduced by 4 feet.
- Maximum of 10 people on the stage.
- Separate location for announcer.
- Photo opportunities: 1 station with mask on when they receive their diploma; 1 station without mask off to the side right before each graduate exits.
- Once a student receives their diploma, he or she may take a picture and exit; they will not return to their seats. Parents/guests will be free to leave once their graduate crosses the stage.
- Live Streaming will be available.

Testing

- **AP Testing**
 - Students may test onsite or virtually (per College Board Guidelines)
 - Testing will be conducted at the high school and at other facilities in the community to allow for social distancing.
 - Teachers will review safety protocols with students.

- **ACT Aspire**

The following communication was provided to families on March 2, 2021:

Dear Parent or Guardian,

The time for standardized assessment is approaching. Arkansas will provide statewide tests in the coming spring. This testing helps families and educators understand how much students have learned throughout the school year and whether they are on track to graduate high school and achieve success in college, career and life.

Fayetteville Public Schools is required by law to assess all students in Grades 3-10 using the ACT Aspire. And, all students in grades kindergarten through second grade must be tested in

Measures of Academic Progress (MAP). Both of these assessments will be given in April and May. Although the district was able to give the MAP remotely earlier this year, both of these assessments must be taken in person at school this spring.

Research has shown that standardized assessments give your child's teachers the information they need to provide personalized instruction for every student in their class. While these are not the only data available about your child, these assessments provide valuable information about their growth over time. Arkansas does not have an opt-out option for students, but we will be able to be more flexible this year because of the COVID-19 protocols. Your child's school will follow all COVID-19 safety rules to make sure that your child is as safe as possible while they are at school. If you have concerns, please contact your child's school for more information.

The testing window will begin on April 5 for students in grades 3-10 and on April 12 for grades kindergarten through second grade. The testing will occur over two to three days depending on your child's age and grade level. Your child's teacher will let you know what days your child will be assessed. If you have any questions, please contact me or your child's teacher or principal.

For additional information about standardized assessments in Arkansas, please visit [2020-2021 FPS Testing Update](#).