

CROSS COUNTY THUNDERBIRDS™

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Resources for Students, Parents, and Community Members

[Ready for Learning Plan](#)

[CCSD Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Response Levels for On-Site Learning \(ADE\)](#)

[Arkansas Department of Health COVID-19 Guidance](#)

[COVID-19 Cases by County Map \(ADH\)](#)

[Resources for Parents \(ADE\)](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Facts and Information](#)

DISTRICT SUPPORT PLAN

Cross County School District is prepared to respond to COVID-19 outbreaks in our community by following guidance from the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) and Arkansas Department of Education (ADE). To provide the most choices and flexibility for students and families, Cross County will offer on-site instruction, blended learning, and virtual learning for the 2020-2021 school year.

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Cross County School District Support Plan

- Action 1: Cross County School District will ensure the continuity of teaching and learning by providing a guaranteed and viable curriculum that includes blended learning (K-12) and diagnostic assessments (K-8).
- Action 2: Cross County School District will address unfinished learning from the prior year.
- Action 3: Cross County School District will utilize a Learning Management System.
- Action 4: Cross County School District will schedule teacher training for how to use Google Classroom and Echo.
- Action 5: Cross County School District will schedule teacher training for blended learning (delivery of instruction).
- Action 6: Cross County School District will use effective technology for parents and students.
- Action 7: Cross County School District will provide a written communication plan for interacting with parents, students, and the community regarding day-to-day expectations.
- Action 8: Cross County School District will continue to develop and maintain a competitive salary schedule utilizing ESA funds to provide equitable compensation above the state's minimum salary requirement.

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ACTION ONE: GUARANTEED AND VIABLE CURRICULUM

Cross County School District will ensure the continuity of teaching and learning by providing a guaranteed and viable curriculum that includes blended learning (Kindergarten-12th grade) and diagnostic assessments (Kindergarten-8th grade).

Cross County School District will provide a guaranteed and viable curriculum in all instructional settings.

For the 2020-2021 school year, Cross County School District will offer families the choice of on-site or fully virtual learning. On-site learning will resemble what is considered "traditional" learning while fully virtual learners will learn at home. Blended learning is a combination of on-site learning in a classroom and off-site or remote learning utilized when necessary for the health and safety of the school community. All students, whether learning on-site, through a blended model, or fully virtually, will use Cross County School District curriculum and lessons. Teachers have started the process of creating remote lessons, videos, and resources for students in the blended or fully virtual settings. More information about blended learning at Cross County School District is available [here](#).

Diagnostic assessments will be used to assist students, teachers, and families in identifying an individual student's strengths and areas for growth. The iReady diagnostic assessment will allow teacher teams to create plans for filling in instructional gaps leftover from the conclusion of the 2019-2020 school year. Additional teacher created formative assessments and school selected screeners will be used K-12 to ensure appropriate remediation and enrichment are available to all students.

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ACTION TWO: UNFINISHED LEARNING

Cross County School District will address unfinished learning from the prior year.

Cross County School District will address unfinished learning by using the *Arkansas Playbook: Addressing Unfinished Learning* available [here](#). The Playbook will be used to guide teachers as they teach essential standards missed during school closure. Throughout the year, staff will be supported by the Teacher Leadership Teams through strategies for effective teaching in weekly professional development meetings.

Progress in addressing learning deficits will be monitored through the collection of data gathered from ACT Aspire Interims Assessments, local formative assessments, and diagnostic tests such as DIBELS, DRA, and Phonics First Layer Screeners.

Examples of curriculum documents Cross County School District teachers may reference in the *Arkansas Playbook: Addressing Unfinished Learning* include the following:

[Kindergarten Curriculum](#)

[3rd Grade Curriculum](#)

[6th Grade Curriculum](#)

[1st Grade Curriculum](#)

[4th Grade Curriculum](#)

[7th Grade Curriculum](#)

[2nd Grade Curriculum](#)

[5th Grade Curriculum](#)

[8th Grade Curriculum](#)

Teachers will use the first weeks of school to reestablish procedures, technology systems, and norms to account for the transition from AMI and school closure to the 2020-2021 school year. Students will learn what to expect

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in the case of additional school closure, teach new learning processes, and determine what systems of support are present. Examples of what might be discussed in classrooms include PPE guidelines, social distancing, social-emotional support, and Learning Management Systems. Examples of what might be discussed in classrooms include PPE guidelines, social distancing, social-emotional support, and Learning Management Systems.

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ACTION THREE: LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Cross County School District will utilize a Learning Management System (LMS).

Cross County Elementary Technology Academy will use Google Classroom in grades K-6. Students have used Google Classroom in previous school years prior to the COVID-19 Pandemic. ([Google Classroom 101 Video](#))

Cross County High School, A New Tech School will use Echo in grades 7-12. The high school has used Echo as a Learning Management System for eight years. ([Echo 101 Video](#))

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ACTION FOUR: TEACHER LMS TRAINING

Cross County School District will schedule teacher training for how to use Google Classroom and Echo.

Professional Development for teachers on Google Classroom and Echo was provided for teachers throughout the summer and in small groups on July 14 and 16. Specialized training including individualized sessions will be provided during back-to-school professional development and inservice.

Additional training will be provided throughout the year. Cross County School District employs a Director of Educational Technology, Jason Blake, who is available daily for teachers needing technology, LMS, and planning support. Mr. Blake can be reached at jason.blake@nt.crosscountyschools.com or by calling the district at 870-588-3337. Resources provided for teachers include:

[Google Classroom for Teachers Video](#)

[Google Classroom Teacher Cheat Sheet](#)

[Technology Resources for Teachers](#)

[Echo 101 Self Paced Tutorials for Teachers](#)

[Echo 201 Self Paced Tutorials for Teachers](#)

[Echo Tips and Tricks for Teachers](#)

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ACTION FIVE: TEACHER BLENDED LEARNING TRAINING

Cross County School District will schedule teacher training for blended learning (delivery of instruction).

Cross County School District will provide teachers with clear expectations for blended learning by:

- Providing a checklist for what should be included in a remote lessons
- Creating exemplar remote lessons from Master Teachers and Mentor Teachers
- Offering optional professional development sessions on remote teaching and blended learning instruction
- Scheduling sessions during district-wide professional development immediately prior to the start of the school year on blended learning
- Collaborating on the development of blended learning expectations for teachers and students
- Reviewing the [ADE Response Levels for On-Site Learning guidance](#) as a building staff

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ACTION SIX: TECHNOLOGY FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

Cross County School District will use effective technology for parents and students.

Cross County School District has been 1:1 using Apple technology for over a decade. Students and parents sign Acceptable Use Agreements prior to receiving their device (iPads K-2, Macbooks 3-12) and charger by meeting with the Technology Specialists, Director of Educational Technology, or a designee. These specialized staff members serve as the immediate point of contact for technology, LMS, or remote learning concerns and are available daily for students and parents.

Families were surveyed at the conclusion of the 2019-2020 school year (and again if opting into fully virtual learning) on their internet connectivity status. To assist families without reliable internet access, Cross County School District may provide the following during school closure or off-site learning:

- Wifi access points and/or a list of free internet access points in the community
- Hot spots
- USB Drives with lessons, resources, and assignments
- Paper lessons, resources, and assignments to supplement previously downloaded material

The following resources are also available for students and parents on their Learning Management System:

- [What is Google Classroom?](#)
- [Google Classroom Tips for Students and Parents](#)
- [Echo Tips for Students](#)
- [Course Heartbeat Explanation for Students](#)

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ACTION SEVEN: COMMUNICATION

Cross County School District will provide a written communication plan for interacting with parents, students, and the community regarding day-to-day expectations.

Cross County School District created a [visual, easy to digest narrative of our Ready for Learning Plan](#) for parents and community members. A [Frequently Asked Questions Document](#) has been updated throughout the summer with the most recently available information. Additionally, a [parent-friendly version of the Ready for Learning Plan](#) is available on the district website.

Communication throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic has been frequent and clear. A variety of platforms and modes have been utilized to reach the highest number of stakeholders. Cross County School District will continue to use videos, social media (Facebook & Twitter @CrossCountySD), the district website (www.crosscountyschools.com), automated calls and text messages, live feed updates, live streams, Google forms, push notifications through the Cross County School District App, email, phone calls, and meetings to communicate.

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ACTION EIGHT: TEACHER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

Cross County School District will continue to develop and maintain a competitive salary schedule utilizing ESA funds to provide equitable compensation above the state's minimum salary requirement.

The Cross County School District seeks to recruit and hire diverse, effective, and engaging teachers. The district has established short and long term goals around teacher hiring to ensure that recruitment efforts are successful. This plan is available [here](#).

To complement this plan, the district works diligently to retain effective educators. This involves innovative methods including performance based compensation, retention bonuses, and career pathways for educators. Performance based compensation allows effective educators to be recognized for their excellence in the classroom and serves as a motivator for veteran teachers to stay in the Cross County School District. Emphasis is placed both on classroom teaching and student growth. This directly links teacher outcomes to student outcomes ensuring every student, including vulnerable populations, is served. Yearly retention bonuses reward effective teachers who remain with the district year after year which promotes a stable, high quality teaching force for students. Other bonus structures or initiatives have been considered including sign on bonuses for teachers in high needs areas. Career pathways including pursuing Master Teacher and Mentor Teacher roles allow teachers to pursue advancement without leaving the classroom. This additionally assists all teachers and in turn all students in the district as there are more avenues of support for teachers and students outside of the traditional model.

These innovative practices are essential to Cross County School District remaining competitive in teacher recruitment and retention as nearby school districts have higher salary schedules as shown by the chart [here](#). Cross County School District's minimum salary is just \$200 greater than the lowest school district salary within a 45 miles radius. The Cross County School District has found retaining veteran educators to be key in increasing student achievement and seeks to continue to develop and maintain a competitive salary schedule utilizing ESA funds to provide equitable compensation above the state's minimum salary requirement.