



Tallassee City Schools

Reopening Plan

July 2020

Dear Parents,

I am sure that you are filled with uncertainty regarding the opening or non-opening of schools. It is my heartfelt belief that there is no better learning environment for our students than to be in a classroom with a highly qualified teacher. Having said that, for years, there has been a push for virtual options in Alabama. While TCS does have a virtual option through Alabama ACCESS, and the state is developing an online curriculum (SchoolsPLP), we have only scratched the surface of what it means to teach and learn virtually. We've experienced that even some of the most academically strong students struggle in the virtual learning environment; therefore, we will always strive to have our students in school. The reality that faces us with COVID-19 and the deluge of information both from the political and health community, is such that a virtual or blending teaching environment may be our only option. I cannot, in good conscience, require our students to attend an environment that may come with health risks; therefore, you will have an option to decide what would be best in these times for your family.

I am sure you have read information from multiple sources denoting one of the few constants for mitigating this contagion. That is social distancing. The Tallassee City Schools Reopening Task-Force has settled on a soft opening (see below) for schools to capitalize on the idea of social distancing while offering some traditional instruction. Please remember that just like any plan, circumstances may change before August 19th. Finally, understand that those students returning to school face a certain degree of risk of coming into contact with this virus. We will do our best to keep all areas clean, but we cannot guarantee that your child will not be affected by COVID-19.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brock Nolin, Acting Superintendent

Back to School Task Force

Tallassee City Schools is committed to providing our students with a quality education that maintains the safety of all students, faculty, and staff. The decisions made to reopen our schools were made with careful consideration by our Back to School Task Force. We are grateful for the commitment of those who served our school system and our community.

Task Force Members: Dr. Brock Nolin, Tessie Williams, Beth Nelson, Loria Hunter, Jim Davis, Chet Stewart, Tim Collier, Shanikka Beacher, Don Bryant, Heather Johnson, Jennie Rhinehart, Brad Mason, Natasha Sullen, Scott Justiss, Josh Taylor, Keith McNaughton, Robert Glasscock, Shannon Graban, Mike Battles, Brooke Barron, Kevin O’Rear, Brittany Spencer, Cory Eckstein, and Jennifer Crain.

Virtual or Face-to-Face/Blended

All Tallassee City Schools’ families will have the opportunity to choose the learning style that best fits their needs. Families who prefer a virtual setting for their child may select the Tallassee City Schools Virtual Program. Families choosing the virtual program must be prepared to provide stable internet access for their student(s) learning. This choice is made each 9-weeks in order to maintain stability for our students, faculty, and staff. For more information about the virtual program, please see page 4-5 of this document. The Face-to-face/Blended approach mixes traditional learning with virtual learning in a rotation to meet the needs of students while maximizing social distance. This learning model will be utilized in the soft opening of our schools. We believe this strategy will help our students and teachers transition more seamlessly back and forth as current health conditions in our community dictate our state of learning. Please click the link below to communicate your learning choice. Commitments to learning options must be completed no later than July 29, 2020.

[Commitment to Learning Option Survey](#) ← Click Link

Preventative Measures

Screening

Home is the initial point of screening to prevent the spread of illnesses. Parents should monitor their children closely and contact a doctor if their child shows any symptoms associated with Covid-19 and other infectious diseases: fever, cough, chills, shortness of breath, headache, loss of taste or smell, fatigue, body aches, runny nose, etc.

Students who ride the bus to school will be screened by a TCS employee before/while loading the bus. Any student who has a temperature of 100.4° or higher when loading the bus will not be allowed to attend school. Procedures are being developed for children that exceed the temperature noted while loading the bus. We encourage parents to bring children to school rather than riding the school bus as there is no way to properly social distance on a school bus.

All car riders will have their temperature checked prior to entering the school building. Any student who has a temperature of 100.4° or higher will not be allowed to attend school.

Students excluded from school due to temperature of 100.4 or higher should not return to school until they have been fever-free for 72hrs (without fever-reducing medication such as Tylenol or Ibuprofen) **with a medical evaluation and written documentation from a healthcare provider** that determines their symptoms were more likely due to another cause (e.g. sore throat due to strep throat), or has tested negative for COVID-19 with documentation from a healthcare provider, or has stayed home at least 3 days after fever has resolved (without fever reducing medications such as; tylenol or ibuprofen), **AND** all other symptoms have improved, **AND** it has been at least 10 days since the onset of symptoms. These guidelines are provided from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the guidelines are subject to change at any time.

Facial Coverings

Tallassee City Schools students, faculty, and staff will follow, “if you move, you mask.” However, if Governor Ivey issues a state-wide mask order, everyone will be required to wear a mask at all times. The CDC Guidelines state cloth face coverings are an additional step to help slow the spread of COVID-19 when combined with everyday preventive actions and social distancing in public settings. Students will need to provide their own school appropriate facial coverings. Facial coverings with pictures, symbols, or writing conveying a general or personal message rather than a specific message on a public matter are prohibited. In addition, no mesh, crochet, or knitted face coverings will be allowed. Cloth face coverings should be washed after each use. For further information, please visit the [CDC Guidelines for Facial Coverings](#). The guidelines will be updated before August 19th and be in-line with any state orders.

Personal Hygiene and Sanitation

Hand sanitizer stations will be placed throughout the school, and students will be reminded to use sanitizers during transition times. Frequent hand washing will be monitored and emphasized throughout the school day for all students and faculty. More frequent cleaning and sanitation routines will be established at each campus.

Social Distancing

Social distancing guidelines will be followed to the extent possible throughout all schools. Classroom teachers will be mindful of furniture placement and student seating to promote social distancing. Facial coverings will be used when teachers are working with students in close proximity. Markers will be used to remind students and staff about the importance of social distancing on all campuses. TCS staff will monitor student movement at all times.

Visitors

While we encourage parental involvement, in a continued effort to stop the spread of COVID-19, it is in the best interest of our school community to suspend visitors at all campuses at this time.

COVID-19 Protocol

According to CDC Guidance, students, faculty, or staff who test positive for COVID-19 will need to quarantine for at least 3 days after fever has resolved (without fever-reducing medication such as Tylenol or Ibuprofen), and all other symptoms have improved, and it has been at least 10 days since the onset of symptoms. Conclusively, a minimum of 14 days quarantine is required unless a negative test is provided.

If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, anyone known to be in close contact (defined as being within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more) could potentially be excluded from school for 14 days after the last contact with the person testing positive. This could mean that an entire class may have to quarantine due to exposure; however, during this time of quarantine, a plan for learning will be provided. Guidance from the Alabama Department of Public Health will be followed.

Child Nutrition Program

Students will be provided meal opportunities for breakfast and lunch each day in a grab-and-go style. Meals will be consumed outside of the cafeteria to allow for social distancing. Parents are encouraged to utilize MySchoolBucks to provide funds for their child's account to minimize the exchange of cash and checks to school personnel. Please be patient when sending checks or cash for student cafeteria accounts, as extra safety precautions will be taken when collecting money.

Tallassee City Schools Virtual Program

Requirements: A device will be provided to each student who selects the virtual option. Families who choose virtual learning will be required to make that commitment for a full 9-week period. If a family wishes to transition to traditional learning, they may do so at the beginning of any 9-week period. Families will be required to provide their own stable internet access.

Programs: Kindergarten-12th grade students will use EdGenuity as their virtual program. This instructional content will be provided through Google Classroom. Students will be assigned a Tallassee City Schools employee as a facilitator. Students will have regular access to these facilitators through email.

Commitment: All families are required to complete their intent for participation in the traditional or virtual programs for the first nine weeks no later than July 29, 2020.

[Commitment to Learning Option Survey](#) ← Click Link

Soft Opening

Tallassee City Schools will implement a soft opening beginning Wednesday, August 19, 2020. In an effort to maintain proper social distancing guidelines recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and the Alabama Department of Public Health, each campus will split into Group A and Group B. Students will attend school face-to-face on their assigned days, and they will attend virtually on the subsequent days. Students are expected to participate to the greatest extent possible on their virtual days. Participation will be considered for E-attendance as (Present) on virtual days. **Special consideration for families was taken to allow all students of one family to attend face-to-face in the same group and day.** The

following calendar will be implemented. Please note, this schedule will only be in effect through Labor Day.

August - September Soft Opening Schedule 2020						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
16	17	18	19 Group A	20 Group B	21 Group A	22
23	24 Group B	25 Group A	26 Group B	27 Group A	28 Group B	29
30	31 Group A	1 Group B	2 Group A	3 Group B	4 All Virtual Day	5
6	7 Labor Day No School	8 All Students	9 All Students	10 All Students	11 All Students	12

The Back to School Task Force will meet on August 26th to evaluate current health conditions to determine the next steps for Tallahassee City Schools. Please note that all students will have a virtual day on September 4th to allow campuses to be thoroughly cleaned. At that time all students attending our schools will have had the opportunity to attend their home campus six days and learn virtually six days. Those plans will be communicated to stakeholders and parents through our district website, local media, social media, School Status, and School Cast. Please be sure your contact information is up to date in our system.

Extracurricular Activities

All school events that would normally be held in large numbers and not socially distanced will be reevaluated to determine if the event can take place within the new health guidelines.

Students who choose to learn virtually may participate in afterschool activities.

Disclaimer

This plan is subject to changes due to current health conditions and our community.

[2020-2021 Revised School Calendar](#)