

Brooks County Schools School Opening Plan 2023 - 2024



Best of Brooks

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NOUN

a Brooks County Trojan who continuously seeks to utilize his/her strengths, holds him/herself accountable, and communicates the significance of wearing navy blue and red with pride

Dr. Vickie Reed, Superintendent

Review: July 24, 2023

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This document is subject to change at any time as guidance from the Department of Public Health (DPH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) continually provide updates and recommendations. Any updates and revisions to this document will be shared with schools and posted on our websites and Facebook pages.

Brooks County Schools Continuing to Reopen Plan 2023-2024

Overview for Parents and Community

For the 2023-2024 school year we will continue to make learning experiences exciting in a safe and secure environment. Our plan is tailored to the Brooks County community, the needs and expectations of teachers, parents, and students, and the facilities, connectivity, and other resources available. Our overall goal is to continue to keep students in the classroom for in-person instruction this school year while navigating the effects of COVID-19 exposure.

In collaboration with the Department of Public Health and the Georgia Department of Education, the district and school staff met to develop a risk reduction plan tailored for each school and department. The plan includes protocols and procedures that will continue to ensure a safe learning environment for all students that follow the CDC guidelines. Brooks County School will comply with health and safety recommendations established by the [Georgia Department of Education](#).

Learning Option for PreK – 12th grade students

Due to minimal exposure and number of confirmed cases of COVID-19, Brooks County schools will only offer traditional in person learning for all students PreK-12th grades. All students will attend school five days a week on a regular Monday through Friday schedule.

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Action Plan

Details are below and organized alphabetically by topic.

- **Car Riders**
 - Parents will remain in the car during drop off and pick up.
- **Early Dismissals/Check Out**
 - To check a child out, enter the school and inform the receptionist of the request to check a child out of school.
- **ECHOES Afterschool Program**
 - ECHOES 21st Century Community Learning Centers will adhere to social distancing recommendations to the extent possible.
 - Supply sharing will be limited.
- **Employees**
 - All employees will self-monitor symptoms and remain home if feeling ill or have a temperature above 100.4.
- **Extracurricular Activities/Athletics**
 - The continuation of athletics and activities are determined in large part by the Georgia High School Association (GHSA). All available athletics and other extracurricular activities will be available to students.
 - Field trips will be permitted to enrich the learning experiences of students.
- **First Day of School**
 - PreK and Kindergarten parents who wish to walk their child to school on the first day must arrive between 7:30 – 8:00 a.m. Parents will not be able to walk their child to class beyond the first day of school.
- **Illnesses at School**
 - If a child is running a fever or exhibiting at least two **COVID-19 symptoms**, a parent will be contacted to pick up the child. Students will be isolated in the clinic.
- **Late Check-ins/Tardies**
 - PreK-5 parents will escort their child(ren) to the main entrance to be checked in.
 - 6-12 students will enter the front lobby to be checked in.
- **Nutrition**
 - Breakfast and lunch will continue to be available to all students at no charge.
 - Students and staff will have a selection of daily choices for breakfast and lunch.
 - PreK-12 students will eat meals in the cafeteria.
 - Proper disinfection and sanitation protocols and procedures will be followed.
- **Open House**
 - Traditional Open House will be offered for all **PreK – 12th grade** students. Specific information will be shared by each school as well as posted on the district and school websites.
- **Parent/Teacher Conferences**
 - Conferences will be held giving parents the option of using Google meets, on the phone, or in person at the school.

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- **Protocol for Confirmed COVID-19 Cases**
 - When cases of COVID-19, either for students or staff, are confirmed, the system will work with local health authorities to respond rapidly. A response will be dictated by the nature of each case.
- **Recess** (for PreK-5 students)
 - Outdoor play is essential for elementary students. Therefore, schools will stagger the number of classes at recess at any given time and will spread out classes on the playground.
- **Safety Protocols**
 - To mitigate the spread of infection and viruses, the following measures will be put in place:
 - Hand sanitizers will be available in each classroom and in common areas.
 - All classrooms and common areas will be sanitized daily.
 - Families should self-screen at home. It is recommended that families take temperatures daily before going to school. Anyone with a fever of 100 F or higher should not go to a school site.
 - COVID-19 screening signs will be placed in the entryways of all school buildings.
- **School Closure**
 - In the event of an emergency school closure, Brooks County Schools will implement the System Wide Virtual Learning plan will be used for all students.
- **School Clinics**
 - Clinics at our schools are being equipped with additional resources (masks, gloves sanitizers, etc). The following steps are also be taken in our school clinics:
 - Students and other individuals who are sick at school will be sent to the school nurse clinic. They will be isolated from other students who are there for routine reasons (e.g. medication, first aid, or other regular treatments). Students and other individuals who are sick must be checked out and are subject to the return to school guidelines.
 - Students and other individuals who become ill are encouraged to seek treatment and consultation with their personal healthcare provider or the local health department. If warranted, a COVID-19 test is also recommended.
 - Brooks County School System will follow all relevant student and health privacy laws. In the clinics, nurses will wear medical-grade personal protective equipment and change as needed between students.
 - The school nurses have developed a protocol to be used if an individual exhibit two (2) or more COVID-19 symptoms. Students will be isolated and monitored until check out.
 - If COVID-19 is suspected, appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will immediately be offered.
- **Student Services**
 - Resources will be available to address social-emotional needs.
 - All referrals will be processed using normal procedures.

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- **Transportation**

- School buses will be provided with hand sanitizer for students, bus drivers, and monitors.
- Drivers will clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces, including surfaces in the driver area commonly touched by the operator.
- Each bus will be inspected and disinfected daily by the Transportation Department.
- Drivers will lower the bus windows to allow for air circulation before beginning the route each morning as weather permits.

****Procedures are fluid, flexible, and subject to change as the school year progresses.**

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