



Jackson County School District

Reopening Resource Guide

2020-2021

Jackson County School District

EAST CENTRAL ST. MARTIN VANCELEAVE

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Dear Jackson County School District Parents/Guardians and Community Members,

Thank you for taking the time to read our Jackson County School District Reopening Resource Guide/COVID-19 Plan. I hope our community trusts that many hours have been spent creating this plan in order to make the opening of school as safe as possible. As you know, the COVID-19 pandemic is a moving target, and our plan may change as our circumstances dictate. We are closely monitoring reported student and staff COVID-19 cases in our school district and stand ready to adjust our plan based upon this essential data as we move forward.

The first day of school for our students is Thursday, August 6th. Please understand that this first day may be challenging to say the least. While we have worked hard to prepare for school and are confident that we can welcome our students back into the buildings safely, there will naturally be some anticipated anxiety. It is my hope and prayer that we are all patient with one another as we work through this first day together.

Our top priority when creating the plan was to get our students back to school with the highest level of normalcy, while keeping our students, staff, and community as safe as possible. Please be mindful that as long as there are cases of COVID-19 in our community, there is no plan or strategy that can completely eliminate the risk of transmission within a school population. We will continue to monitor reported student and staff COVID-19 cases in our school community and within our school buildings. This data will drive our decision-making process regarding school operations and our plan as we transition into the new 2020-21 school year.

Thank you for your understanding and patience during these challenging times.

God bless,

“Raising the Standard”

JCSD Reopening Resource Guide

General Information

- Are students and staff going to return to school?
Yes, students will return to school August 6th. Teachers will return August 3rd.
- What type of schedule will Jackson County School District follow?
JCSD will follow a traditional schedule where students will be physically present in school in an environment as close to normal as possible.
- What distance learning options will JCSD offer to students with health-related concerns?
JCSD will offer two options for distance learning students. Online/virtual will be available for students who have internet with WIFI capable of streaming videos. The second option will be paper packets for those who do not have WIFI or prefer this option.
- Will I be allowed to walk my student to his/her class?
To ensure student and staff safety, no visitors will be allowed to walk students to class.
- Will parents have the opportunity to meet their child's teacher?
Yes. Principals will notify parents with details soon.

Health and Well-Being Protocols and Services

- What precautions should parents take before sending students to school each morning?
Parents should screen their children each morning before school. Parents must keep students home who have a fever of 100.4 or higher and are feeling sick.
- How is community and professional input being considered regarding the safety and well-being of students related to COVID-19 and its effect on returning to school?
In response to comments we have received from our community, JCSD is partnering with Singing River Hospital System and Coastal Family Health Center to continue to develop our return-to-school plan. We are committed to providing students and staff an environment as close to normal as possible while following federal, state, and local mandates related to COVID-19.
- How will my student's school provide a safe and healthy learning environment?
 - *Partnership with local health agencies*
 - *Utilizing community health resources*
 - *Increased nursing staff for each attendance center*
 - *Thermometers in each classroom*
 - *Temperature checks of students daily*
 - *Teacher training and monitoring*
 - *Hand washing/sanitizing stations throughout school buildings as needed*
 - *COVID-19 Sanitization Certification of custodial staff*
 - *Ongoing monitoring*

- Will I be notified if there is a confirmed COVID-19 case?

Yes. School officials will communicate to parents if there is a confirmed COVID-19 case. Additionally, health updates will be posted on the district website.

- What will happen if a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 while school is in session?
 - *If the test is positive, the student or staff member will follow directives given by his/her medical care provider, to include quarantining for 10 days or as instructed.*
 - *In-person learning will continue for other students in his/her class.*
 - *School officials will notify parents of students in close contact with a student or staff member who tests positive for COVID-19.*
- What precautions will be taken to ensure that buildings, classrooms, buses, and common areas are clean and sanitary?
 - *COVID-19 Sanitization Certification of custodial staff*
 - *Sanitizing procedures*
 - *Training of staff and monitoring*
 - *Providing sanitizing cleaning agents*
- What happens if a student or staff member has COVID-19 symptoms at school?
 - *The student or staff member will be sent home for 72 hours with the expectation that he/she will be tested for COVID-19.*
 - *Instruction will continue for other students/staff members.*
 - *If the test is negative, the student or staff member may return to school once they are fever-free for 24 hours without medication or as instructed by his/her medical care provider.*
 - *If the test is positive, the student or staff member will follow directives given by his/her medical care provider, to include quarantining for 10 days or as instructed.*
 - *School officials will notify parents of students in close contact with a student or staff member who tests positive for COVID-19.*
- Will elementary students be allowed to play on the playground for recess?

Yes, students will be allowed to play on the playground as they normally would while following federal, state, and local mandates related to COVID-19.

- Will students be required to wear a mask/face covering when school resumes?

According to Executive Order 1517 issued by Governor Tate Reeves on August 4, 2020, students will be required to wear a mask when social distancing cannot be achieved. Specific procedures related to masks will be issued by each attendance center. Questions related to mask requirements should be directed to school administrators.

- Will staff members be required to wear a mask/face covering when school resumes?

According to Executive Order 1517 issued by Governor Tate Reeves on August 4, 2020, staff members will be required to wear a mask when social distancing cannot be achieved.

- If a family member of a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, what will happen?

The student or staff member will follow directives given by his/her medical care provider.

Teaching and Learning

- How will the school address the learning gap of students who have fallen behind academically due to the COVID-19 closure in spring of 2020?

Each school has developed a plan for closing COVID-19 learning gaps. Each student will complete an assessment at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year to determine skill weaknesses. Schools will address identified academic needs through the use of additional certified tutors, schedule adjustments, and careful monitoring of academic progress throughout the school year.

- What graduation requirements are in place for the 2020-2021 school year?

In the event of a COVID-19 related need for distance learning, seniors with 21 or more Carnegie unit credits from required courses will be allowed to graduate with a high school diploma. This meets minimum requirements set forth by the Mississippi Board of Education, outlined in Appendix A. (A-1, A-2, A-3, and A-4).

- How will students receive instruction in the event of another COVID-19 school closure?

JCSD will continue instruction through the use of virtual or paper packet means in the event of another school closure. Assignments will be graded.

- How will students without a device or internet service participate in instruction if there is a need for distance learning?

School administrators will work with parents on a case-by-case basis to meet the learning needs of students.

- Will students be able to participate in field trips during the 2020-2021 school year?

No field trips will be taken at JCSD schools until further notice.

- How will students with limited English proficiency (EL) receive EL services via distance learning?

- *EL Teachers will make contact with parents and will be available for EL resources and support.*
- *Translation of instructional assignments will be provided in the official designated home language for parents, as needed.*

Child Nutrition Services

- Will students be able to eat in the cafeteria?

Yes, food service operations will resume as normal as possible with a continued emphasis on cleanliness and safety while following federal, state, and local mandates related to COVID-19.

- What is the plan for physical distancing and infection control to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in school cafeterias?

- *Physical Distancing*
 - *School based creative breakfast and lunch schedules will be implemented with expanded seating options*
- *Infection Control*
 - *High contact surface sanitization*
 - *Staff member personal hygiene training and practices*
 - *Hand sanitizing stations for students and staff members*

- Will my child receive meals if he/she participates in distance learning?
 - *Yes. Distance Learners will be able to pick up meals from their school cafeteria. A parent pick up waiver must be completed and submitted to the Child Nutrition department.*
 - *For the 20-21 School Year, student meal prices will be based on Free/Reduced eligibility.*
 - *Meal Prices:*
 - *Breakfast:*
 - *\$0.00 Free/Reduced students*
 - *\$1.50 Paid students*
 - *\$2.00 Adults*
 - *Lunch:*
 - *\$0.00 Free/Reduced students*
 - *\$2.50 for Paid students*
 - *\$3.25 for Adults*
- Will my child receive meals if we experience another school closure?

Yes, in the event of a mandatory school closure, meals will be provided.

Transportation

- Will the district provide bus transportation?

Yes, bus schedules will operate as normal as possible with a continued emphasis on cleanliness and safety, to include assigned seating. Parents who are concerned are encouraged to transport their students. Each attendance center will issue bus-riding precautions and procedures.
- Will students be allowed to sit by other students on the bus?

Students will be allowed to sit by other students on the bus as they normally would with a continued emphasis on cleanliness and safety to include assigned seating. Parents who are concerned are encouraged to transport their students. Each attendance center will issue bus-riding precautions and procedures.
- What precautions will be taken to ensure that buses are clean and sanitary?

Bus drivers will sanitize buses daily.

Extra-Curricular Activities/Athletics

- What happens if a student or staff member has COVID-19 symptoms at a sports or band practice?
 - *The student or staff member will be sent home for 72 hours with the expectation that he/she will be tested for COVID-19.*
 - *Extra-curricular activity will continue for other students.*
 - *If the test is negative, the student or staff member may return once he/she is fever-free for 24 hours without medication or as instructed by his/her medical care provider.*
 - *If the test is positive, the student or staff member will follow directives given by his/her medical care provider, to include quarantining for 10 days or as instructed.*
 - *School officials will notify parents of students in close contact with a student or staff member who tests positive for COVID-19.*
- Will athletics and extra-curricular activities resume as normal?

Based on MHSAA recommendations and guidelines, athletics and extra-curricular activities will resume as normal as possible. As of July 14, 2020, the MHSAA announced to delay the fall sports calendar for two weeks due to COVID-19. Updates will be provided as available.

- If a student is participating in distance learning for a COVID-19 related justification, can he/she participate in extra-curricular activities, such as sports or band?

Students who participate in distance learning due to a COVID-19 related justification will not be eligible to participate or attend extra-curricular activities or events.

- What precautions will be taken to ensure that areas associated with extra-curricular activities are clean and sanitary?
 - COVID-19 Sanitization Certification of custodial staff
 - Sanitizing procedures
 - Training of staff and monitoring
 - Providing sanitizing cleaning agents
- How does Jackson County School District plan to ensure the safety of students, staff, and spectators involved in extra-curricular activities (athletics, band, choir, etc.)?
 - Following all MHSAA recommendations and guidelines regarding athletics and extra-curricular activities
 - Partnership with local health agencies
 - Utilizing community health resources
 - Temperature checks of students who participate in extra-curricular activities
 - Teacher training and monitoring
 - Hand washing/sanitizing stations throughout school facilities as needed
 - COVID-19 Sanitization Certification of custodial staff
 - Ongoing monitoring

Student Attendance

- How will Jackson County School District take attendance for those participating in distance learning?

During the 2020-2021 school year, attendance for students participating in distance learning will be taken via one-on-one teacher-student contact and/or student progress on daily assignments, established learning goals, and assignment completion. Attendance will be reported according to the requirements set forth in Miss. Admin. Code 7-2:9.2, State Board Policy Chapter 9, Rule 9.2: Reporting Attendance for Virtual Learning.

- Will the exemption policy be in place during the 2020-2021 school year?

The absence requirement for exam exemptions has been removed for the 2020-2021 school year. Students are required to stay at home if they are showing COVID-19 symptoms.

Special Education

- How will distance learning be provided for special needs students with health concerns?

Teachers and service providers of special needs students who participate in distance learning due to health concerns will develop assignments using online resources or paper packets based on IEP goals for each student and will follow up as needed with parents to monitor progress and participation.

- What is the plan for providing additional services (i.e. occupational therapy, physical therapy, etc...) for special needs students whose IEPs contain related services goals?

School-based IEP committees will meet and develop plans to provide non-academic services on an individual student basis.