

DeSoto County Schools
Back-To-School Plan
2021-2022 School Year

At their board meeting on April 15th, the Mississippi Department of Education announced that COVID-19 academic policy changes will expire at the end of the current school year. As a result, school districts are in the process of modifying 2021-2022 academic plans in order to meet Mississippi Department of Education requirements.

Points of emphasis in the DeSoto County Schools 2021-2022 Back-to-School Plan:

- Due to the Mississippi Department of Education ending the one-year waiver on minimum instructional minutes per day, there will not be 70% Fridays during the 2021-2022 school year. Additionally, the DeSoto County Schools bell schedules for the 2021-2022 school year will be closely aligned with bell schedules used prior to 2020. The bell schedules will be posted on school websites in June.
- For the 2020-2021 school year, the attendance requirement in the DeSoto County Schools exemption policy was removed. The attendance requirement will be waived again from the DeSoto County Schools exemption policy for the 2021-2022 school year.
- School districts must follow all guidance issued by the Mississippi Department of Health regarding quarantines. No guidance for the 2021-2022 school year has been issued at this time from the Mississippi Department of Health.
- Every elementary school, middle school, and high school will have a full-time, on-site nurse for the 2021-2022 school year.
- Students are encouraged to bring their own water bottles from home. During the 2021-2022 school year, DeSoto County Schools will begin installing water bottle filling stations at all schools.
- School assemblies, field trips, campus visitors, etc. will return to pre-2020 procedures. Principals will set the parameters for those events.
- Masks will not be required in DeSoto County Schools for the 2021-2022 school year.
- Due to a waiver from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), all students will be eligible for free breakfast and lunch during the 2021-2022 school year.
- While the Virtual Instructional Program will not be available for the 2021-2022 school year, an alternate online option will be available for approved families with medical circumstances. The Alternate Online Learning option will be offered to medically fragile students (students with a weakened or compromised immune system) with a medical doctor's recommendation. Students can also be considered for Alternate Online Learning with a medical doctor's recommendation if there is an extreme medical condition in the student's documented residence and the affected family members are not provided efficient support through adult vaccinations.
- The Alternate Online Learning application and guidelines can be found on our district website in the COVID-19 section.