



Re-Opening Plan Phase III: January – June 2021

Consistent with the Greene County School System Strategic Plan, GCSS has developed phased re-opening plans with the following in mind:

- The core mission of the school system is educating children.
- Students learn best in the physical classroom space with a teacher present;
- Decisions regarding re-opening should be made by examining COVID-19 community spread data and soliciting input from parents, staff, and other stakeholders;
- Procedures and resources should be implemented to protect the health of students and staff to the greatest extent possible;
- Where possible, alternatives to face-to-face instruction should be made available;
- Re-opening plans should remain flexible to allow for necessary modifications should conditions change.

The Greene County School System has continuously monitored federal, state, and local guidance regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. Some of the specific information that has been reviewed includes the [Georgia Department of Education and Georgia Department of Public Health guidance](#), [World Health Organization guidance](#), and [CDC guidance](#). In addition to this guidance, the School Reopening Task Force met to discuss a variety of topics regarding school reopening. This committee was comprised of district and school leaders with parent, staff, and stakeholder input.

As of December 2, 2020, the state of Georgia continues to see the number of new cases, hospitalizations, and deaths remain relatively steady. In Georgia; the seven-day moving average for new cases was 2,607, increasing from a low in early November of approximately 1,700 cases but down from the all-time high in July of 3,615. In Greene County, the seven-day moving average was 2.4, having remained relatively steady since mid-October. In Georgia, the percent positive of COVID-19 tests ranged from 7.5% to 10.7% for the past two weeks; the Greene County percent positive for the same period ranged from 2.3% to 10.6%. (Georgia Department of Public Health, <https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-19-daily-status-report>).

Within the school system, there have been few cases of COVID requiring classroom or staff quarantine measures. Less than 1% of students have tested positive.

While this news is encouraging, it does not mean that the school system should discontinue the strategies that have so far protected students and staff. The Greene County School System remains committed to implementing strategies to the extent possible to slow the spread of COVID-19. A list of those strategies is included in this document.

In addition, parent and employee feedback has been crucial in planning for all reopening plans. Information from several surveys has been collected since June, including surveys from parents and staff members in September and November 2020. We appreciate all the stakeholder feedback that has been provided through a number of additional channels as well.

Administrators will continue to monitor daily conditions regarding community spread of COVID-19. While the decision to alter re-opening plans rests solely on the superintendent, the CDC has defined a local outbreak as the following: Two or more laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases among students or staff with illness onsets within a 14-day period, who are epidemiologically linked (e.g., have a common exposure or have been in contact with each other), do not share a household, and were not identified as close contacts of each other in another setting during standard case investigation or contact tracing. In the case of an outbreak as defined above, the superintendent will decide to quarantine a class (or classes), the school, or all schools, as needed.

Learning Options

Beginning January 19, 2021, the Greene County School System will move to a modified version of Option 1 of the Infographic found at the end of this document. At this time, **two** instructional models will be available for students: in-person and distance/digital learning. Families do not have to choose the same instructional model for all of their children if they have multiple children enrolled; however, **the choice made for the second semester will be binding for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year.**

Option 1: In-Person Learning Model

All Schools: At all schools, students will report to school daily from Monday – Thursday, with Fridays being dedicated for distance learning activities (face-to-face students), instructional support (virtual students), and professional learning for teachers and staff members.

Option 2: Distance Learning Model

In order to accommodate students and parents who are not ready to return to in-person instruction, the district will continue to offer distance learning as described below. Final plans regarding delivery models will be contingent upon the number of students who register for distance learning.

It is important that every student is academically successful, and online/distance learning is not the best option for every child. In order for students to be most successful academically, they must possess a certain skill set for online learning, and they must have a high level of support at home. Students should also have demonstrated during the first semester of distance learning that they can meet the high demands of online learning (i.e.: self-discipline, good attendance, and proficient academic performance). Students who have not met these requirements during the first semester of distance learning may not be admitted into the online learning program for the second semester. Additionally, any student who is admitted into the online learning program must maintain a satisfactory status in order to remain in the program. Students who do not maintain satisfactory status will be required to return to in-person learning. The school system reserves the right to make final decisions to place students into the online learning program or in-person instruction.

Grades Pre-k—3

Greene County Primary School's distance learners will have designated GCPS teachers who fully instruct and facilitate learning for them. These teachers provide a combination of live, synchronous instruction and asynchronous activities to students. Most learning activities are technology-based, and some of the activities do not require technology. Students interact with their teachers for several hours throughout the day. In order to supplement the GCPS's curriculum and instruction, teachers use various software programs.

Grades 4-8

Carson Middle School's distance learners will complete 100% of their assignments online via online curriculum/course providers. (CMS students will complete their coursework in the Accelerate Education platform. Students must log onto these platforms daily (Monday – Friday) to complete pre-assigned work (reading, writing, watching videos, listening to lectures, taking tests and quizzes, etc.). It is the responsibility of parents and students to ensure that students complete assigned work in the assigned timeframe. A school monitor/facilitator will be assigned to each student to monitor their online progress. The monitors/facilitators will check in with students each week to ensure that they are making adequate progress toward course completion and success.

Tutoring:

Content specialists/tutors will be available throughout the work to assist students after school hours (2 hours each day).

Grades 9-12

Greene County High School's distance learners will complete assignments via the district-selected online curriculum/course provider(s). The primary online curriculum may be supplemented by other assignments/programs as needed. Students must log onto their online program daily (Monday – Friday) to complete work (reading, writing, watching videos, listening to lectures, taking tests and quizzes, etc.). It is the responsibility of parents and students to ensure that students complete assigned work in the assigned timeframe. Students will work independently, and they must strictly follow the guidelines of the selected online program (e.g.: submitting assignments at the time designated within their program). Grades will be taken directly from the online program and entered onto the students' report cards. Students will have limited to no access to GCSS teachers during the school day and should utilize the tools and resources within the online program for help. Tutors will be available in the evenings, on a schedule determined by GCHS leadership.

Grading

At all levels, a GCSS teacher will assign grades.

Meal Service

Students enrolled in distance learning will be able to take part in the school breakfast and lunch program by ordering meals weekly. Further information can be found at <https://www.greene.k12.ga.us/Page/206>.

Action Plan

Attendance

All perfect attendance awards, school monthly attendance awards, exam exemption based on attendance, and all other attendance incentives will be waived for the 2020-21 school year. Schools will work with parents to resolve attendance issues.

Cafeteria

Students will eat in school cafeterias and they will be socially distanced to the extent possible. To foster social distancing, some students may eat in classrooms on certain days if schools are using a rotating cafeteria schedule. Of note is that plexiglass will be utilized in the serving line. Due to social distancing, visitors cannot be accommodated in the cafeteria at this time.

Contact Tracing

Individuals (employees or students) who meet the Georgia Department of Public Health's contact tracing guidelines will be notified by the school system via phone. In addition, individuals in a classroom where someone has tested positive for COVID-19 will be notified via email and encouraged to contact their healthcare provider. The school will be notified as well. Due to privacy laws, individuals with COVID-19 will not be identified, and we ask that others not speculate about such instances.

Devices

GCSS is a 1:1 system in grades K-12. All students have been issued a Chromebook for use at school, and students in grades 3-12 are allowed to take their Chromebooks home.

Employees

Employees have been provided with protocols for the following:

- What to do if they are symptomatic/test positive for COVID-19
- What do if they are in close contact with a person with COVID-19
- Contact Tracing
- Return-to-Work Protocol
- Employee Paid Sick Leave Act (EPSLA)
- Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act (EFMLEA)

Extracurricular Activities (Including Athletics)

The continuation of athletics is determined in large part by the Georgia High School Association (GHSAA). All available athletics and other extracurricular activities will be available to students regardless if they are enrolled in the in-person or distance/digital learning instructional models.

Field Trips

Field trips will not occur for the second semester of school. State and local guidance will be utilized in making decisions beyond this point.

Illness at School

If a child is running a fever or exhibiting other [COVID-19 symptoms](#), a parent will be contacted to pick up the child. Students with COVID-19 symptoms will be separated while waiting for their parents.

Instructional Model Changes

Systemwide:

Greene County Schools will use state and local guidance in making decisions regarding any needed switching between instructional models, i.e. - traditional model to hybrid model to fully distance/digital learning model, during the school year.

Individual:

Except for extenuating circumstances, decisions regarding learning options will be binding for the entirety of the second semester of the 2020-2021 school year.

Masks

On buses, masks (not face shields) are required. Employees are required to wear masks when in the presence of students or other staff members. At school, students are required to wear masks and may also wear face shields. Please view the [CDC website](#) for further guidance on appropriate face coverings.

Recess

Outdoor play is essential for elementary students. Students will be given regular opportunities to be outside.

Related Services

Related Services such as English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports (MTSS), Early Intervention Programs (EIP), and Gifted Education will continue to support students throughout the 2020-21 school year. These services will be provided for both virtual and face-to-face students regardless of the educational environment chosen.

Safety Protocols

To mitigate the spread of infection and viruses, the following measures will be put in place:

- Staff and students are agreeing that by virtue of coming to school, they do not have a fever above 100.3 and do not have any symptoms of illness.
- All students and staff members will receive a no-contact temperature check upon arrival.
- Staff members will complete a daily wellness check as they report to the work site.
- Students and staff members exhibiting any symptoms will be sent home promptly.
- Schools will have an isolation area for students who are ill to wait until parent arrival.
- Self-cleaning Nanoseptic wraps and covers for high touch surfaces such as door handles and counters
- HVAC ionization units that will purify a building's air by reducing the pathogens and particles that circulate via air systems.
- Partitions between sinks have been installed in all restrooms.
- Additional hand-washing stations are available at all sites.
- A washable mask will be provided to all staff.
- All staff will be required to wear masks when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.
- Students will also be required to wear masks.
- All bus riders will be required to wear masks.
- Bus riders will be assigned seats on buses.
- Social distancing will occur to the greatest possible extent.
- Enhanced hand-washing and sanitizing protocols will be in place.
- School buildings and playgrounds will be thoroughly cleaned on a daily basis.
- Student numbers will be reduced in classrooms, the cafeteria, and other spaces.
- Outside visitors will be limited and will be required to have their temperatures taken and answer a series of questions regarding potential COVID-19 exposure.
- Water fountains will not be operational. However, water filling stations or water fountains designated as filling stations will be available for students to refill water bottles.

- Plexiglass will be used in front offices where there is not already a clear partition in place between staff and visitors. In addition, plexiglass will be utilized in cafeteria serving lines.
- Hand sanitizer stations will also be in common areas of the school.
- Transitions will be minimized and coordinated at the school level.
- At drop-off, students will go straight to their designated area. There will be no hallway congregating before, during, or after school.
- School supplies will not be shared among students.
- Desks will be assigned within classrooms. Class transitions will occur at all levels, with schools utilizing a variety of disease mitigation measures.

Social Distancing

The following steps will be implemented to the greatest possible extent to provide social distancing:

- Flexible seating is being adjusted and oversized furniture will be removed to provide the maximum possible spacing between student desks.
- Desks will face the same direction and will not be clustered together.
- There will be hallway markers to streamline hallway traffic and to limit congregating in common areas.
- Social distance markers will be in the cafeteria line and in the main lobby.
- Students will be distanced in cafeterias.
- Any small group instruction occurring will not involve shared toys or supplies. Students will be as distanced as possible and teachers are required to wear a mask if they are less than six feet from any other individuals.

Special Education

The Greene County School District remains committed to providing students eligible for special education services with an individualized education program (IEP) that opt for distance/digital learning. Because online learning may affect how special education and related services are provided, each student's IEP team will work cooperatively with the student's parent to establish a distance learning plan in an effort to meet the student's needs.

Specials/Connections Classes

Distancing and outdoor classes will be utilized as possible. When feasible, specials/connections teachers will go to classrooms to minimize transitions.

Transportation

Students will be required to wear masks. In addition, students will be assigned seats.

Visitors

Visitors, including parent visitors, will be strictly limited. When visitors are necessary, they will be required to have their temperature taken and answer a series of questions regarding potential COVID-19 exposure. In addition, visitors will be required to wear

masks when not socially distanced. Visitors are unable to be accommodated in the cafeteria at this time.

Implementation Timeline:

November 9-20: Develop Phase 3 return to school plan

November 20: Publish parent/staff survey results

December 4: Publish Phase 3 plan



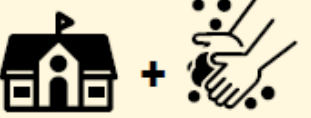


December 7-10: Registration for virtual learning

January 19: First day of Phase 3



Returning to School 2020-21

The Greene County School System is committed to maintaining the highest standards of teaching and learning while prioritizing the health and safety of our students and staff. We are eager to return to school, but we are conscious of the concerns and uncertainties that remain ahead of us. Based on "Georgia's Path to Recovery for K-12 Schools," the Greene County School System has developed three **tentative** options for returning to school for the 2020-21 school year. Each option below is based on the level of virus spread specifically identified for Greene County, as determined by the Georgia Department of Public Health.

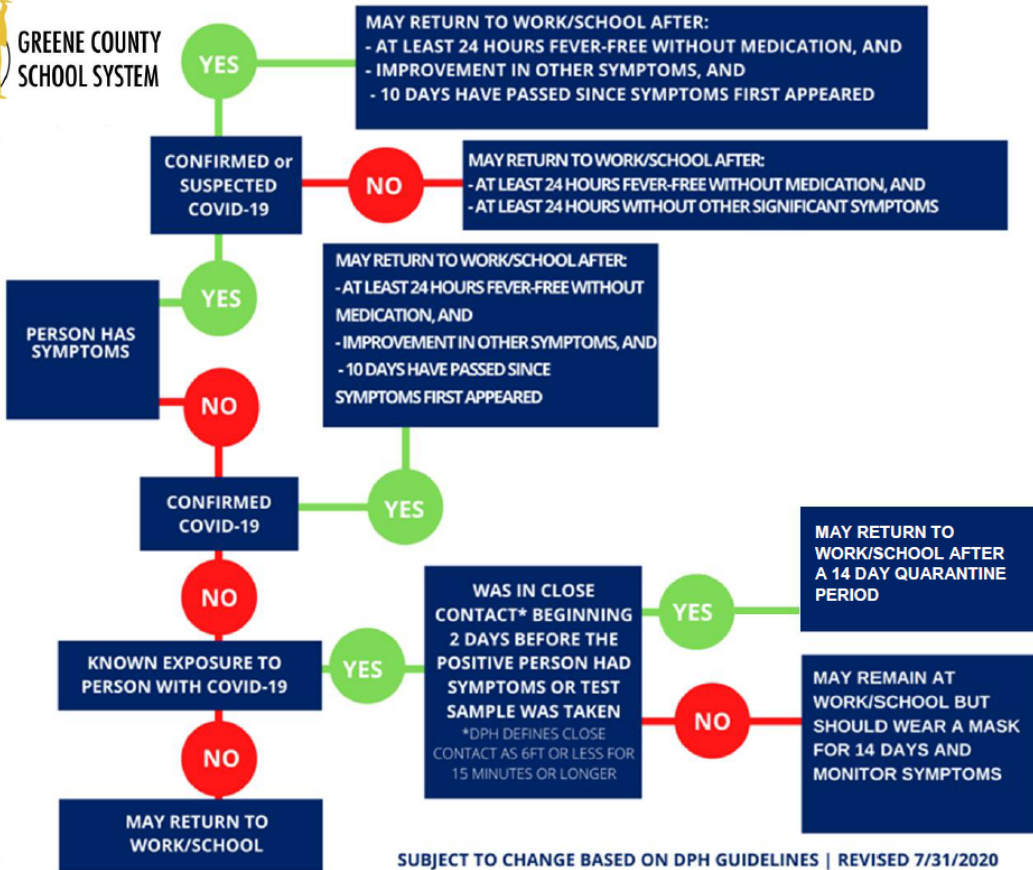
Low or No Spread	<p><u>Option 1 - Preferred</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students and staff return for full-time face-to-face instruction• Optional distance learning• Preventative health & safety measures	 <p>OR</p> 
Minimal or Moderate Spread	<p><u>Option 2</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Face-to-face instruction for Pk-3rd grade with rotating on-campus schedule (A/B days)• Distance learning for 4th-12th grade with opportunities for face-to-face supplemental small group instruction (labs and remediation)• Chromebooks provided to every student• Optional distance learning for Pk-3• Preventative health & safety measures	 <p>AND</p> 
Substantial Spread	<p><u>Option 3 - Least Ideal</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Distance learning for all students and staff• Chromebooks provided to every student	

It is our responsibility as an academic institution to provide a reliable and effective learning experience for our students each year while balancing the implications of the evolving COVID-19 pandemic. Preventative measures will be implemented in schools and on buses to mitigate the spread of the virus. We will share more information and guidance via the district website and app as it becomes available.



GREENE COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM

COVID-19 DECISION GUIDE | 2020



SUBJECT TO CHANGE BASED ON DPH GUIDELINES | REVISED 7/31/2020