



ROADMAP FOR REOPENING RUSSELLVILLE CITY SCHOOLS

2020-2021

A COLLABORATIVE PLAN CREATED IN CONJUNCTION WITH
THE ALABAMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

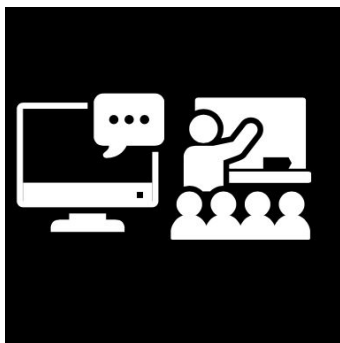
Russellville City Schools, with guidance from the Alabama State Department of Education, has developed the following plan to reopen schools. This plan will detail practices that include clear, actionable steps that will be taken as students, teachers, and staff return for the 2020-2021 school year. The guidance included within this plan is based on recommendations from health officials and the Alabama State Department of Education. This plan was designed to prioritize the health and safety of students, faculty, and staff as school buildings reopen. This plan is not comprehensive of all the precautions that RCS will take to keep students safe. Of course, as with every plan right now, this document is fluid and will change as necessary based on guidance from the state and considerations to our families and our staff. We obviously don't want to have a COVID-19 case at one of our schools in the fall, but we know multiple cases are likely throughout the year. We will be ready to react if and when it happens.

We strongly believe the actions brought forth in this plan are in the best interests of our students, families, staff, and community.

Start Dates for 20/21 School Year

Date	WES Grade Level	RES Grade Level	RMS Grade Level	RHS Grade Level
Wednesday, Aug. 12th	Kindergarten (Last names A-I) & 2nd	5th	8th	12th
Thursday, Aug. 13th	Kindergarten (Last names J-R) & 1st	4th	7th	10th & 11th
Friday, Aug. 14th	Kindergarten (Last names S-Z)	3rd	6th	9th
Monday, Aug. 17th	All students will report to their respective schools. School specific information will be communicated by each school principal in the coming weeks.			

Learning Model Options



TRADITIONAL FACE-TO-FACE LEARNING

- ❖ Traditional face-to-face learning where students will return to the classroom with increased social distancing and other safety measures in place.
- ❖ Masks will be encouraged for students and staff, but not required in classrooms.
- ❖ Controlled movement will be in place where possible, and mass gatherings, assemblies and field trips will be limited.
- ❖ **Blended learning** (shortened weeks or periods of time out of school) may be utilized during high risk times.



VIRTUAL LEARNING (Complete Online Learning)

- ❖ Students will not physically attend school but will participate in a school-based distance learning program from home.
- ❖ Enhanced, accountable, robust learning plan for all students.
- ❖ Students are allowed to participate in extracurricular activities.
- ❖ No access to in-person small group, individualized instruction.
- ❖ Students are responsible for their own device and reliable internet connectivity. Devices may be checked-out from the school if there is a determined need, and free WiFi will be provided in the parking lots of all district schools and park and recreation facilities.

WELLNESS

- Students exhibiting signs of COVID-19 or temperatures of 100.4 and above will be sent to the school's nurse for evaluation and parental contact. Principals will work with the Lead Nurse to develop and execute a plan for sick students to include a quarantined holding room large enough to maintain a 6' distance between patients. All students will wear masks while in the holding room and will be released to their parents for further medical care. Students sent home from school should be kept home until they have tested negative or have completely recovered according to Alabama Department of Public Health guidelines.
- Parents will not be allowed in buildings when picking up students who are exhibiting signs of sickness. Students will be escorted to cars.
- Each student will be given a COVID form in their back-to-school packet that parents and high school students sign off on making them aware of the school's wellness guidelines.
- There will be a systematic review of all current student plans (e.g., Individual Healthcare Plans, Individualized Education Plans, or 504 Plans) for accommodating students with special healthcare needs, and their healthcare plans will be updated as needed.

OPERATIONS & FACILITIES

- Traditional registration / parent nights will not occur. Alternative procedures for registration will occur at each school. Those plans will be released by each individual school.
- Field trips, outside visitors, and public assemblies are not allowed. Pep rallies will only be permitted if held outside and students are socially distanced.
- Custodians will continue with their normal duties of cleaning, maintaining, and sanitizing. In addition, they will sanitize classrooms, libraries, restrooms, hallways, and high traffic areas using EPA-approved sanitation methods.
- Classroom parties where parents traditionally have attended are closed to parent participation, and no outside food will be allowed at parties.
- Parents will remain in their cars with their children on the first day of school. Teachers will go to the cars to retrieve the children while maintaining social distance.
- Each classroom or hallway will have sanitation stations that students will be asked to use before entering each classroom, lunchroom, library, and other buildings throughout the day.
- Water fountains will be shut off. Students may bring bottled water in original bottled water containers. Bottled water will also be readily available for all students from the school.
- Lunch and breakfast will be served in classrooms with a few exceptions.
 - WES - Meals will be delivered to each grade level for students to pick up and return to their classroom.
 - RES - Students will come through the cafeteria line and pick up meals. They will return to their classrooms to eat them.
 - RMS - Meals will be delivered to the classrooms except for PE classes, and they will come to the cafeteria at staggered times and pick up meals. PE classes will eat in the lunchrooms adhering to social distancing rules.
 - RHS - Due to construction, students will pick up their lunches and return to their classrooms, or they will be allowed to eat outside adhering to social distancing guidelines.
- Lunchrooms will follow all ADPH guidelines for sanitation during COVID.
- Students will still be permitted to bring their own lunch to school if they choose.

INSTRUCTION & TECHNOLOGY

- Students/Parents will be given a choice of virtual vs. traditional face-to-face learning at the beginning of each semester. However, those choosing virtual must stay enrolled in our virtual program until the end of the current semester.
- Students who enter school on the traditional schedule who become ill or quarantined may then move to the “blended” educational platform.

Blended Learning Model - Lessons used by the student’s regular classroom teacher will be made available to students at home. Those lessons and assessments will be monitored and graded by their regular classroom teacher and feedback given via virtual platform from the teacher to the student. Teachers will make regular contact with the parents of any blended student to offer help or guidance. When able to return to school, the student will rejoin their regular classroom and schedule.

- Students choosing the virtual education option will be assigned classes on a virtual platform. Progress will be monitored by an assigned teacher. These students will not be taught by the same teacher who is teaching the traditional class. Parental contact will be made by the teacher for such issues as missed assignments, failed assessments, or failing to log in and attempt the coursework.
- Students enrolled in the virtual model will be allowed to participate fully in all extracurricular activities.
- Parents may request their child enroll in virtual school after school has begun, but they must remain enrolled in the virtual platform for the remainder of the semester.
- Teachers will use the selected virtual platforms for assignments in the traditional model to help students navigate the platform in the event the district is forced into a blended or complete virtual environment.
- RCS will revise students’ IEPs or Section 504 Plans in coordination with parents and appropriate school staff to reflect the child’s evolving needs.
- For students who have been identified as having a reading deficiency, communication with family will occur within 15 days after the date they are identified as stated in the Alabama Literacy Act.
- Teachers will be provided and should utilize critical standards as outlined by the Alabama State Department of Education.

TRANSPORTATION

- It is strongly encouraged that students be transported to school in personal vehicles instead of riding the bus, if at all possible.
- All active buses will be sanitized at the completion of the final morning and afternoon routes.
- The first row on each bus will not be occupied to increase social distancing.
- Members of the same household must sit on the same school bus seat or together.
- Temperature checks will be administered to students riding on the Special Needs Bus.
- Bus drivers and students are required to wear masks at all times while on the bus. Students are required to provide their own masks.
- Bus sanitation includes handrails, seats, and windows.
- When appropriate, buses will travel with windows open.
- Buses will have hand sanitation stations and children will use these as they enter and exit the bus.
- Bus routes will be halved with two drop-offs each morning and two pick-ups each afternoon.
 - AM drop-off times will be 7:15 a.m. & 8:15 a.m.
 - PM pick-up times will be 2:40 p.m. & 3:10 p.m.
- The special needs buses will run at the first drop-off and first pick-up schedule.
- Signage will be included on each bus to communicate the symptoms students should not have if traveling on a school bus.

FACULTY / STAFF

- Faculty and staff should communicate any high risk issues to school administration prior to the beginning of the school year in order for the district to develop a plan.
 - Note: All requests may not be met.
- Principals will schedule professional development for faculty on the use of virtual platforms.
- Faculty and staff will be offered PPE to include face masks (or face shields as substitute), gloves, and room sanitation materials.
- Faculty and staff may wear masks, gloves, and other protective clothing at their own discretion.
- In the presence of a positive COVID-19 test, faculty or staff may not return to work for 2 weeks and must be symptom free or present a negative COVID-19 test. In cases where a faculty or staff member is sick due to COVID-19, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) will be followed. This Act can be found at <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic/ffcra-employee-paid-leave>.
- Faculty will create and maintain a minimum of three (3) weeks of lesson materials in advance in a virtual platform to be assigned to students in the blended environment at any given time during the year.
- In cases where the school system initiates a school-wide blended platform, faculty and staff may be expected to report to their classrooms and work areas to facilitate learning with their students on the approved virtual platform. In the event child care is necessary for the faculty or staff member, child care will be provided for school-age children at each school for the parent-teacher. Principals will develop and execute contingency plans for use of faculty to provide on-campus child care for children of working faculty.
- Custodial work schedules may be staggered to ensure full building sanitation each day.
- Professional development will be provided to custodians on COVID-19 sanitation techniques and equipment.
- Temperatures of all CNP employees will be taken and recorded before they sign in each morning by the school's lunchroom supervisor. If a temperature is more than 100.4, they will be sent home. In the presence of a positive COVID-19 test, CNP employees may not return to work for 2 weeks and must be symptom free or present a negative COVID-19 test. Masks and facial shields will be available for CNP employees. However, they will not be required to wear them unless they will be in direct contact with students.
- Coaches with a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) will be on standby to act as substitute bus drivers on an as-needed basis.

RCS Roadmap to Reopening Schools 2020

FAQs **July 2020**

1. Will the school year be starting on time?

Yes. RCS will be reopening schools for students on the designated date of Wednesday, August 12, 2020 for traditional, in-person learning. However, the first day of classes will be staggered according to grade in order to adequately address necessary topics.

On the assigned day for each student's grade, students will report to their school for the purpose of receiving schedules and going over all the specific COVID-19 protocols that will be in place this school year. Where to meet and what time will be communicated by each school principal in the coming weeks. Grades will meet in the following order:

- **Wednesday, August 12, 2020:** Grades K (students with last names beginning with A-I), 2, 5, 8, & 12
- **Thursday, August 13, 2020:** Grades K (students with last names beginning with J-R), 1, 4, 7, 10, & 11
- **Friday, August 14, 2020:** Grades K (students with the last names beginning with S-Z), 3, 6, 9
- We will resume a regular schedule for all students (K-12) starting **Monday, August 17, 2020.**

2. Will there be a virtual learning option?

Yes. For those who choose not to send their child to school for in-person, traditional learning, a virtual option will be offered. However, if a student chooses a virtual option, the student must remain virtual until the break at the end of the semester.

Virtual learning will consist of online assignments and assessments and will be closely monitored by the teacher and other designated school personnel. Virtual learning this fall will look very different and be much more intense than the virtual learning that took place this spring. Students are responsible for their own device and reliable internet connectivity. Devices can be checked-out from the school if there is a determined need and free WiFi will be provided in the parking lots of all district schools and park and recreation facilities.

3. What cleaning and sanitizing procedures will be in place to maintain a safe environment?

Our custodial staff will receive training where they will learn sanitization protocols. They will receive training on aerosol (fogging) cleaning equipment, UV light sanitization, and other cleaning protocols.

Each area of each school will be cleaned thoroughly at the end of each school day after all students and personnel have left. Classrooms, restrooms, and high traffic areas will all be cleaned with aerosol (fogging) cleaning equipment. Computers and other technology that cannot be fogged will be cleaned using UV light.

Surfaces and technology that are touched or used throughout the day by multiple people will be cleaned in between uses as well as at the end of the day.

Student Sanitization Stations will be placed throughout each of the schools. These stations will include antibacterial hand sanitizer. Students will be required to use these stations before entering classrooms and any shared spaces like a cafeteria, library, or gymnasium.

4. Will students be screened each day at school?

Yes. Teachers will be trained to look for signs and symptoms in their classrooms. However, we will not

be doing temperature checks each morning. We will be relying heavily on parents/guardians to screen their child(ren) before they leave for school. It's vitally important for parents/guardians to help us with this and to be honest if a child is exhibiting symptoms of being sick.

5. **What will be the policy for students who appear to have COVID-19 symptoms?**

Any child with a temperature of 100.4 or above or any child experiencing identified symptoms of COVID-19 will be taken to the school nurse and held in a quarantined area until the child's parent/guardian arrives to take them home. Students sent home from school with COVID-19 symptoms should be kept home until they have tested negative or have completely recovered according to Alabama Department of Public Health guidelines. Students will utilize online learning for the time they are away from school as their health allows.

6. **What will be the policy for faculty and staff who appear to have COVID-19 symptoms?**

Any teacher or staff member with a temperature of 100.4 or above or who is experiencing identified symptoms of COVID-19 should not report to school. Any teacher or staff member who develops a temperature of 100.4 or above or any of the identified symptoms of COVID-19 during the school day will be quarantined until they can leave the premises. Any teacher who tests positive for COVID-19 will not be permitted back at school for a period of two weeks (and no longer exhibiting symptoms) or until a negative COVID-19 test is obtained.

7. **Will social distancing be practiced?**

Yes. Social distancing will be practiced at all schools and in all areas possible. This will require schedule changes to limit the number of people in hallways when changing classes; the number of students attending PE at any one time; and any other instance where large groups may gather. Those specific guidelines will be determined by each school according to their own specific needs.

8. **Will masks be required for students at school?**

No. Masks will be allowed, but they will not be mandatory for all-day wear. Students may be required to wear a mask in courses (such as chorus) when social distancing is not possible.

9. **Will masks be required for students transported by bus to/from school?**

Yes. Students are required to wear a mask at all times while on the bus. Students are responsible for providing their own mask.

10. **Will masks be required for faculty and staff?**

No. Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) will be provided for any faculty or staff members who request them. Masks, face guards, gloves, etc. can be worn at a faculty or staff member's discretion unless presented with a situation where social distancing cannot be maintained, in which case, masks or face shields will be required.

11. **Will students eat lunch in the cafeteria?**

No and Yes. For the most part, students will be eating lunches in their classrooms, with a few exceptions at RMS.

WES: Meals will be taken to each grade's pod, and each class will come out and pick up complete meals to be consumed in the classroom.

RES: Students will come through the cafeteria line and pick up their meals. They will return to their classrooms to eat them.

RMS: Meals will be delivered to the classrooms to be consumed there except for PE classes. PE classes will come to the cafeteria at staggered times to pick up meals in the cafeteria line and then eat their meals in the cafeteria, maintaining social distancing while going through the line and sitting at the tables.

RHS: Due to construction in the cafeteria, students will pick up their lunches from the cafeteria and return to their classrooms to eat them. They will also be allowed to eat outside as long as weather permits and social distancing is maintained.

12. **Will bus routes be altered?**

Yes. We strongly encourage parents to drop students off and pick them up at school in their personal vehicles if at all possible, but we certainly understand buses will still need to be utilized for those who truly need them. To safely transport students needing bus services, bus routes will be altered to allow for half capacity each time they run. There will be a first route and a second route for all morning AND afternoon bus routes.

- Students who are part of the first route in the mornings will be dropped off to school by 7:15 a.m.
- Students who are part of the second route in the mornings will be dropped off to school by 8:15 a.m.
- Students who are part of the first route in the afternoons will be picked up from their school at 2:40 p.m.
- Students who are part of the second route in the afternoons will be picked up from their school at 3:10 p.m.

Buses will also be sanitized using aerosol and/or UV sanitization after each route. This includes the seats, handrails, and windows. Buses will be equipped with sanitization stations and students will be required to use these stations when entering and leaving the bus. When appropriate, buses will also travel with windows open. Holding areas for these students will maintain social distancing guidelines.

13. **Will visitors be allowed in the schools?**

Only when absolutely necessary. Parents will be encouraged to utilize e-mail or phone calls to communicate with teachers, administrators, or support personnel to limit any unnecessary visits inside their child's school. Also, parents will not be allowed to walk students in the building on the first day of school and each day after that. Teachers will be in place to help guide students to locate their classes and ease fears as the new year begins.

For the foreseeable future, parents/guardians, grandparents, or others will not be permitted to eat lunch with students. They will also not be permitted at class parties or activities.

****We know this is disheartening to many, but we have to limit the number of people that students come in contact with while this virus is still a concern. We will revise this policy if/when we are able.**

14. **Will field trips be allowed?**

Currently, field trips will not be allowed. Again, we have to limit the people and places our students are exposed to, and field trips would pose too great a risk right now. This subject will be revisited if/when it becomes necessary.

15. Will school day start times and end times be different?

Yes. While we aren't sure of those specific times just yet, we do know school will have to start and end at different times than in previous years to accommodate for the split bus routes and the drop-off/pick-up procedures that will be in place for car riders. Those specific details are being worked out by each principal to meet their school's specific needs and will be announced soon. However, we do know social distancing will be practiced in any scenario devised.