2020 Reopening of Elmore County Public Schools

Your child's health and safety has been and will continue to be a priority for the Elmore County School System and your child's school. Our staff has been working tirelessly on protocols and procedures to maximize safety and keep everyone healthy. School reopening guidelines have been developed with the guidance of the Alabama Department of Education, the Alabama Department of Public Health, and the Emergency Management Agency. *Policies and procedures related to COVID-19 mandates will be adjusted according to Alabama state requirements.*

NOTE: *Elmore County will adhere to all state/local health mandates and will adjust procedures as necessary.*

Information about COVID-19:

[Symptoms of COVID](#)

[How to protect yourself from COVID](#)

[Alabama COVID testing sites](#)

[ECPS Daily Screening Guide for Students and Staff](#)

What will a typical school day look like?

Arrival at School

- Parents should screen their children first prior to arrival; if students are bus riders, the bus driver will screen visually.
- All students and personnel will receive a temperature check upon arrival, and teachers will also screen within the classroom.
- Parents/guardians who drop off their children in the morning will need to stay in their vehicle.
- Parents/guardians will not be allowed to enter the building, even on the first day of school.
- If your student is late to school, you should park out front and call the school to notify an adult that you have arrived. The student will enter the building by themselves and someone from the front office will check them in.
- Signage will direct students on good health practices to include hygiene/handwashing, social distancing, and recommendations on when to wear masks.

Dismissal

- Each school will comply with social distancing guidelines for student drop-off and pick up.
- Principals will notify parents of dismissal procedures.
- Each school will determine locations where students are to report.

Hallways/Transition

- Student hallway aids have been put down with social distancing in mind.
- Students will be directed to walk on the right side of the hall and space themselves using markers as a guide.

Lunch

- Students will order meals online and meals will be delivered to the classroom or central location.
- All meals will be served in sealed trays or sealed grab-and-go bags.
- Depending on each school's physical layout, classes may utilize the cafeteria, the classroom and/or outside spaces so that adequate social distancing is maintained between students.
- Parents are encouraged to utilize MySchoolBucks.com for depositing funds into student meal accounts.
- Visitors will not be allowed at lunch until further notice.
- Students may bring meals from home; however, sharing of food is not permitted.

Classrooms

- Teachers will set up their classrooms to maximize social distancing for students.
- Students are encouraged to keep their items with them during the day and will not share personal materials.
- Teachers will give digital assignments when possible to limit the transfer of paper.

Orientation

- Principals and teachers will virtually welcome parents and students.
- Specific information regarding procedures and processes will be sent to you through email, letter, and/or phone call before school begins.
- Some schools are providing small group tours for students who are registered.
- Information about bus routes will be posted/shared as soon as it becomes available so parents can look up their child's morning and afternoon bus number.

Virtual Learning Options
Grades K-5: Odysseyware
Grades 6-12: Edgenuity

Click HERE for information about available virtual learning opportunities

The Elmore County School system has purchased a virtual learning platform **(Grades K-5: Odysseyware; Grades 6-12: Edgenuity)** in which students can participate in virtual learning sessions. Every student in Elmore county will be registered in a virtual platform for use at the base school in a blended format.

If parents choose for their child(ren) to participate 100% virtually through the base school rather than traditional learning, they will need to contact the base school's principal or designee regarding the registration processes. See link below:

The form that will allow you to sign up your child for a virtual learning opportunity at the base school (Grades K-5: Odysseyware; Grades 6-12: Edgenuity) is located on the base school's website.

For students who receive special education services, parents who register for virtual learning will be provided services by the base school's special education teachers and paraprofessionals.

For students who receive gifted and other services, the system will have a teacher serve students weekly. A schedule of services will be provided.

Click HERE for a Parent One-Pager

Frequently Asked Questions

Will the school employ social distancing measures?

- Yes, to the extent possible. Elmore County School System employees, students, parents, and visitors are encouraged to stay approximately 6 feet away from others, if possible, and avoid contact with others.
- Schools will implement several practices where feasible to follow best hygiene practices and assist in social distancing, including:
    - encouraging hand washing and face coverings and not sharing personal items, electronics, toys, books and other games or learning aids
    - minimizing student traffic flow and developing traffic flow patterns to maximize social distancing
    - increasing desk spacing where possible
    - turning desks to face in the same direction
    - minimizing group settings
    - limiting mixing between groups.
- Students at increased risk of severe illness should implement individualized plans for virtual learning.

Will my child have to wear a face mask?

In accordance with current state guidance, students in 2nd through 12th grades are required to wear face masks at this time. This could change based on Elmore County's health status, and as documented by the Alabama Department of Public Health.

Note: *This could change according to mandates issued by the Alabama Department of Public Health.*

Will my child's teacher have to wear a face mask?

In accordance with current state guidance, faculty and staff are required to wear masks. This could change based on Elmore County's health status, and as documented by the Alabama Department of Public Health.

Note: *This could change according to mandates issued by the Alabama Department of Public Health.*

Can I visit my child at school?

Parents, guardians, volunteers, or mentors will <u>not</u> be allowed on campus until further notice. Only school system employees and/or essential personnel will be allowed on campus.

- Parent conferences and meetings will be held via phone, email, or through virtual meetings, when feasible.

- If a visit is absolutely essential and approved by school administrators, visitors will be subject to a temperature check and **questionnaire**. These instances will be on a limited basis.

Will students be able to use water fountains?
- While we will have water filling stations at all schools, all students are encouraged to bring a clear plastic water bottle to school and are encouraged to fill their bottles at home each morning.

Can I have something delivered to the school (food, gifts, etc.)?

- Until further notice, no outside food or packages will be received at school (examples: food from outside school, gifts, flowers, balloons, etc.).
- This does not apply to students bringing their own lunch or snacks from home.

What protective measures will be taken on my child's bus?

Bus drivers will clean bus seats, handles, and railings before each route and students will be separated on the bus to the extent possible.

Will my child still have recess?

- Yes, elementary students will still have the opportunity for recess each day (depending on grade level).
- Grade level classes will either have staggered times or play in different areas to limit contact with other students, and students will be encouraged to socially distance while playing.

What if a child exhibits symptoms of COVID-19?

- If a student displays COVID symptoms at school, or has a temperature at or above 100 degrees and/or displays other symptoms that cannot be explained, the child's parents or guardians will be contacted to pick up the student.
- The student will be moved into an isolation room until picked up by a parent or guardian. Parents or guardians will be given a reasonable time to pick up their child. If a parent cannot be reached or a student is not/cannot be picked up within a reasonable time, 911 will be notified and the child will be transported via EMS to a local hospital.
- Parents should contact their child's school regarding any subsequent diagnosis of a child sent home from school, or who otherwise has exhibited symptoms of COVID-19 or other illnesses. Similarly, parents should notify their child's school if anyone in the household has tested positive for COVID-19.
- The student will not be able to return to school until released by the school's nurse. Calls will be returned as soon as possible during school hours. Even if the child has a doctor's note, the child will still have to be cleared by the school's nurse.

- Any siblings or any other student living with a student who is sent home for fever or other symptoms may stay at school, unless they also display symptoms. Any siblings or any other student living with a person who tests positive for COVID-19 will also be required to quarantine, and may not return to face-to-face instruction until cleared to do so by the school nurse.
- All contact information will need to be updated at each school with current contact numbers. Please include the name and numbers of any person (family or otherwise) who is able to pick up your child.
- If a case of COVID-19 is diagnosed, local health and school system officials will be notified. Department of Public Health guidance will be followed, and local health and school officials will determine the next steps the school will follow, which may range from deep cleaning areas to school closing. Local public health officials will determine when or if letters will be sent home. The privacy of student, family, and employee health matters will be maintained.

How will my child complete his work if he/she has been sent home due to illness?

- At the beginning of the school year, every student will be provided a Chromebook and will be registered in a grade-appropriate virtual platform (Grades K-5: Odysseyware; Grades 6-12: Edgenuity).
- Students who are unable to attend school and have appropriate documentation will be allowed to complete assignments on the virtual platform and be marked e-Present. Please reference the Elmore County Student Handbook.

Virtual vs. Traditional FAQ's

Are there times when virtual students will be required to go to school?

During the COVID-19 pandemic, virtual students will not be required to physically report to school unless they fail to adequately participate and require in-person instruction.

Can virtual students participate in extracurricular activities such as athletics, band, etc.

Yes. Students will need to be enrolled in the base school for which they are zoned per AHSAA requirements.

Will parents be allowed to change their child's learning environment at any time throughout the year?

Repeated shifts must be approved by the Principal.

If my child transfers from their base school to EDGE, can he/she transfer back?

Yes, but not until after the end of the first nine weeks.

Will parents receive professional development or training regarding virtual learning?

Each school will conduct various professional development trainings for parents. Additionally, under *Parent and Student Resources* on www.elmoreco.com, there will be a "Parent Academy", with helpful tutorial videos and information to help each family navigate the virtual environment.

Are students required to complete virtual assignments daily?

Students are expected to stay on pace with virtual expectations. Please refer to the Elmore County Student Handbook on virtual attendance and engagement (Handbook will be available on July 22, 2020, and published on the Elmore County Public School webpage under Publications: http://www.elmoreco.com/?DivisionID=2445).

Will students be assigned one teacher for virtual learning or will there be multiple teachers?

It depends on the grade level of the child. Certified teachers in each area supervise each course.

Will there be tutoring options for virtual learning students?

Yes; if a student has a grade below 60%, the student is strongly encouraged to attend tutoring.

How will a virtual student receive help if they are falling behind or not understanding concepts?

Students' needs are evaluated on an individual basis and recommendations are made by the certified teacher and/or PST (problem-solving teams).

Will work/paper packets be available for virtual learning?

This will be limited to administrative approval only. Our goal is to limit packets of paper due to transmission of germs.

How will virtual students take tests?

Virtual students can take quizzes and unit tests at home. State mandated tests will have to be done in person at a designated space in Elmore County Schools.

Will virtual students have to take state assessments?

Yes. That is an absolute requirement for each student as we are part of the public school system.

If a student has an IEP, 504, or EL plan, how will they receive accommodations if he/she is a virtual student?

School leadership teams will discuss each student's needs and make case-by-case decisions for students with IEP/504/I-ELP plans. It is possible that a student's needs may best be met in a traditional setting; however, all cases will be discussed on an individual basis.

Will there be field trips for traditional and virtual students?

At the time of this publication, no field trips are scheduled for students in either the virtual or the traditional learning environments due to COVID-19. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

Will a parent be required to be at home with the virtual student during the normal school hours?

While we cannot require parents or guardians to supervise at home, it is highly encouraged that every student, regardless of age and grade level, has adequate supervision while on the virtual platform.

Will driver's education be available to virtual students?

Yes, students wishing to participate in driver's education must take this class as a blended course at their base school in the traditional school setting. Instruction will take place virtually and the driving portion will be conducted at the base campus.