



Return-to-Learn Plan 2020-2021

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Accomack County Public Schools

Return-to-Learn Plan

Accomack County Public Schools remains committed to providing ALL students with the BEST education possible. This plan is an overview of the three phases of reopening ACPS. The plan indicates how the division will operate under each phase and aligns with guidance from the Virginia Department of Education, Governor's Phase Guidance, and the Virginia Health Department. The Return-to-Learn Plan addresses the delivery of new instruction to all students for the 2020-2021 school year as well as the health and social, emotional, and physical well-being of students and staff. It further addresses concerns from the parent/guardian and staff survey.

A Division Task Force was organized to assist with a reopening plan for Phase III. Accomack County Public Schools will offer in-person instruction as well as remote instruction in Phase III, which will begin September 8, 2020.

The Three Phase Plan

Phase I: Special Education programs and child care for working families.

Phase II: Includes Phase I and preschool-third grade students, English learners, and summer camps in school buildings.

Phase III: All students may receive in-person instruction as can be accommodated with strict social distancing measures in place.

Before entering Phase II or III, all schools must submit plans to VDOE outlining compliance with VDH and CDC mitigation strategies. Public school divisions are required to submit a plan for providing new instruction to **ALL** students during the 2020-2021 academic year.



Phase I

Phase II

Phase III

Phase I

Features of Phase I

Instruction will be predominately remote/virtual.

In-person instruction may be offered for special education programs with social distancing measures. All parties must agree it is appropriate.

Child care for working families can continue to be offered.

Social distancing measures will be implemented on buses and in buildings to include:

- A maximum of 10 people per bus or classroom
- 6-foot separation when possible
- Restrict mixing groups of students
- Close communal spaces
- No large gatherings
- No athletics or extracurricular activities

Phase II

Features of Phase II

Instruction will still be predominately remote/virtual.

Phase I continues. Additionally, in-person instruction may be offered for special education programs, preschool-third grade students, and/or ELL students.

Summer camps in school settings may be offered to students of all ages.

Social distancing measures will be implemented on buses and buildings, including:

- 6-foot separation whenever possible
- Restricting mixing groups of students
- 50 person limit of large gathering, assemblies, graduations, etc.
- Close communal spaces if possible; otherwise stagger use and disinfect in between use
- Limited extracurricular activities and athletics with mitigation strategies

Features of Phase III

Instruction will shift to include more in-person instruction, for any student. Remote/virtual instruction will supplement in-person instruction for students.

Child care and/or before and after care in schools may be offered.

Social distancing may be accomplished by staggered schedules for students.

Social distancing measures will be implemented on buses and buildings to include:

- 6-foot separation whenever possible (siblings may sit together)
- Large gathering limits may adhere to current Executive Orders
- Consider restricting mixing groups of students, adjusting schedules, transitions, recess options, and instruction

*** Athletics and extracurricular activities may be expanded with mitigation measures.**

Phase III

An Accomack County Public Schools Task Force was implemented to organize and make recommendations for instruction under Phase III. This task force consisted of a core group of 21 stakeholders and 39 sub-committee members. Members were divided into three specific areas; Academics, Operations, and Health, to address the needs of Accomack County Public Schools as we prepared the Return-to-Learn Plan.

After discussing several scenarios following the guidelines and features of Phase III, the team agreed that a Return-to-Learn Hybrid Plan with the option of total virtual instruction would be the best scenario for Accomack County Public Schools. This plan includes, two days of face-to-face instruction, and three days of remote/virtual instruction. The two days will be Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday. Fridays will be a student support day which may consist of cleaning buildings, remote/virtual learning, planning, professional development, and office hours. If a parent/student opts for a total remote/virtual model, then instruction, assignments, and assessments will be completed on a weekly basis. All instructional staff will work five days per week.

*** The following information will outline the Phase III plan for Return-to-Learn. If Accomack County Public Schools is directed not to implement any face-to-face instruction, we will proceed with all stipulations in our remote and virtual plan.**



Instructional Plan Under Phase III Reopening 2020-2021

Delivery of New Instruction & Loss of Instruction

Health and safety of staff and students have been major considerations in the development of the Accomack County Public Schools (ACPS) reopening plan under phased guidance. All ACPS students, including students with disabilities and English Learners, will begin the school year with the model of their choice. Instruction for students with disabilities will be based upon the student's Individualized Education Plan. Language IEP's will be followed for our English Learners.



Choice of two Option I models:

Option I:I Hybrid Learning

- ACPS will serve students in school Monday/Wednesday and Tuesday/Thursday in split groups for face-to-face, in-school instruction.
- Off-site learning will be provided on the alternating days, with students completing lessons remotely/virtually.



Elementary School

- Identification of Instructional Groups – Per Division Policy, students are grouped by class heterogeneously.
- Scheduling - The ACPS daily schedule for instruction at the elementary level is arrival at 8:30 a.m., instructional day beginning at 8:45 a.m. and ending at 3:45 p.m.
- Identification of Missing Content/Revision of Curricula and Pacing – Revised curriculum and pacing guides are developed.





Middle School

- An additional sixteen minutes has been incorporated within the instructional day by extending each block to be 94 minutes each, instead of 90 minutes from the previous year.
- Scheduling - The ACPS daily schedule for instruction at the middle school level is arrival between 7:10-7:20 a.m., instructional day beginning at 7:30 a.m. and ending at 2:30 p.m.
- Identification of Instructional Groups – Per division policy, students are grouped by class heterogeneously and academic career pathway.





High School

- Students and parents that choose the Virtual model will sign an agreement to the following:
 - The student will be enrolled in Virtual Virginia for the entire first semester with a VVA teacher or one of ACPS teachers through the VVA Expansion Program.
 - Parent/Guardian are responsible for reliable internet access.
- The ACPS daily schedule for instruction at the high school level is arrival between 7:10-7:20 a.m., instructional day beginning at 7:30 a.m. and ending at 2:30 p.m.
- ACPS is continuing to schedule the high school students by needs for graduation and student requests.





Option I:2 Remote/Virtual Learning Only

Virtual Virginia – Learning Management System

- Students will not receive face-to face instruction.
- ACPS will be utilizing the Virtual Virginia platform at all grade levels K-12 to present new learning.
- Students will receive remote/virtual feedback on assignments and instructional support through established office hours from their assigned teacher(s).
- Virtual Virginia will include Zoom and Google Meet uploads, digital components from ACPS core programs, and instructional packets will be provided only for PreK - 8 to any family by request or need. High school students will be required to have reliable internet access.
- To provide for the needs of all students, most remote/virtual learning will be available for students to complete at any time during the off-site learning days (asynchronous), and there will also be opportunities for students to engage with classmates and to interact with the teacher during scheduled times (synchronous).

*** In the event that schools are closed and remote/virtual learning is the only option available to students, then the same alternating schedule of days will be followed for the online learning portion. A daily schedule to include components from the instruction that would have been delivered face-to-face will be included.**



Grading

- All grades for the 2020-2021 school year in grade levels PreK-12 will have a recorded letter grade in accordance with the ACPS Grading Policy.

Virtual Learning Guidance for Students & Families

- Students will receive guidance accessing virtual learning platforms during the first few days of face-to-face in person learning.
- Training opportunities will be provided for students, families and caregivers beginning prior to school reopening.

Professional Development

- Offered to staff with a focus on any aspect to support virtual teaching and learning.



Community Relations & Communication

- The goal of ACPS is to inform students, parents, and staff of the expectations and plan to move forward in the 2020-2021 school year and to maintain updates as they may occur.
 - ACPS division and school websites will post the instructional plan
 - Robo Call
 - Facebook, Twitter
 - Email
 - Class Dojo
 - Direct Mailings



Option II: Remote/Virtual Learning for All Students

Virtual Virginia – Learning Management System

- Students will not receive face-to face instruction.
 - ACPS will be utilizing the Virtual Virginia platform at all grade levels K-12 to present new learning.
 - Students will receive remote/virtual feedback on assignments and instructional support through established office hours from their assigned teacher(s).
 - Virtual Virginia will include Zoom and Google Meet uploads, digital components from ACPS core programs, and instructional packets will be provided only for PreK - 8 to any family by request or need.
 - Provide Chromebooks to students in grades 3-12, 1:1, and provide chrome books to students in PreK- grade 2 as necessary.
 - Provide virtual student schedules for teaching and learning which include the creation of division-wide instructional time allocations for each level (elementary, middle, and high).
 - Provide division-developed web-based resources to assist faculty, students, and parents in the use of Chromebooks, Google Classroom, Zoom, and various educational applications.
 - Training opportunities will be provided for families and caregivers prior to school opening.
- * In the event that remote/virtual learning is the only option for ALL students, the same alternating schedule of days will be followed to include components from the instruction that would have been delivered face-to face. Teachers will deliver virtual instruction from their classroom.**

Operations

Return-to-Learn Plan



Facilities

- 25 Electrostatic disinfectant sprayers have been purchased along with disinfectant.
 - 2 for each school and 1 for Tangier Combined School.
 - Staff will be properly trained in use and application.
- Hand sanitizer dispensers will be located at every student entrance at each school.
- A ready supply of hand sanitizer has been established.
- Plexiglass barriers have been constructed and installed at each school office/student reception area.
- Training will be required for all custodial staff on proper cleaning protocol and storage of cleaning chemicals and supplies.
 - Maintenance staff will be cross-trained in this area as well.
- Classrooms will be sanitized each night after face-to-face instruction with electrostatic disinfectant sprayer and cleaned with microfiber cloths.



- Ultraviolet (UV) water coolers will be located in each school for water bottle filling for students and staff.
 - Feeds into existing water supply for water fountains.
 - Any remaining water fountains will be closed.
 - UV light kills germs after each use
 - One for each elementary school and Tangier Combined School
 - Many elementary classrooms have existing sinks to be used for this as well.
 - Two for each middle and high school
- Additional hourly custodians will be hired for bathroom and surface cleaning on days of face-to-face instruction.
 - One for each Chincoteague School
 - Two for each mainland school
- Existing HVAC systems in all schools provide conditioning and circulation of outside air.
 - Classrooms and spaces without windows have the same air quality as those with windows.
 - Opening of windows would adversely affect our HVAC systems.
 - All systems are on an eleven-week rotation of Preventive Maintenance (PM) which includes changing of filters in all filtrations.
 - Current fiber filters meet state mandates.



Human Resources

- Posters and signs regarding employee rights as related COVID-19 have been posted in every building and on the division website.
- Policies, procedures, and forms to request leave under the First Family Coronavirus Response Act, the Emergency Paid Leave Act, as well as to request workplace accommodations, have been created and will be readily available on the division website.
- All staff, including substitutes, must complete online COVID-19 training.
- Hiring of additional staff:
 - 18 hourly custodians
 - 10 hourly licensed or unlicensed assistive personnel assigned to the second clinic.
- Staff survey was sent to all staff regarding reopening plans as related to the pandemic.
- Free Virtual Support Program is available for staff for mental health support through Therapeutic Interventions.



In-School Learning Support for Students

- Learning support will be provided in all Elementary and Middle Schools for enrolled elementary and middle school-aged children of ACPS staff on days of virtual / remote instruction.
- Participating students must attend at the school location in which they are enrolled.
- Learning support will operate in the Media Center at each location.
- Students will be supervised by an In-School Learning Support Monitor.
- Bus transportation will not be provided to students on these days.
- Students issued an ACPS Chromebook will be expected to bring the device with them on learning support days to complete their virtual / remote instruction.
 - Students who are not issued an ACPS Chromebook, or forget to bring their issued Chromebook, will be provided one for use at school on a day by day basis.
- Students who are assigned learning packets of instruction will be expected to bring them on learning support days to complete their virtual / remote instruction.



Food Service

- Optimize social distancing in all aspects of food distribution.
- All employees will conduct the self-symptom checklist and check their own temperatures prior to entering the building.
- Masks, shields, disposable aprons, and gloves will be utilized.
- Both breakfast and lunch will be eaten in the classrooms for all grade levels.
 - Elementary
 - Meals will be delivered in individual classrooms on classroom carts. This follows the “Breakfast in the Classroom” model which was practiced last school year due to participation in the Community Eligibility Program (CEP).
 - Middle & High
 - Breakfast will operate with the “Grab & Go” model upon entering the school in the morning. This was also in effect last school year due to CEP.
 - Floors will be marked in front of the Grab & Go cart to ensure recommended 6 ft. social distancing.
 - All meals will be packaged and handed out in one bag per student to minimize touching of surfaces.



- The Grab & Go model will be used at the end of each school day for all grade levels to distribute meals for students to take home.
 - Department of Education (DOE) will allow schools to distribute and bill for meals for all days of instruction, whether face-to-face or remote/virtual.
 - One classroom at a time will be dismissed by days' end to ensure social distancing at the Grab & Go line.
 - There will be multiple lines for Grab & Go take home service for the elementary schools.



Transportation

- Operating on a system of tiered runs
 - All drivers will complete both an elementary and a secondary run for each day of face-to-face instruction except for those who serve in an instructional position.
 - Secondary schools will arrive/leave first, followed by elementary schools.
- Buses will be sanitized and cleaned between each run with electrostatic disinfectant sprayer and microfiber cloths.
 - Each school has a designated person in charge of cleaning buses and maintaining documentation.
- Buses will have designated seating and social distancing based on current CDC recommendations and student surveys.
 - Students living within the same household will be seated together.
- Buses will be loaded from back to front and conversely unloaded from front to back to mitigate exposure.
- Additional training will be required for transportation staff covering cleaning, dealing with sick students, use of masks, and student discipline.
- All drivers and students will wear appropriate face coverings.



Technology

- Expand public access to internet service.
 - Expanded Wi-Fi coverage for drive-up Internet Service access in the parking lots of all 11 schools.
 - Utilized Eastern Shore of Virginia Chamber of Commerce's partnership with local agencies for drive-up ESCommerce spots for Internet Service at an additional 14 locations.
 - Set up an additional 10 hot spots.
 - These may be fixed or mobile.
 - Each school is in the process of, or has completed, surveying their students to determine access to home Internet Service and a home computer.
 - Hot spot sites will be determined based on these survey results.
- The following have been purchased in order to support virtual / remote learning:
 - Chromebooks for Grades 3-7 have been ordered.
 - Students in Grades 8-12 already have their own Chromebooks.
 - iPads for special education students
 - Web cameras for teachers to support virtual / remote instruction
 - Cradle Points for offsite hot spots
 - 8GB USB keys
- Instructional Technology Coaches (ITCs) will provide Professional Development for staff on the Virtual VA and CANVAS environment.



Health

Virginia's reopening plans are based on CDC guidelines for ensuring safe and healthy learning and working environments. ACPS developed a Physical and Mental Health task force that is working with the Accomack County Health Department (ACHD) to determine criteria and guidelines for reopening schools. ACPS will adhere to state and local guidance from ACHD about when and how to reopen schools, as well, as decisions about any future closures and will continue to be informed by the most recent local health data in partnership with the ACHD.

CDC Guiding Principles

The risk of COVID-19 spread increases in school settings as follows:

- **Lowest Risk:** Students and teachers engage in virtual-only classes, activities, and events.
- **More Risk:** Small, in-person classes, activities, and events. Groups of students stay together and with the same teacher throughout/across school days and groups do not mix. Students remain at least 6 feet apart and do not share objects (e.g., hybrid virtual and in-person class structures, or staggered/rotated scheduling to accommodate smaller class sizes).
- **Highest Risk:** Full sized, in-person classes, activities, and events. Students are not spaced apart, share classroom materials or supplies, and mix between classes and activities.



Health and Safety Measures

The CDC has highlighted specific mitigating strategies to reduce risk of COVID-19 infection and transmission.

- ACPS Health Screenings
 - Screening and monitoring are essential components of limiting the spread of COVID-19. An important part of keeping schools safe is actively encouraging sick staff and students to stay home if they are ill and emphasizing to all the importance of knowing the symptoms of COVID-19.
 - Staff members must self-screen for symptoms of COVID-19 prior to entering the workplace daily.
 - Students temperatures will be taken daily as they get off the bus and before entering the school.



▪ ACPS Healthy Hygiene Practices

- ACPS hand washing guidelines indicate that students should wash hands for at least 20 seconds after blowing their nose, coughing, or sneezing; before eating, and upon entering classrooms. Breaks will be provided for hand washing. If soap and water are not readily available, sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol will be provided. (extra hand sanitizer dispensers and hand sanitizer have been purchased by ACPS).
- Cloth face coverings will be worn by students and staff throughout the day with scheduled mask breaks. Masks will be provided to students unable to provide their own and will be used as developmentally appropriate.
- Additional protective equipment including face shields, gloves, and gowns will be provided, as appropriate, for settings that require close human contact, such as for staff providing certain supports for students with disabilities.
- Routine cleaning and increased cleaning measures will ensure the physical spaces, equipment, and materials students and staff come into contact will remain safe. Daily cleaning will be implemented for high touch areas (doorknobs, handles, fixtures, etc.) with an EPA approved disinfectant. ACPS has also purchased electrostatic sprayers to clean schools and buses daily. Restrooms will be monitored and cleaned more frequently throughout the day. Soap dispensers and hand sanitizer dispensers will be monitored to make sure they are working properly and that they have soap and sanitizer in them.



- Social Distancing Practices ACPS staff will employ social distancing strategies to increase spacing between individuals, including adjusted seating arrangements for school buses and classrooms and posted signs to remind staff and students of 6-foot social distancing. Staff will maintain small groups by having students eat meals in classrooms whenever possible and limiting volunteers and visitors in the building. Additionally, staff will use strategies to minimize mixing between groups whenever possible. Specific practices will be customized for each school and may include designating building entrances by grade level, mapping traffic patterns through the school, and scheduling student and staff groupings to be as static as possible.
- Provide signs and messaging to promote healthy hygiene to include Face Covering Do's and Don'ts, Stop the Spread of Germs, Hand Washing and Stay Home if your Sick, and You must Wear a Mask when Entering the Building will be displayed throughout the schools.



- **Ongoing Monitoring Practices**

- ACPS will regularly communicate and monitor developments with local health department authorities regarding cases, exposures, hospitalizations, and any other relevant metrics that may require a change in school operations. In the event of an elevated number of cases in local health data or in the event of presumed or confirmed cases directly impacting schools or central offices, ACPS will collaborate with ACHD authorities to implement all necessary health and safety protocols. This could include short-term closure of one or more ACPS facilities until health officials deem it safe to reopen.
- More detailed information can be found in the Accomack County Public Schools Mitigation Health Care Plan.



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