



Brooks County Schools Reopening Plan

Fall 2020



The 2020-2021 school year will be different and how we approach it will determine not only the learning experiences we offer our students, but how we continue to make these 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 getting students back in the classroom for in-person instruction this fall while managing the risk 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 instructional options for parents to choose when returning their children to school in August. Parents can either send their students to bricks-and-mortar school or they can keep their children at home for full-time virtual learning.

Safety precautions that will be in place in schools are included in the plan. Georgia Emergency Management and the Georgia Department of Education are making available masks to distribute at each school for visitors, staff and students as available. In the event school staff gets sick or have to quarantine, the District has set requirements that are determined by COVID testing. Brooks County School will comply with health and safety recommendations established by the [Georgia Department of Education](#). Food Nutrition has developed a model plan recommended by Georgia's K-12 Restart Working Group which utilizes non-contact options for serving students.

Learning Options for K – 12th grade students

Two instructional models are available for K - 12th-grade students:

- Option 1: traditional
- Option 2: virtual learning

Families have the choice to select traditional or virtual learning for each child. All students will automatically be enrolled for traditional learning. If virtual learning is chosen, an online intent form must be completed by July 24, 2020.

Option 1: Traditional Learning Model

- This is a traditional school experience with students beginning school in person and attending five days a week on a regular Monday through Friday schedule.

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Option 2: Virtual Learning Model

- The expectations and rigor will mirror face-to-face instruction (facilitated through Google Classroom) and will be structured similar to that of the school day Monday-Friday.
- Parents must commit for **each quarter** for all students in grades K-12.
- Instruction and assessments occur exclusively at home **online** and mirror face to face. No paper copies will be provided.
- Grades will be monitored and the student is responsible for submitting all assignments electronically and on time.
- Virtual instruction will be provided through both live and pre-recorded sessions and independent work. Attendance will be taken each school day.
- Teachers will be available to meet virtually or on the phone as needed to address individual student needs and concerns.
- Reliable internet access is required with streaming capabilities.
- Schools will provide devices upon availability.
- Parents must complete the virtual learning online intent form by **July 24, 2020**, to secure adequate school staff.
 - School personnel will contact parents who complete the virtual learning online intent form for further information and enrollment.

Learning Options for Pre-K students

Three instructional models are available for Pre-K students:

- Option 1: traditional
- Option 2: hybrid learning
- Option 3: full distance learning

Families have the choice to select traditional, hybrid, or full distance learning for each child. Families must complete the Early Learning Center Learning Options Intent Form to declare their learning option selection for the 2020-2021 school year.

Option 1: Traditional Learning Model

- Pre-K is provided in the regular classroom setting. All students attend each day on site.

Option 2: Hybrid Learning Model

- Pre-K is provided using a combination of traditional and distance learning.
- Families should arrange for an alternate learning environment for distance learning (i. e. at home with parent or other caregiver).
- Students will need access to reliable internet.

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- The hybrid learning may include but is not limited to:
 - Split schedule: children are divided into two groups. One group attends Pre-K in the morning; the other half of the class attends in the afternoon. Children have planned instructional activities including materials provided by the teacher for the time they are not in class.
 - Entire class: All children in a class attend in-class learning two to three days per week. Instruction is provided through distance learning the other days.
 - Two-day Rotation: Children are divided into two smaller consistent cohort groups. Cohorts would receive in person classroom instruction two days a week. On days not in the classroom, children participate in distance learning that could include a combination of online instruction and learning activities prepared by the teacher and sent home to be completed with family support.

Option 3: Full Distance Learning Model

- Pre-K is provided through full distance learning. Instruction is a combination of virtual learning and remote hands-on learning all occurring at home.
- Families must commit to support distance learning for their child.
- Students will need access to reliable internet.

Action Plan

Details are below and organized alphabetically by topic.

- **Car Riders**
 - Parents will remain in the car during drop off and pick up.
 - Each student's temperature will be checked before entering the building.
- **Early Dismissals/Check Out**
 - To check your child out, park in a visitor's parking spot. Call the front office for further directions.
- **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 have their temperatures checked upon arrival.

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- **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 regardless if they are enrolled in traditional or digital learning instructional models.
 - All sponsors, coaches, athletes, and participants will be screened and have temperatures checked prior to participating in any workout or activity.
- **Field Trips**
 - Field trips are suspended until further notice or on a case by case basis.
- **First Day of School**
 - Kindergarten parents who wish to walk their child to school on the first day must arrive between 7-7:15 a.m. and have exited the school no later than 7:30 a.m. Parents are our most important visitors and we understand their desire to have that moment with their child. We ask that parents wear a mask if they wish to walk their child to class and drop them off at the classroom door. 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 and asked to wear a mask while waiting for pick up.
- **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.
- **Masks**
 - Masks are not required but are encouraged.
- **Nutrition**
 - Breakfast and lunch will continue to be available to all students at no charge. The meals will be prepackaged for easy grab and go.
 - Students and staff will have a selection of daily choices for breakfast and lunch.
 - PreK-8 students will eat meals in the classrooms and students in grades 9-12 will be allowed to eat in designated areas.
 - All food service employees will be required to wear a mask and face shield during food production and service.
 - Floor decals and plastic covers will be used in efforts to maintain social distance in the lunchroom.
 - Proper disinfection and sanitation protocols and procedures will be followed.
 - Virtual Learning students may participate in a pick-up meal service. Further information will be available at registration.

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- **Open House**
 - Traditional Open House will be offered for **PreK, transition grades (K, 6, & 9)**, and students **new** to Brooks County Schools. Specific information will be shared by each school.
 - Virtual Open House will be available by school for all other students. Specific information will be shared by each school/teacher.
 - A Parent Night will be offered for all other grades at a later date. More information will be shared by each school.
- **Parent/Teacher Conferences**
 - All conferences will be held using Google meets or on the phone until further notice.
- **Protocol for Staff/Students with Confirmed cases of COVID-19**
 - Staff with confirmed cases of COVID-19
 - Follow the employee guidance developed by Superintendent Reed
 - Students with confirmed cases of COVID-19
 - Students will remain out-of-school for ten (10) days.
 - If students have to remain out-of-school more than ten (10) days, parents can request Hospital/Homebound services.
 - Hospital/Homebound instruction will be delivered virtually.
 - The attendance for students with confirmed cases of COVID-19 will be counted as follows:
 - -Days one (1) through ten (10) will be coded as 'EV' in Infinite Campus
 - -Days eleven (11) plus will be coded as 'H'
 - All Hospital/Homebound request are processed through the school guidance counselors.
- **Protocol for Staff/Students directly Exposed to individuals with COVID-19 as referred to in the GaDOE/DPH [decision tree](#).**
 - Staff exposed to individual with confirmed cases of COVID-19
 - Follow the employee guidance developed by Superintendent Reed
 - Students exposed to individuals with confirmed cases of COVID-19
 - Students are allowed to return to school
 - In all incidences the following steps will take place:
 - Areas will be deep cleaned and tested prior to the return of staff/students
 - The local health department will be contacted
- **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.

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- **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.
 - Water fountains are closed until further notice. Students may bring clear water bottles.
 - Visitors will be limited to essential business. Visitors will be screened and temperature checked before entering the school buildings.
 - 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.
 - Schools will check all student and staff members' temperatures daily.
 - 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. 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.
- 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.

- **Social Distancing**

- The following steps will be implemented to provide social distancing wherever possible:
 - Seating will be arranged to meet social distancing guidelines to the extent possible.
 - There will be hallway markers to streamline hallway traffic and to limit congregating in common areas.
 - Social distance markers will be in the cafeteria line.

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- **Student Services**

- Resources will be available to address social-emotional needs.
- All referrals will be processed using normal procedures.

- **Transportation**

- Checking for symptoms each morning is critical. Therefore, a wellness-check will be the first screening mechanism for COVID-19 symptoms and temperature checks will occur prior to entering the bus.
- Social distancing will be utilized to the extent practicable. Students within the same family will be seated together.
- School buses will be provided with hand sanitizer for students, bus drivers, and monitors.
- Masks/face coverings are allowed and encouraged for all students, bus drivers, and monitors.
- No field trips are allowed until further notice.
- 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.**