

# ARKANSAS READY FOR LEARNING DISTRICT SUPPORT PLAN



2020-2021

# Ready for Learning Committee

Jody Cowart	Superintendent
Lori Finley	JoAnn Walters Elementary Principal
Gene Strode	Dierks High School Principal
Kayla Jones	Dierks School District Business Manager/Federal Programs Coordinator
Academic Guiding Coalitions	April Kappus, Paula Stapp, Raisa Whisenhunt, Greg Faulkner, Adriana Hogg, Cindy Martin, Chelsea Sayre, Lena VanCamp
Student Supports	Kelli Parson-SPED Supervisor, Paula Stapp-GT/District Testing Coordinator, Jana Strode-Speech Pathologists, SPED Teachers, Crystal Neal-ESOL

# Ready for Learning Committee Continued

Classified Staff	Doug Simpson - District Technology Director, Greg Janes-Transportation Supervisor, Sheila Jester-Child Nutrition Director, Dennis Sirmon-Maintenance, Lydia Kompkoff-Elementary Administrative Assistant, Michala Young-High School Administrative Assistant
Health & Wellness	Lindsey Stokes-District Nurse, Brittni Fannin-Howard Memorial Patient Care Unit Director, Todd Finley-Health Instructor
School Counselors	Crystal Smith & Karla Bray
Stakeholders	Feedback from multiple student/parent surveys

# Actions & Assurances

- We will ensure the continuity of teaching and learning by guaranteed and viable curriculum that includes blended/remote learning for all K-12 students and K-8 diagnostic assessments.
- We will address unfinished learning from the prior year by using the curriculum units/essential standards documents.
- We will utilize a learning management system.
- We will train our teachers on how to use the learning management system.
- We will train our teachers on how to use remote/blended learning in their classroom.
- We will provide support for our parents and students.
- We will provide a written communication plan for parents, students, and community members.

# Action #1

## Guaranteed & Viable Curriculum

All teachers in the Dierks School District will instruct students from curriculum units created by addressing the essential standards of the state of Arkansas. This instruction will be delivered by utilizing the following three models:

1. Traditional-students will receive standards based curriculum & instruction on a Dierks School District campus
  2. Virtual students will receive standards based curriculum & instruction through digital means from home
  3. Blended/Remote students may receive standards based curriculum & instruction both in person & digitally if traditional learning is not possible due to school closures
- I-Ready diagnostic assessments in math and reading will be used in K-8 to determine students' needs and what they have mastered or may be approaching mastery.
  - Renaissance STAR Reading and Early Literacy assessments will provide additional data and allow teachers to set reading goals for individual students.

# Action #2

## Addressing Unfinished Learning

- Unfinished learning will be embedded in grade level instruction. Teachers will use input from the students' 2019-2020 teachers to know where to expect possible learning gaps and implement interventions.
- Diagnostic assessment data will be used in conjunction with the teacher feedback to determine possible learning gaps. Missing essential standards and skills will be embedded in the current year's standards and addressed in developing 2020-2021 interventions.



# Action #3

## Learning Management Systems

Our district will use Buzz as our LMS along with the content provided in Lincoln Learning. We are already a Google school and have provided additional Google Classroom training along with an introduction to our new district website. As a part of the district website, teacher pages will be used as a landing spot for families to communicate and access content. Class Dojo, if Buzz proves difficult for younger students, may be utilized as well.



LINCOLN  
LEARNING  
SOLUTIONS



Google  
Classroom



ClassDojo



Teacher Pages

# Actions #4 & #5

## Teacher Training & Instruction of Learning Management System

- The building principals attended train-the-trainer professional development for Lincoln Learning and provided the training to all faculty. Teachers also received Google Classroom training through our local educational cooperative staff. Several signed up independently for additional Google training.
- Our local educational cooperative also shared a Professional Development Playlist with administrators as possible training resources that were designed by state cooperatives and Team Digital.
- Locally, we will continue to share strategies for remote and virtual learning, including those provided by Lincoln Learning.
- We recognize that blended/remote learning strategies are a new way of life in all K-12 classrooms. Student training will begin immediately in the classroom by teachers planning lessons to allow practice using the LMS and content for familiarity.



# Action #6

## Support/Training for Parents & Students

**Dierks School District will provide support and training in a variety of ways in the areas of technology, mental/emotional health, and academics.**

### Technology:

- Each Student of the Dierks School District will be provided a Google Chromebook and charger.
- Parents will be provided support through an open house, virtual open house, or information provided in our communication plan.
- Parents can call the schools to receive additional support through the building principals, the classroom teacher, or the IT staff.
- A limited number of wifi access points will be provided for families without internet in addition to directions to public wifi areas.

# Action #6 Continued

## Support/Training for Parents & Students

### Mental & Emotional Health

- Students and parents will be supported by the Dierks School District counselors as needed to promote their mental/emotional well-being. The school administration, counselors, and teachers will be emphasizing the proper procedures with masks, social distancing, and other safety measures to ensure all students have a clear understanding. Students will have regularly scheduled advisor and/or counseling times built in each week to ensure our kids are ready for learning.
- Open houses, virtual open houses, phone calls, and shared information will be communicated to ensure parents are comfortable and know the safety plans of their child's school.

# Action #6 Continued

## Support/Training for Parents & Students

### Academic Support

- Dierks School District will continue to utilize the Professional Learning Community model to review student data in order to assist students who may be struggling to meet learning goals. Students who are not meeting these goals will be tracked throughout the school year to develop the appropriate intervention plans. Data teams will meet regularly to strategize to make modifications in instruction to help each student reach their learning goals.

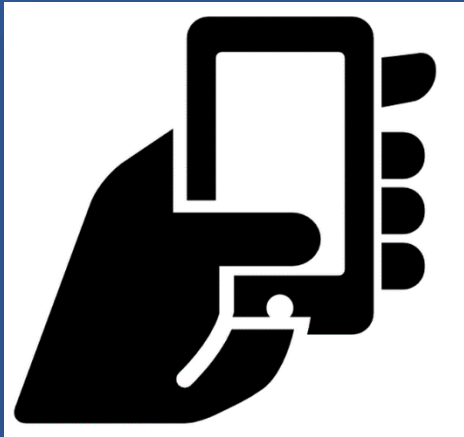
# Action #7

## Written Communication Plan



- Dierks School District will communicate in the following ways:
- Social Media: Dierks School District Facebook
- District Website: [www.dierksschools.org](http://www.dierksschools.org)
- Parent phone calls.
- SMS Texting/Call System.
- Free/downloadable Dierks School District app

# Ready for Learning Points of Contact



Dierks School District Central Office: 870-286-2191

Dierks High School: 870-286-3234

Jo Ann Walters Elementary: 870-286-2015

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS





# 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 AML 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/1FAIpQLSfh902K9vFAFJR4hBLxpXSBj3l9HYo4YMwv-HQ4U8Dmkc3lRg/viewform> ) Registration for Virtual Learning MUST be filled out no later than ***Friday, August 7, 2020.***