



## **Pike County Board of Education School Reopening Plan**

# Pike County Board of Education

## School Reopening Plan

***Pike County School (PCS) officials have developed the following plan to reopen schools with the guidance of local, state, and federal leaders as well as local medical professionals and teachers. It is important to understand that this is a “plan” intended to guide our actions and decisions. It is in no way designed to address every possible scenario we might face during the 2020-2021 school term. As new information becomes available, this plan will change. PCS officials are committed to the following principles that will guide our planning, decision making, and execution of plans to return to school:***

1. We will put safety first. We will use science, data, and public health guidance to inform our decisions.
2. We will be transparent. We will share what we know and what we do not know and be clear about what we can and cannot control.
3. We will be equitable. We will center decisions on what is best for all students, families, and educators.
4. We will listen. We will bring together diverse stakeholders and experts to understand the reality of our situation and to seek creative solutions.
5. We will be decisive. Given the size and scope of the challenge, we must move deliberately and make tough choices. We may make mistakes but will adapt quickly as we discover better solutions.

For additional information regarding community spread please access the Centers for Disease Control Prevention “Consideration for Schools” link below:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools.html>

The “Parent’s Guide to Alabama’s Roadmap to Reopening Schools” can be found on our website: [www.pikecountyschools.com](http://www.pikecountyschools.com)

### **DISCLAIMER**

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## **IMPORTANT DATES**

**\*July 16, 2020** – Governor Ivey’s Stay at Home Safer Mask Order Amendment begins

<https://governor.alabama.gov/assets/2020/07/Safer-at-Home-Order-Mask-Amendment-7.15.2020-FINAL.pdf>

**\*July 29, 2020** – Deadline to register for Virtual School Program (VSP)

**August 10, 2020** – August Board Meeting and approval of Reopening Plan

**August 11, 2020** - Public Release of School Opening Plan

**August 12, 13, 14, 2020** – Return to work and staggered Institutes

**August 12 – 23, 2020** – Professional Development Days for Employees

**August 24, 2020** – Students return to school

## **ESSENTIAL ACTIONS**

- PCSs will systematically review student health care plans to accommodate the needs of students and to decrease the potential for illness. The point of contact will be the school nurse.
- PCSs will create a process to identify medically high-risk students and develop a plan to address requests for alternative learning arrangements. **\*Not all requests must be met, but a systematic procedure to address concerns will be in place. Please see Alabama’s Roadmap to Re-opening:**  
<https://www.alsde.edu/Documents/Roadmap%20for%20Reopening%20Schools%20June%2026%202020.pdf> Point of contact will be the school guidance counselor.
- PCSs will refer to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Consideration for Schools: General Readiness Assessment  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/community/School-Admin-K12-readiness-and-planning-tool.pdf> to prepare for school opening.

## **GENERAL SAFETY GUIDANCE**

PCSs will rely on guidance offered from the Alabama Department of Public Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention should students or staff contract COVID-19.

- PCSs strongly encourages all medically cleared students to attend school in person.
- All schools will have hand sanitizing stations in various locations throughout each building.
- All classrooms, common areas, and buses will be cleaned with disinfectant as often as practical throughout each day.
- Face coverings or masks will be worn by students, staff, and school visitors over the age of six (6) per **Governor Ivey's recent Stay at Home Order Mask Amendment** <https://governor.alabama.gov/newsroom/2020/07/fifteenth-supplemental-state-of-emergency-coronavirus-covid-19/>
- Students age six or younger are strongly encouraged to wear facial coverings.
- Students, staff, and school visitors will be screened for fever (100.4 or greater) before entering the building.
- All employees of PCSs will be provided with facial masks and/or shields.
- Water fountains will not be accessible, so students are strongly encouraged to bring their own water to drink throughout the day. The student's name should be clearly written on his/her container. Snacks may be purchased at the school in accordance with past procedures but will be delivered and consumed in the classroom.
- Locker use will cease until further notice.
- School breakfast and lunches will be "grab and go" and consumed inside the classroom depending on each school's situation.
- Student seating will be arranged to provide maximum social distancing.
- Open house activities may be altered based upon the latest professional guidance. Current plans are for Open House to be conducted Virtually.
- Parents will not be permitted to escort their children to class on the first day of school.
- Parent volunteers will not be permitted to work with children until further notice.
- Principals will ensure that measures are taken to ensure appropriate procedures are followed when parents must visit the office. Health screening and mask will be required. Access to instructional areas will be restricted to employees, students, and interns.
- Students who experience symptoms while at school will be isolated until parents are able to pick them up.
- Travel patterns will be modified at each school to help distance students during transitions.
- "Cohorting" or teacher movement may be used in certain grade levels instead of students changing classes.

- Plexiglass partitions may be installed in lower grade classrooms to help protect students and teachers during small group instruction. Center activities will be restricted. Students should not share materials. Soft surfaces will be removed from classrooms (i.e., pillows, sleeping mats, blankets, soft toys, etc.).
- Students must be symptom and fever free (under 100.4) **for 48 hours before returning to school** after an illness. This new procedure will supersede any prior guidance.
- Students who contract COVID-19 will be quarantined for the recommended number of days by the ADPH. Students who have been exposed to a Covid positive individual, have tested positive, or who have any Covid symptom should report this to the School Principal. Parent will be asked to complete the online Covid Self-Reporting Form found on the PCSs web-site at [www.pikcountyschools.com](http://www.pikcountyschools.com) Additional information is provided on page 10-11.
- In cooperation with other agencies, the PCS is working to develop a Rapid Response Testing Team (RRTT). The goal of this team is to provide Covid test result rapidly so that unaffected students and employees can return to school.
- Parents and staff will be contacted by the appropriate officials should a teacher or student within their class be diagnosed with COVID-19. Schools will notify parents via the “Remind app,” School Messenger, or by phone.
- Principals at each school will establish procedures to achieve the safest environment possible.
- Assembly programs, field trips, and other similar activities have been eliminated until conditions permit.
- Students will report to First Block or Homeroom immediately after their health screening each morning.
- Students should not share supplies. Parents should check with individual teachers for school supply lists.
- Parents who have not enrolled their children prior to the first day of school will need to call and make an appointment to do so.
- Parents may enter the building by appointment only.

### **SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS**

- Parents should screen their children for fever (100.4 or greater) before leaving home.
- Parents should consider packing personal hand sanitizer in their student’s backpacks. This should be labeled with child’s name for personal use only and not to be shared with other students.
- While bus service will still be available for students, experts recommend riding to school in a personal vehicle with family members. **Students riding a bus must**

**wear a mask.** Loading will be back to front. Unloading will be front to back. Both activities will be conducted seat by seat. Designated seats will be classified as isolation seats should a child become sick on the bus. Bus will be sanitized between all trips. Seating will be assigned by family units.

- Speak with your children about the expectation of frequent hand washing and keeping their hands to themselves.
- It is recommended that students change clothes and bathe thoroughly as soon as they get home from school.
- Wash clothes before wearing again

## **INSTRUCTIONAL DELIVERY OPTIONS**

### **Traditional/Blended Program: Option 1**

The Traditional At-school option requires students to be at school during regular school day from the school's opening bell until dismissal. Safety consideration will be in place. Students who do not wish to follow the safety considerations should select the Virtual Option. Instruction will proceed as it would in a "normal school year." Students participating in the Traditional/Blended option must have a device and internet to complete some assignments.

### **Virtual Learning Program: Option 2**

While not a requirement by the Alabama State Department of Education, PCSs will offer Virtual learning opportunities for those students whose parents choose to keep them at home because of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is important to understand that distance learning alternatives are inherently inferior methods of instruction compared to in-person teaching and learning. Prolonged periods away from the traditional school environment may result in learning gaps which may hinder the ultimate outcomes of those students' education. Nevertheless, PCS is committed to offering alternative methods of instruction for those students whose parents choose to keep them at home for reasons associated with COVID-19.

- Students whose parents elect to keep them at home and receive alternative distance instruction will do so for the entire first term grading period (ends December 2020).
- Students who remain home to receive Virtual instruction options may participate in extra-curricular activities such as band, choral music, athletics, etc.
- Students will be expected to demonstrate discipline in keeping up with their assignments and exhibit academic integrity at all times.

- Students who are injured, ill, or tending to a family member in need may receive Virtual instruction may return when mutually decided between the school, parents, and medical/health authorities.
- **July 29, 2020 is the deadline to register for Virtual instruction. Please register a [www.pikecountyschools.com](http://www.pikecountyschools.com) or call Diana Whitaker at 334-566-1850 extension 110. A trial period for changing from Traditional to Virtual or Virtual to Traditional is provided. This deadline is September 4, 2020.**

## **EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENT LEARNING FOR TRADITIONAL AND VIRTUAL OPTIONS**

### **Student Expectations**

Students are expected to be ready to learn irrespective of their mode of learning, traditional or virtual. Students should always be prepared to learn and remain engaged in the learning process. Also, being courteous, proactive, and focused are vital to the learning experience. While in the virtual environment, students must participate, use appropriate language and writing styles, respect diversity, and submit assignments in a timely manner.

### **Teacher Expectations**

- Ongoing data analysis is critical in responding to and intervening in filling learning gaps that may exist due to “Commer Slide.”
- Meaningful, on-going data meetings; effective collaboration and communication; and identification of resources to target learning gaps will continue.
- Intervention may be delivered through a blend of face-to-face sessions with teachers and through technology programs; however, effective intervention cannot be delivered solely via software or other technology tools.
- Strict adherence to pacing guides is essential to an effective 2020-2021 school year.
- Teachers are responsible for rigorous, standards-based, intervention-centered, quality instruction for both traditional and virtual students.
- Teachers are responsible for acclimating themselves to and implementing all platforms used to deliver instruction (i.e. Schoology, SchoolsPLP, Teams, Zoom).
- Teachers will be responsible for integration of at least 2 online assignments per week during traditional instruction.

***In the event of a transition to virtual learning for all students, all teachers will be prepared for a seamless transition and consider the following:***

Teachers will be responsible for continuing standards-based, quality instruction for their students using the instructional platforms provided if all classes transition to virtual learning.

Virtual lessons are expected to be a continuance of traditional instruction and should be planned with the same intensity and rigor as all other lessons. Lessons and assignments are to be paced.

Grades will be taken for assignments given during virtual learning.

During virtual learning, each teacher will conduct at least one remote face-to-face meeting (online class) per week per class or core subject in addition to creating and assigning at least three assignments/tasks per class per week. (exception: PreK will be assigned 2 lessons)

All online class meetings will be conducted at predetermined, scheduled times.

**Pike County Schools will adhere to the Alabama Department of Education's guidance on the amount of time students need to spend on remote learning per the chart below.**

<b>Grade Level</b>	<b>Minimum</b>	<b>Maximum</b>	<b>Recommended Length of Sustained Attention</b>
<b>PreK</b>	20 minutes/day	60 minutes/day	3-5 minutes
<b>K</b>	30 minutes/ day	90 minutes/day	3-5 minutes
<b>1-2</b>	45 minutes/day	90 minutes/day	5-10 minutes
<b>3-5</b>	60 minutes/day	120 minutes/day	10-15 minutes
<b>6-8</b>	Class: 15 minutes/day Total: 90 minutes/day	Class: 30 minutes/day Total: 180 minutes/day	1 subject area or class
<b>9-12</b>	Class: 20 minutes/day Total: 120 minutes/day	Class: 45 minutes/day Total: 270 minutes/day	1 subject area or class

## **IMPACT OF REOPENING PLAN ON STEM, ACADEMY, DUAL ENROLLMENT, AND CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

### **STEM**

- The STEM Academy, for students in grades 5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> grades, will continue to operate for students participating in the Traditional instructional option only (Starting Fall 2020). For students who take advantage of the Virtual instructional option, STEM services will not be available. However, when COVID restrictions relax and the instructional setting returns to a more “normal” state, students who previously participated in Virtual instruction, are expected to be permitted to return to their placement in the STEM Academy.



- Because the STEM Academy includes students from each of the five (5) Pike County Schools campuses, our goal is to restrict contact among students from varying campuses. For students participating in the Traditional instructional option, additional safety protocols that will be put into place include: cooperative instructional groups would be from the same school rather than intermingling students from other schools and program activities would be modified to reduce students being in close proximity to one another. In addition, student equipment/materials will be assigned to the same student/group of students, as available and appropriate. These will reduce the likelihood of cross contact among school campuses.
- In addition to normal cleaning, student spaces and equipment will be sanitized following student use throughout the day.
- Considerations will be made to ensure that a limited number of students utilizing restroom and break facilities at one time, further helping to ensure limited contact.
- Transportation for STEM Academy students will remain in-place.

### **Academy/Dual Enrollment**

- Student participating in Academy/Dual Enrollment programs will not only follow the protocols established by the Pike County School System, but they will also follow the protocols established by the appropriate post-secondary partner.
- Students are being directed to register for the Virtual instructional option (for high school classes). This will provide scheduling flexibility for high school classes, provided limited exposure (potential) to other students, and reduce the number of students at the CA<sup>3</sup>L building and other Academy student work sites throughout the school day. During non-scheduled times, Academy/Dual Enrollment students would be encouraged to work from home to complete both college and high school courses. Students who have specific technology issues (reliable device/internet) will be addressed on an individual basis – once they have explored the district technology protocol.
- Academy/Dual enrollment students will be designated specific days of the week to report to their designated facilitator to review college/university progress, review of high school progress, discuss needs, and meet with tutors as needed.
  - Tutors are available to provide both face-to-face and virtual services.
  - Primarily mathematics and science.
- When students are on-campus, students and workstations will be socially distanced and work areas will be sanitized following student use.
- Academy/Dual Enrollment students who can drive, we encourage them to do so. However, in the event these students need to utilize Pike County Schools transportation, routes will continue to run.

### **Career and Technical Education (CTE) @ Troy-Pike Center for Technology**

- Students who participate in the traditional instructional option, will have access to ALL CTE courses, both high school and dual enrollment.
- Students who choose the Virtual instructional option will have access to select CTE offerings via the virtual format – selections are limited and at the approval of the CTE Director. Virtual students may participate in face-to-face CTE courses, if they are one of the following:
  - Academy Students
  - Students participating in a dual enrollment CTE courses
  - Students participating in the Pike County Schools – Credit Recovery Program (26 credit pathway)
- All students participating in CTE courses will utilize the Pike County Schools transportation to travel to and from the Troy-Pike Center for Technology (TPCT).

### **SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY IMPLICATIONS AND STUDENT TESTING**

- Per the United States Department of Education (USDOE) waiver granted to the ALSDE, there will be no Accountability System produced in the fall 2020.
- Letter grades assigned to schools assigned in the fall of 2019 will remain as they currently exist.
- The Accountability System will be back in place in the fall of 2021 as the USDOE waiver was granted for one (1) year only.
- ACT –Make-Up for Spring 2020 students will begin given September 22, 2020.
- Students who choose virtual learning are eligible for a voucher for the national test date. Parents will have to transport students to the testing site.
- All other state assessments are scheduled by the Alabama Department of Education. PCS will follow the state’s schedule for student assessments.

### **STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS PER INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITY EDUCATION ACT AND SECTION 504**

PCS is committed to meeting the needs of all children. Dr. Mark Head, Administrative Assistant for Prevention and Support Services and Special Education or a local school case manager will contact each parent who has an existing educational plan to address any concerns. Some services may be delivered using technology.

## **TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SECURING TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE**

Beginning Fall 2020, it will be necessary for all students to have access to a device such as a Laptop Computer, Desktop Computer, Chromebook, iOS Device/iPad, Android Tablet, or Kindle Fire Tablet. This does not mean each individual student will need their own device, but simply have access to one to complete their schoolwork. Internet service will also be required.

Any parent who has issues with securing devices or Internet services should contact Pike County Schools. A limited number of devices will be available for lease at a very reasonable cost and these will be distributed based on documented financial need basis initially. Additionally, the school system is working to resolve issues where Internet services are not available.

Students who have selected the Virtual School option must be able to use this device daily while Traditional/blended At-School students will need to use the devices and Internet several times a week.

Pike County Schools has a limited number of laptops for student home use. The following guidelines will be used for issuance of this equipment:

- In April/May 2020, Pike County Schools asked parents to complete a survey that asked if they had a device at home for their student to use to complete their school assignments. If the parent answered “NO” on this survey, then they are eligible to lease a laptop.
- All teachers will assign online assignments to be completed at home. If the teacher notes that a student is not able to complete their assignments at home because they do not have a device, then the student is eligible to lease a laptop. The teacher or principal should contact the parent to let them know about the lease opportunity.
- If a student is in dual enrollment classes, then they are eligible to lease a laptop.
- After above students have been identified, then the laptops may be leased out on a first come/first serve basis.
- The cost to lease a laptop for a year is \$50. If the family can document a financial hardship, then the fee may be reduced to \$35. A monthly payment plan for the fee may be set up for those who are able to prove a financial hardship.
- The maximum number of laptops that will be allowed to be checked out for one family is two (2). If a family has more than two children, then all of the children will have to share two (2) devices.

- Parents of students eligible for SNAP will receive a voucher to off set the cost of Internet.

### **REPORTING A STUDENT OR EMPLOYEE WITH COVID POSITIVE TEST, COVID SYMPTOMS, OR WITH DIRECT EXPOSURE TO COVID POSITIVE INDIVIDUAL**

In the event that a student or employee receives a positive test for COVID, experiences COVID symptoms or has had direct exposure to a COVID positive individual outside of school, they are not to come on campus. These individuals or their representative must complete the COVID Self Reporting Form found on the Pike County Schools Website. All information will be handled in strict confidence. In the event an individual has had exposure or symptoms and previously completed this form, and are now Covid positive, may also simply add to a previously submitted form by adding the positive testing information. (refer to page 4)

These reports will be automatically forwarded to the appropriate school official for action. The system, in partnership with local health care providers, is working to make available a rapid testing team (RRTT). Rapidly testing will be essential to keep students on employees in school. Additional information will follow.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

While bus service will still be available for students, experts recommend riding to school in a personal vehicle with family members. **Students riding a bus must wear a mask.** Loading will be back to front. Unloading will be front to back. Both activities will be conducted seat by seat. Designated seats will be classified as isolation seats should a child become sick on the bus. Bus will be sanitized between all trips. Seating will be assigned by family units.

### **CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM**

- Students will immediately report to their homeroom teacher or first block when they arrive at school. Breakfast will be provided in these locations. Lunchrooms will not be in use at this time.
- Lunches will be served in classrooms,
- Satellite pick up will be provided for Virtual students. Locations and time will be announced.

### **EXTRA AND CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

- All Co-curricular activities have been suspended for now.
- All activities sanctioned by the Alabama High School Athletic Association will be conducted in accordance with the association's guidance.

- The PCS Board reserves the right to cancel, postpone, or reschedule any event to ensure student safety.

### **ALTERNATIVE LEARNING CENTER (SHORT AND LONG TERM ASSIGNMENTS)**

- Students assigned to ALC, both long and short term, must complete any outstanding assignment. This applies to Virtual students as well.

### **Links to Important PCS Documents or Forms:**

#### **CDC's Consideration for Schools**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools.html>

#### **CDC's General Readiness Assessment**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/community/School-Admin-K12-readiness-and-planning-tool.pdf>

#### **Alabama Roadmap to Re-opening**

<https://www.alsde.edu/Documents/Roadmap%20for%20Reopening%20Schools%20June%2026%202020.pdf>

#### **Governor Ivey's recent Stay at Home Order Mask Amendment**

<https://governor.alabama.gov/newsroom/2020/07/fifteenth-supplemental-state-of-emergency-coronavirus-covid-19/>

Dr. Mark Bazzell, Superintendent  
Pike County Schools