

Dierks School District 2020 –2021 Re-Entry Plan

The Dierks School District will follow the directives of Governor Asa Hutchinson, the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) guidelines, and the Arkansas Ready for Learning model issued by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) in planning for re-opening in the fall. We hope the following information helps answer many of the questions you may have about reopening schools.

ON-SITE LEARNING

What is the first day for students?

School is currently planned to begin on August 24, 2020. This date will only change if ADH and DESE sends updated guidance but this is not anticipated at this time.

Who will be required to wear face coverings?

Currently, an executive order issued by Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson is requiring all individuals 10 years old and over wear a face covering. We are requiring that adults and students ages 10 and older wear face coverings when physical distancing cannot be achieved. Students under 10 years of age and/or special health needs will not be required to wear face coverings but is highly encouraged.

Will social distancing guidelines be observed?

Social distancing will be observed as much as feasibly possible but at times students will be closer than the recommended 6 ft. apart. When social distancing requirements cannot be maintained, students should wear face coverings. We will reorganize classrooms and other student areas to increase the space between students but cannot always guarantee it will be 6 ft.

Where will my student eat their lunch?

Based on current guidance, the ADH is recommending cafeterias limit the capacity of students in the cafeteria. We anticipate this may either mean we will be required to adjust lunch schedules or use alternative areas, such as large gathering spaces. Proper sanitation of all areas will be completed after each meal. Procedures will not allow students to pick up utensils, self-serve, or share food. Parents are encouraged to send a water bottle with their students since water fountains will not be available.

Will bus transportation be provided?

Yes, the district will provide bus transportation for students with the understanding face coverings are required on the bus as well when physical distancing cannot be maintained. We are not planning changes in the bus stop locations at this point but times and loading/unloading procedures may be adjusted to maintain student safety.

If an individual tests positive for COVID-19, what will happen?

In the event an individual tests positive, we will follow the latest guidance and protocols from the ADH and DESE. This could result in a brief closure of the entire district, one school within the district, or portions of a school building to provide time for additional cleaning and sanitation. A negative test result must be provided upon returning to school.

Will students and adults be screened daily?

Parents will be asked to screen their students on a daily basis. If your student answers yes to any of the following questions, we ask that you keep them home and contact the office. This will be expected of all staff as well.

- 1.) Have you had a fever of 100.4°F or greater?
- 2.) Have you had a cough, difficulty breathing, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell?
- 3.) Have you been in contact with a person known to be infected with COVID-19 within the previous 14 days?

If a student comes to school sick, what will happen?

If a student comes to school sick, the school nurse will screen the student and check their temperature. If the temperature is over the ADH recommendation, the student will be isolated then sent home and will need to be fever and symptom free without medication before returning to school. When the child returns to school they will check in with the school nurse.

Will students at the elementary still have extra classes like PE, art, music, guidance and library?

Yes, students will continue to participate in activity classes, check out library books, and receive guidance and gifted instruction.

Will my elementary student have recess?

Yes, elementary students will have outdoor play time with restrictions that limit the number of students they come in contact with during this time.

What special precautions will be implemented in regard to cleaning and sanitizing?

Sanitation and cleanliness will be a high priority for our district as we return in the fall. We will be placing an emphasis in cleaning high touch surfaces (door knobs, light switches, etc.) and restrooms on a continuous basis throughout the day. We will also highly encourage hand washing and using hand sanitizer throughout the school day.

VIRTUAL LEARNING

Is Virtual Learning the right choice for my child?

Virtual learning can be more difficult for some students and is not intended to mirror the AMI instruction utilized in the spring of 2020. Families must ***strongly*** consider the following characteristics/qualities that lead to a successful virtual school experience for students:

- Commitment to onsite classroom, school, and state assessments
- Self- Motivated
- Independent Learner
- Computer Literate
- Time Management skills
- Effective Communicator
- Personal Commitment
- Academic Readiness
- Technologically Prepared
- Strong Parent Support/Involvement

If my student and I commit to the Virtual Learning option, can he/she switch to on-site instruction?

When registering, you are making a nine (9) week commitment. You will have the choice to return to onsite instruction or continue with virtual instruction at the end of each nine (9) week grading period. Exceptions to this will be made on a case by case basis. Any parent wishing to change their student's enrollment status must contact the school principal and submit a request.

Will my student have a structured schedule if he/she participates in Virtual Learning?

Enrollment in Virtual Learning will require you and your student to develop a schedule to view daily lessons and complete daily assignments. By enrolling your student in Virtual Learning, you are assuming responsibility for ensuring your student views these lessons, completes daily assignments, and submit their assignments. Failure to complete daily assignments will result in a student being counted as absent for that day. (Virtual Learning students will follow the same attendance policy as those who receive their education on campus.)

Will a Chromebook be provided for my student?

If your student needs a Chromebook, one will be provided along with a charger. If you require this service, please contact your student's school office for check-out procedures.

What if we don't have WiFi?

Reliable internet connectivity is recommended for Virtual Learners and will be critical for this type of instruction. Here is a link to an interactive WiFi Access Map:

<https://ar-wifi-map-uark.hub.arcgis.com/app/3de10c8bfdd448a9942256c6227a14f3>

Will grading and attendance policies for Virtual Learning be the same as onsite?

Yes, all grading and attendance policies will be the same for Virtual Learning as onsite students. All Virtual Learning students will be expected to complete all assigned work, and upload assignments on time, as required by their teacher. Failure to complete assignments and upload them as directed by each teacher will be reflected in the student's grade and attendance. Assignments, projects, and exams given will be graded and recorded. Virtual Learning students will receive grades on a report card and parents will have access to ESchool (HAC) accounts to check grades. Attendance records for each student will also be maintained and reported as needed.

Will Virtual Learners be responsible for assessments?

Yes, all students in Virtual Learning must complete assessments required by the classroom teacher, school, and district, as well as those mandated by DESE. Upon teacher request, appointments for onsite assessments will be scheduled through the classroom teacher or the principal's office.

Will clubs, athletics and extracurricular activities continue for virtual students?

Virtual Learning students will be allowed to participate in AAA sanctioned activities. Virtual Learning students who choose to participate in these activities will be required to adhere to the same guidelines as other students who participate.

What if my student is in special education?

Students will continue to receive services according to their IEP when enrolled in Virtual Learning.

There may be instances in which onsite participation is necessary to conduct the required services/therapies that cannot be done virtually. For more information, please contact the appropriate building principal's office.

Will my student continue to receive educational and support services for dyslexia, 504, English Language Learner (ELL/ESL), gifted and talented, speech, mental health, etc. in Virtual Learning?

Yes, students will continue to receive all educational and support services for which they qualify. There may be instances in which onsite participation is necessary to conduct the required services/therapies that cannot be done virtually. For more

information about any educational or support service, please contact the appropriate building principal's office.

How do I enroll in Virtual Learning?

All parents/guardians wishing to opt in to virtual learning are required to fill out the

Virtual Learning Commitment/Registration Form (

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfh902K9v>

[FAFJR4hBLxpXSBJ3I9HYo4YMwv-](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfh902K9v)

[HQ4U8Dmkc3IRg/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfh902K9v)) Registration for Virtual Learning MUST

be filled out no later than ***Friday, August 7, 2020***.