



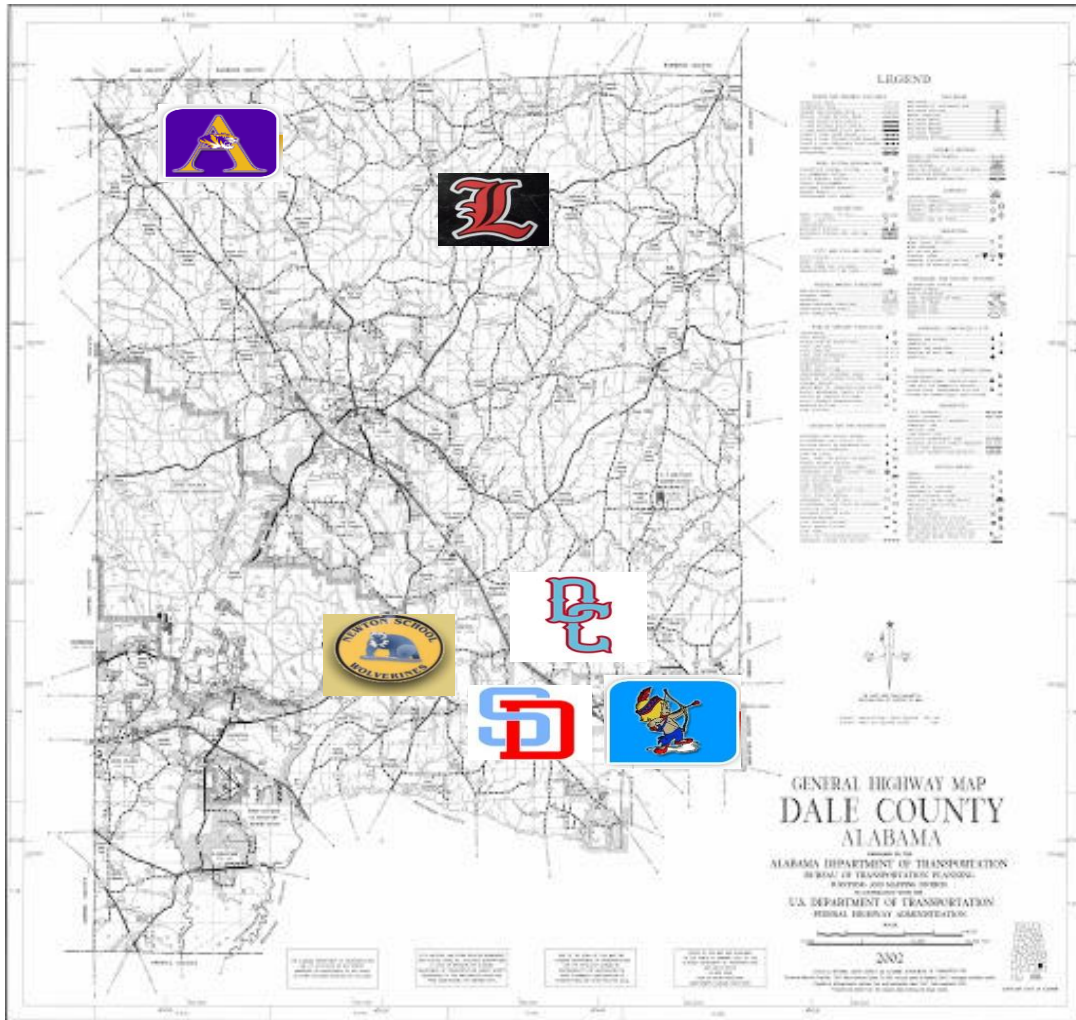
DALE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

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“Roadmap to Reopening Dale County Schools”

July 2020



Destination: Excellence

Dale County Strong!

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I. Notes to Stakeholders

A. Message from Superintendent Ben Baker

Dear Stakeholders,

I want to begin by saying how very thankful I am of the excellent work and dedication displayed during the events of this past spring. We all - families, teachers, school support staff, and community members pulled together to finish the school year during a worldwide pandemic. We had all hoped that by the fall we would no longer be concerned with COVID-19. This did not happen; the virus continues to spread and affect our daily lives. However, life must go on, and we MUST educate our children. The leaders of the Dale County School system have created this plan with guidance from the Alabama State Department of Education and the Alabama Department of Public Health to reopen schools. We have developed a plan to bring students back to campus for the 2020-2021 school year. We have many learning deficits to fill and we have curriculum gaps to overcome, but we have shown when we work together we can accomplish much. I ask for your patience, your understanding, and your trust as we work together to educate the youth of Dale County. I reach out to you, not only as your Superintendent, but also as a parent; that WILL be sending his child back to school with no reservations. We have a plan to keep our schools clean and sanitized, to educate students on do's and don'ts, and to make the most out of a difficult situation. This year will be complicated, frustrating, and at times chaotic. Together we will push through and at the end of the crisis rejoice in our success!

Sincerely,

Ben Baker

B. Disclaimer The information provided in this document does not, and is not intended to, constitute legal or healthcare advice. Instead, all information, content, and materials available in this document are for general informational purposes only. Information in this document may not constitute the most up-to-date legal, healthcare or other information. Readers of this document should contact their primary healthcare providers to obtain advice with respect to any particular health matter. No reader or user of this document should act or refrain from acting on the basis of information in this document without first seeking healthcare advice from local healthcare advisors in the relevant jurisdiction. Only your healthcare provider can provide assurances that the information contained herein, and your interpretation of it, is applicable or appropriate to your particular situation. All liability with respect to actions taken or not taken based on the contents of this document are hereby expressly disclaimed. The content in this document is provided "as is." No representations are made that the content is error-free. This guidance is not mandated or state required. Local school districts have the authority and flexibility to meet their individual needs and be responsive to their communities.

C. American Academy of Pediatric Guidance The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) firmly states "the AAP strongly advocates that all policy considerations for the coming school year should start with a goal of having students physically present at school".

II. Wellness

A. Dale County Schools screening continuum

HOME is the first point on the screening continuum. Students and employees that exhibit the symptoms of COVID-19 should stay at home. Families are encouraged to self-monitor symptoms of illness, which could include fever, dry cough, stomach ache in children, sore throat, etc.

TRANSPORTATION is the second point on the screening continuum. Buses will have visible signage or other notice to communicate the symptoms students should not have if traveling on a school bus. Bus drivers will place symptomatic students in an isolation seat and notify a school official upon arrival to school.

SCHOOL is the final point on the screening continuum. School staff will visually check for symptoms during the school day (which may include temperature checks) and/or confirm with families that students are COVID-19 symptom free.

B. Healthy Habits

FACIAL COVERINGS have been described as one method to reduce the spread of coronavirus by both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH). For students there is not a state requirement for facial coverings. Dale County Schools encourages, but does not require, facial coverings for students. Under current health orders, “each employee shall, to the greatest extent practicable, wear a mask or other facial covering that covers his or her nostrils and mouth at all times when in regular interaction within six feet of a person from a different household”. To be most effective, face coverings should cover the mouth and nostrils. Local ordinances of county and/or towns could require facial coverings. Dale County currently does not have any such orders. Dale County Schools is not providing such coverings and is expecting students/employees to provide their own. Students that may have a financial difficulty acquiring mask and/or sanitation supplies that are encouraged/required should contact their school counselor for assistance. The care and sanitation of facial coverings will be the responsibility of the individual. Instructional and learning needs will be considered. For instance, in teaching reading in early childhood, seeing the teacher’s face for phonological queues can be helpful to the learner; in one-on-one close contact, a face shield might be more advisable than an opaque covering. All CNP employees will wear a mask, food-safe disposable gloves, and aprons during meal serving.

MAINTAINING PHYSICAL DISTANCE between persons is another method that may reduce the risk of spreading coronavirus according to both CDC and ADPH. Maintaining physical distance will not always be practical/possible inside school settings (including buses) and there should be no expectation to do so. However, Dale County Schools will implement best practices when possible and practical. For instance, space may not allow placing six feet between student desks, but it might be practical to place a little more space between desks and to face them all in one direction. Assigned seating and seating charts will be required for all classrooms.

PROPER CLEANING AND SANITATION are important tools to kill viruses and, thus, reduce the spread of infection. Dale County Schools will implement best practices in proper sanitization. Care will be taken to make sure the appropriate sanitizers are purchased and that custodial staff understand the proper application as well as safety precautions. Proper hand washing and/or the use of hand sanitizers is also a tool to kill viruses and remove them from the environment, thus reducing the spread of infection. Teachers will instruct children to wash hands and to apply hand sanitizers in a safe and responsible manner as we have done for decades. Dale County Schools will have a heightened awareness of the importance of these practices.

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY is expected of all students and stakeholders. We all must take personal responsibility. This simply means to be responsible in your decisions – stay at home if you are sick, wash your hands often, don’t touch your face, keep a distance from non-household members, wear facial coverings if you are at risk, sneeze and cough in a tissue or your elbow, check your temperature often, monitor members of your family/household for symptoms of COVID-19. If you have a known exposure to COVID-19 you are encouraged to self-isolate and contact your healthcare provider.

MENTAL HEALTH of our students is a top priority. The school system will monitor student behavior to provide guidance. The students may experience anxiety and fear of the virus. The students may experience anxiety and fear of being away from home for the first time in weeks. The school system uses in-house guidance counselors and contracts with social workers and psychologists in the local communities to respond to mental health issues as they arise. Stakeholders that have concerns about their student's mental health should contact their teacher or local school guidance counselor for assistance.

III. Class Options

A. Curriculum Options

Dale County Schools is excited to be returning back to our schools for traditional learning starting on August 7th. We will also offer virtual and remote learning options, but please understand that these methods of learning may not offer the same level of outstanding direct instruction by our highly qualified and certified teachers. For families choosing to return to a traditional learning environment their students will learn valuable social skills that prepare them to live in an ever changing society, but also, and more importantly, their students will have direct, instant access to their teacher in their classroom. Each family must evaluate their options for learning and decide which education type is best for their student during this school year. The options are as follows:

Option 1 – **Traditional School (offered in grades PreK-12)** with best practices implemented; students may switch to Remote Learning but must remain in Remote Learning until the change in the grading period (end of each 9 weeks)

Option 2 – **Remote Learning (offered in grades PreK-12)** will be provided for students that have concerns about returning to traditional school; curriculum provided by the school system that must be delivered by an online platform to a device at home; students will not attend school or participate in any extra-curricular activities (clubs, athletics, band, etc.) due to concerns about COVID-19; this online program does not include any direct instruction by a teacher; families that enroll in Remote Learning cannot transition back to traditional school until the change in the grading period (end of each 9 weeks); Honors courses are not recognized for class rank purposes with this option

Option 3 – **Virtual School (offered in grades 9-12)** curriculum is provided by a certified teacher online that can correspond with the student electronically; students are required to take tests at the Accelerated Learning Center in Ozark; this is a semester commitment; Honors courses are not recognized for class rank purposes with this option; students can participate in athletics by attending the required conditioning classes on the home campus during the school day; students must abide by the established requirements found in Board Policy 4.81.

****Blended** This curriculum will be offered to students in the **Traditional School** setting that receive a positive test for COVID-19 and are required to stay at home for an extended period of time; this option could also be used for students in self-quarantine for an extended period of time at the request of the ADPH; the local school counselor will coordinate the logistics

****Enrollment** Students that choose **Traditional School** will follow established procedures of the past; students choosing **Remote Learning** will notify the local school counselor by phone or email of their intent to remote learn July 27-July 30 (from 7am – 4pm) to complete an application; students choosing the **Virtual School** (Grades 9-12 only) option will contact the Virtual School principal by phone or email (Mr. Jason Steed - 334-445-5585 - jsteed@dalecountyboe.org) to make an appointment to apply

****Devices/Internet** The student will be expected to provide their own device and internet connection at home for the **Remote Learning** and **Virtual School** options; paper packets used in the Spring of 2020 will NOT be available; if a **Remote Learning** student does not have access to this technology they should notify the counselor at the time of enrollment to see if an individualized plan can be created to provide the needed technology

****Accountability** All options will include grading. Report cards will be distributed for all students, regardless of the option selected. All students will be expected to take the state testing during the school year, which will be given on campus. Semester Exams will be suspended for the 2020-2021 school year.

****Special Needs** Students that have current **Individual Educational Plans (IEPs), 504s, Gifted Plans, or ELL Plans** that choose **Remote School** or **Virtual School** should contact the Special Education Coordinator (Ms. Beverly Lampkin - 334-774-2355 - blampkin@dalecountyboe.org) for assistance

IV. Day to Day Operations

A. School Calendar

Teachers Begin - August 3, 2020

Students Begin - August 7, 2020

180 Student days

187 Teacher days

Last Day Students – May 26, 2021

Last Day Teachers – May 27, 2021

B. Daily Schedule

- ✓ Buses will unload as soon as they arrive on campus as directed by school administration to prevent long term exposure; all persons entering school facilities will immediately sanitize their hands by an alcohol hand sanitizer or by traditional washing of hands with soap and water
- ✓ Students will report to their first class assignment upon arrival to school – no staging or congregating
- ✓ Breakfast will be delivered to the classroom (except for GW Long High School and Ariton School grades 7-12; these students will “grab and go” from the lunchroom and report to their first class assignment); students will eat breakfast in the classroom
- ✓ It is not practical to social distance in a classroom; students will be arranged by the teacher to promote as much distance as possible; students will be encouraged, but not required, to wear mask during class; small group activities will be minimized, but not eliminated
- ✓ Recess/Break will be outside; classes will be grouped/separated or beginning and ending times will be staggered to eliminate cross exposure; on inclement weather days recess/break will be held in the classroom
- ✓ Students/employees will be allowed to bring and have bottled water for use during the school day; water fountains may not be accessible
- ✓ Grades PreK – Grade 2 will be allowed to eat lunch in the lunchroom; teachers and administration will social distance students as much as possible; Grades 3-12 will eat lunch in the classroom or outside (weather permitting); proper sanitation practices will be practiced in the serving areas and in the classrooms
- ✓ Parents are encouraged to pay for meals using our online payment system “My School Bucks”, which can be located on the Dale County School’s webpage
- ✓ Parents are encouraged to apply for free/reduced meals online at the Dale County School’s webpage, the application is under “My School Apps” link; paper applications will be distributed
- ✓ Classes will place trash outside of the classroom after breakfast and lunch to remove the waste from the learning environment, each local school administrator will develop a plan for the removal of trash from the school hallways after breakfast and lunch in the classroom
- ✓ Physical Education, Career Tech, and other close contact classes will social distance as much as possible without disrupting the integrity of the lesson/activity
- ✓ Playgrounds, lunchrooms, weight rooms, and other common areas will be sanitized after each use; each classroom will be sanitized after each transition; local school administrators will create a schedule for disinfecting all school properties during the day
- ✓ Temperatures will be taken at random and of symptomatic students and employees throughout the school day
- ✓ Hand sanitizer will be readily available in classrooms, common areas, and hallways as long as supplies last
- ✓ When checking students out of school – only one person should enter the school and report directly to the office; the visitor should respect social distancing and conduct the check-out process as quickly as possible; the parent and child need to leave campus immediately

- ✓ The afternoon bus lines and car lines will require more time as we accomplish this task socially distancing as possible/practical; please use patience and please remember to stay in your vehicle – no early check outs unless it is for health reasons or healthcare appointments

C. Symptomatic Students/Employees

- ✓ Students/employees will be sent to the nurse if they exhibit signs of illness; the nurse will triage the individual and if the individual has symptoms of COVID–19 they will be taken to an isolation room (students will remain under adult supervision). Employees will be sent home immediately, and students will stage in the isolation area until they are picked up by a parent, guardian, or emergency contact person; it is vital that contact information is current and on file with the local school
- ✓ Employees/students with a positive test or employees/students living with an individual that receives a positive test are asked to self-quarantine for 14 days and be symptom free for 72 hours
- ✓ When an employee/student is symptomatic, the space occupied by that person will be vacated by others and deep cleaned before others are allowed to reenter
- ✓ When a positive case occurs the school will not necessarily close; deep cleaning will take place and the schedule will continue; every effort will be made to clean affected areas and every effort will be made to keep schools open
- ✓ Students that may experience complications due to COVID–19 may be placed on **Remote Learning**
- ✓ Employees that test positive or experience complications due to COVID–19 will fall under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (during the effective time period of the Act)
- ✓ Employees/students should always follow the instructions, guidance and directions of the Alabama Department of Public Health and their individual healthcare provider

D. Special Events

- ✓ Field trips and school assemblies will be limited first term
- ✓ Pep Rallies will be allowed if held outside in stadiums with distancing between groups
- ✓ Special event request made by community organizations will be limited and reviewed on a case by case basis; fees for cleaning, sanitizing, and social distancing will be considered
- ✓ Athletic and extracurricular events will be held on campuses as scheduled; AHSAA guidelines will be implemented for athletic events; spectators will be encouraged, but not required, to wear facial coverings; families will be encouraged to social distance from individuals outside of their household as much as possible/practical; stakeholders that are symptomatic should not attend or participate
- ✓ AHSAA guidelines are subject to change; Dale County Schools will enforce all current guidelines as member schools
- ✓ Hand sanitizer will be readily available at all events as supplies last

E. Visitors to Campus

- ✓ Visits to campus during the school day will be limited; essential visits only
- ✓ Visitors to campus during the school day will be asked to wear facial coverings and will be subject to temperature checks
- ✓ Parents/guardians will not be allowed to come on campus during the school day unless it is to pick up a sick child
- ✓ Every person not employed or enrolled must sign in and give the reason and phone number for contact in case the information is requested by the ADPH
- ✓ Parent conferences are encouraged, but should be held virtually or by phone
- ✓ Vendors making deliveries will have limited access
- ✓ No solicitation from outside vendors during the first semester
- ✓ Parents/non-enrolled guests that attend outside pep rallies will have a designated area to social distance from the student body
- ✓ Additional fees for cleaning, sanitation, and social distancing may be applied to any facility use agreement with pre-payment required.

F. Attendance

- ✓ Dale County Schools will continue to record/take attendance and enforce compulsory attendance laws
- ✓ Special absence codes associated with COVID-19 have been created and will be considered excused absences for students diagnosed or in self quarantine
- ✓ Students not making adequate progress, as determined by school officials, in **Virtual School** will be required to transition to **Traditional School**
- ✓ Students not making adequate progress, as determined by school officials, in **Remote Learning** will be considered truant and court petitions could be filed

V. Transportation

Social distancing on a school bus is not practical. Dale County Schools will implement best practices to try and prevent the spread of COVID-19. Best practices like assigned seats, loading back to front, unloading front to back, and safe bus behaviors may be implemented to promote health and safety.

A. Drivers - bus drivers will sanitize the bus before each trip; drivers are encouraged, but not required, to wear a facial covering; drivers will adjust their schedule to prevent students from being on the bus for extended periods of time

B. Students – students are encouraged, but not required, to wear a facial covering while on the school bus; students will be required to sit with family members; students who develop or exhibit symptoms will be asked to sit in an isolation seat; bus drivers will report students displaying symptoms to the appropriate school personnel upon arrival at school; hand sanitizer will be available on each bus as long as supplies are available; students are encouraged to bring their own hand sanitizer; assigned seating will be required

VI. Contact Information

Ariton School

Principal -	Mr. Josh Herring	334-762-2371	jherring@dalecountyboe.org
Counselors -	Ms. Paige Peters	334-762-2371	ppeters@dalecountyboe.org
	Ms. Mindy Blankenship	334-762-2371	mblankenship@dalecountyboe.org
Nurse -	Ms. Kim Ingram	334-762-2371	kingram@dalecountyboe.org

Dale County High School

Principal -	Mr. Matt Humphrey	334-983-3541	mhumphrey@dalecountyboe.org
Counselor -	Ms. Abby Saunders	334-983-3541	asaunders@dalecountyboe.org
At-Risk Coach -	Ms. Tabitha Burgess	334-983-3541	tburgess@dalecountyboe.org
Nurse -	Ms. Jazmine Harper	334-983-3541	jharper@dalecountyboe.org

GW Long Elementary School

Principal -	Ms. Celeste Johnston	334-774-0021	cjohnston@dalecountyboe.org
Counselor -	Ms. Megan Larson	334-774-0021	mlarson@dalecountyboe.org
Nurse -	Ms. Donna Grantham	334-774-0021	dgrantham@dalecountyboe.org

GW Long High School

Principal -	Mr. Daniel Barrentine	334-774-2380	dbarrentine@dalecountyboe.org
Counselor -	Ms. Brenda Steed	334-774-2380	bsteed@dalecountyboe.org
Nurse -	Ms. Donna Grantham	334-774-0021	dgrantham@dalecountyboe.org

Midland City Elementary School

Principal -	Ms. Jennifer Snellgrove	334-983-1252	jsnellgrove@dalecountyboe.org
Counselor -	Ms. Haley Carter	334-983-1252	hcarter@dalecountyboe.org
Nurse -	Ms. Hope Smith	334-983-1252	hsmith@dalecountyboe.org

Newton School

Principal -	Mr. Patrick Reed	334-299-3581	preed@dalecountyboe.org
Counselor -	Ms. Jessica Daniels	334-299-3581	jdaniels@dalecountyboe.org
Nurse -	Ms. Jennet Ammons	334-299-3581	jammons@dalecountyboe.org

South Dale Middle School

Principal -	Dr. Perry Dillard	334-983-3077	pdillard@dalecountyboe.org
Counselor -	Ms. Valerie Nelson	334-983-3077	vnelson@dalecountyboe.org
Nurse -	Ms. Amy Gullede	334-983-3077	agullede@dalecountyboe.org

Special Education Coordinator -	Ms. Beverly Lampkin	334-774-2355	blampkin@dalecountyboe.org
Virtual School Principal -	Mr. Jason Steed	334-445-5585	jsteed@dalecountyboe.org
Transportation Director -	Mr. Michael Smith	334-774-2360	msmith@dalecountyboe.org

Dale County Schools Website – www.dalecountyboe.org