

Asheboro City Schools

Reopening Guide for Families





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Letter from Superintendent

Dear Asheboro City Schools Families,

When the 2020-2021 school year begins, on-campus school will look different from previous years due to new health and safety measures. However, Asheboro City Schools remains committed to our mission and core values.

Governor Cooper announced on July 14, 2020, that schools will be open for in person instruction under the guidelines of Plan B (50% occupancy). You will find more details about Asheboro City Schools Plan B schedule under the Returning to School section. We anticipate the need for staff and families to be flexible throughout the school year, as we may begin the school year under one plan, and shift to another as needed or directed by state or local officials.

As with any school year, we want your children to be safe, healthy, and ready to learn. We also want you to feel comfortable and confident in sending your children to school. We know this can be accomplished through active cooperation and clear communication among students, families, and teachers.

K-12 families will have the option to choose Asheboro City Schools' remote learning option (ACCESS Ed) if they are not ready or able to return to a school campus.

We ask you to take time to familiarize yourself with the important information contained in this guide. As you do, please know many teams have spent countless hours to gather information and develop guidance to help keep your children and our staff safe and healthy. Remember that many of us have children and grandchildren who attend our schools. We wholeheartedly share the concerns you have when it comes to the well-being of our students and staff.

Despite the challenges we face due to the pandemic, we look forward to working with you to create a wonderful school year for our students.

Dr. Aaron Woody
Superintendent

OUR MISSION

We are committed to providing rigorous, individualized, and engaging learning opportunities for all students in a safe and inviting environment to ensure our students can become successful lifelong learners, prepared for global citizenship.

****Information contained in this document is subject to change.**

Please understand that knowledge about the COVID-19 virus and the best practices to respond continue to evolve. This guide may be updated frequently. As those updates occur, we will notify families via phone calls, emails, and social media. Please ensure your child's school has a valid email address on file and that your contact information is always up to date.



Overview

This guide presents protocols developed to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19. It is based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS), the Randolph County Public Health Department, and the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI).

To combat the spread of this virus as a community, the expectation is that all employees, students, and families comply with the procedures, protocols, and requirements outlined in this document and in any linked documents and websites. In addition, the ACS community is expected to comply with state and local regulations.

If state or local requirements differ from the guidance provided in this guide, school communities will follow the stricter requirements.





Returning to School

Learning Environments

Asheboro City Schools (ACS) has developed three plans for opening school for the 2020-2021 school year to comply with the governor's guidance. We will provide a challenging and meaningful learning experience for our students, regardless of which plan we operate under for the COVID-19 pandemic. We will provide families who are not ready to send their children back to school this year with a remote learning option. Our remote learning program will be called ACCESS Ed. Details are included in the ACS ACCESS Ed Remote Learning Program section of this document.

State officials requested school districts develop three plans (A, B, and C) for different learning environments for the 2020-21 school year. The plan in which we operate will be based on state and local official recommendations, NCDPI guidance, and NCDHHS guidance regarding the safe opening of schools. Transitions between the three plans may be required during the year.

Daily In-Person Instruction (Plan A)

Under this plan, Pre K-12 students will attend class in the school building, in-person with their teachers and classmates every school day. Students receive daily, in-person instruction; however, teachers will still utilize an online platform for assignments in case we are required to transition between plans A, B, and C throughout the year. All students PreK-12 will have an ACS issued device. Students in the ACCESS Ed Program will receive teacher-directed instruction remotely for scheduled portions of the day during school hours and will work independently for the remainder of the day.

Blended Instruction (Plan B)

Pre K-12 students will experience a combination of in-person learning in the school building with their teachers and classmates two days each week and remote instruction through an online platform for the remaining three days. All students PreK-12 will have an ACS issued device. Both learning environments will have high expectations and will result in work that contributes to the student's overall numerical grade. Teachers will prioritize learning opportunities in each environment to create an overall experience that aligns to rigorous state standards for the grade level or course.

Experiences during remote instruction will be a combination of recorded and live instructional sessions. Students in the ACCESS Ed Program will experience a combination of teacher-directed remote learning two days each week and remote instruction through an online platform for the remaining three days.

Fully-Remote Instruction (Plan C)

Under this plan, all students will experience fully-remote instruction as a result of school closure based on decisions from state and local officials. All learning opportunities will occur remotely and will include a combination of recorded and live instructional sessions along with remote work assignments. All students PreK-12 will have an ACS issued device. Students in the ACCESS Ed Program will receive instruction following Plan C along with all other students in the district.

ACS 2020-2021 Student Scheduling Plan:

In anticipation of potential transitions between plans, all students will be assigned to one of two groups (Group A or Group B). Siblings across schools will be scheduled in the same groups. Students in 'Group A' will attend school on campus on Mondays and Tuesdays and will work remotely on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Students in 'Group B' will attend school on campus on Thursday and Friday and work remotely on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Students in the ACCESS Ed Program will receive their instruction remotely all five days; however, they will be assigned a group and expected to connect with classroom instruction on either the A or B schedule. ACS will work closely with students with disabilities, English Language Learners, and their families to address individual concerns and needs for each of the plans A, B, and C and students in the ACCESS Ed Program.



ACCESS Ed Remote Learning Program Description

For the 2020-2021 school year, a new, innovative learning opportunity will be offered for interested students. The ACCESS Ed Remote Learning Program for Asheboro City Schools will be available for students in grades K-12, offering a fully remote learning experience for families who prefer remote learning during COVID-19. There are currently no plans for the participation of PreK students or for this program to continue beyond the 2020-2021 school year.

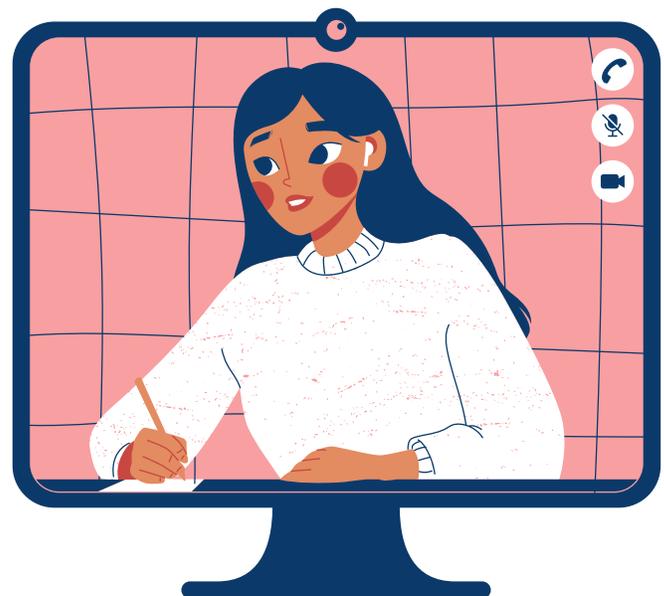
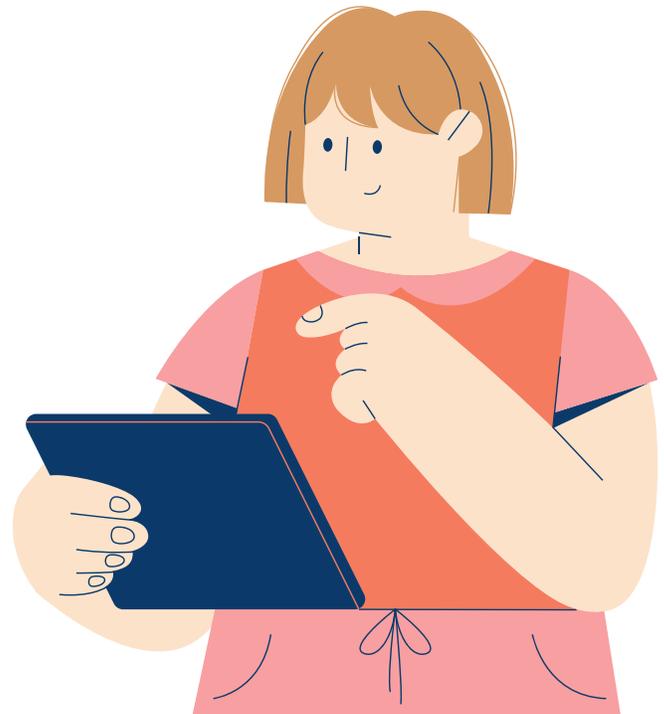
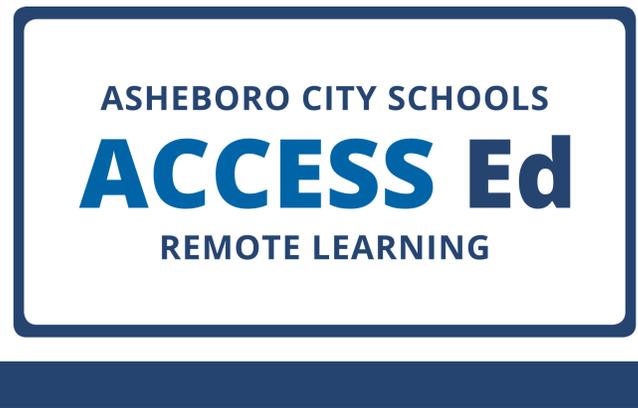
ACCESS Ed Program Expectations:

- Current students remain enrolled at their assigned schools. New transfer students will be assigned a school in their attendance zone or enrolled in an alternate location as space allows.
- Rigorous and meaningful instruction will be led by licensed ACS teachers from their classrooms. Curriculum materials will be provided to students.
- Scheduling and grading will be aligned with ACS face-to-face or blended learning environments.
- Assignments and tasks will be delivered through online platforms. Tutorials and technical support will be provided to families and students. Devices will be provided to participating students. Consistent internet access will be required for the student's learning workspace.
- All learning opportunities will occur remotely and will include a combination of recorded and live instructional sessions along with remote work assignments. Students will be expected to participate with the class during class hours on a regular basis.
- Daily attendance will be required.
- Students will be expected to commit to the following work schedule (time may vary depending on course/teacher):

Grade	Instructional Time (fixed schedule classroom time)	Supervised Individual Work Time (flexible time with parent or guardian)
K-1	2 hours	2 hours
2-3	2 hours	2-3 hours
4-5	2 hours	2-3 hours
6-8	2 hours	3-4 hours
9-12	2 hours	4-5 hours

***Time adjustments may be mandated as we are required to transition between plans A, B, and C during the year.*

Students can enroll in the ACCESS Ed Remote Learning Program starting July 15. Additional details and a link to the enrollment form is located on the Asheboro City Schools website.





Health Screenings

Health Screening Responsibilities

Daily health screenings can help reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19. Students and employees who are sick or not feeling well must stay home. Students are encouraged to have a health screening at home before riding school transportation or arriving to school. If a student begins to not feel well while on campus, shows signs of illness, or becomes sick during the day, they must immediately tell an employee and the student will be moved to a designated location. A parent or guardian will be expected to promptly pick them up from school.

Home Health Screenings Recommended

All students should have their temperature taken daily at home before coming to school. Students must stay home if:

- They have tested positive for COVID-19 and have not met the criteria for returning to school;
- They have recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19 and have not met the criteria for returning to school;
- They have a temperature of 100.4°F or higher.

In addition, students must be free of any symptoms potentially related to COVID-19 to be on a school campus. At this time, these symptoms include one or more of the following:

- Fever or chills
- New cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- New loss of taste or smell



School Bus Health Screening Requirement

Families should print, complete, and sign an Attestation Form daily for every student who rides the bus. Health officials advise that screening children at home and completing the form every day should reduce students' risk of exposure to illness while riding the bus. Every student must show the bus driver or monitor their completed daily Attestation Form upon entering the bus. Copies of the Attestation Form will be provided to families upon request.

If students do not have the completed and signed daily Attestation Form, they will be asked symptom-screening questions before they board the bus.

PLEASE NOTE: A responsible adult or older sibling is required to wait with all children at the bus stop to help the child return home should they not be allowed to board the bus.

All students riding a bus or vendor transportation must wear a face covering unless they cannot tolerate a face covering due to developmental, medical, or behavioral health needs. If a student cannot wear a face covering, parents will be required to notify your child's school. Students who do not wear a face covering on a bus must remain socially distanced six feet from other people on the bus, which will reduce the bus capacity and may require adjustments to bus routes.

After arriving at school, all bus riders will be asked the symptom-screening checklist questions and have their temperature taken before being allowed to enter the building.

School Health Screening Requirement

When arriving at school, all students will be instructed to use designated entrances to undergo a health screening. The health screening process contains two parts, a symptom-screening checklist and an on-site temperature check using a touchless thermometer. Individuals dropping off a student at school should not leave until the student has passed the health screening process.

Students who do not feel well, have a temperature of 100.4°F or higher will be held in a designated health waiting area. Employees will contact the parent/guardian to immediately pick their student up from school.



Students or Staff Who Leave and Return to Campus During the School Day

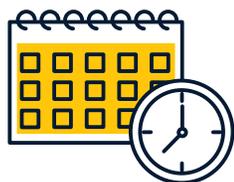
If needed, students and employees may present a dated health-screening pass to verify they have successfully passed through the full health screening process, including the symptom screening and temperature check. Anyone with a dated health-screening pass will not need additional screening before re-entering an ACS facility on that day.

If a student plans to leave campus for any reason and return later in the school day, he or she should obtain a dated health screening pass before leaving the building so they will not have to go through the health screening again upon his or her return to school.

Procedure for Reporting COVID-19 on Campus

We will report suspected, presumptive, or positive cases of COVID-19 to Randolph County Public Health and work with them for follow-up and contact tracing. If a person with COVID-19 was in an ACS facility while infectious, we will coordinate with local health officials to notify employees and families while maintaining confidentiality in accordance with FERPA, NCGS 130A-143, and all other state and federal laws.

In the event of a confirmed case of COVID-19 in a school, the affected areas will be closed for 24 hours and systematically disinfected.



Returning to School After Diagnosis, Exposure, or Illness

Any student who has experienced at least one COVID-19 symptom, with or without being diagnosed with COVID-19, should not be in school. They should stay home until they (or a family member answering for a younger child) can answer YES to all three of the following questions:

- Has it been at least 10 days since they first had symptoms?
- Has it been at least 3 days since they had a fever (without using fever-reducing medicine)?
- Has it been at least 3 days since the symptoms have improved, including cough and shortness of breath?

A student is not required to have documentation of a negative test in order to return to school. If a student has a negative COVID-19 test, they can return to school once there is no fever without the use of fever-reducing medicines and they have felt well for 24 hours. For students who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 but do not have symptoms:

- Any student who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, but does not have symptoms must remain out of school until 10 days have passed since the date of their first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test.
- A student is not required to have documentation of a negative test in order to return to school.
- If a student develops symptoms, they cannot return to school until they meet all of the criteria for students who have experienced at least one symptom.

For students who have been exposed to COVID-19 and do not have symptoms:

- Students who have been exposed to COVID-19 and do not have symptoms must remain out of school for 14 days since their last exposure, even if they test negative for COVID-19. If they develop symptoms, they cannot return to school until they meet all of the criteria for students who have experienced at least one symptom.





Maintaining Healthy Spaces

Cloth Face Coverings

North Carolina requires a face covering for all employees, adult visitors, and all K-12 students, including:

- inside school buildings and anywhere on school grounds, including outside; and
- while traveling on buses or other contract transportation vehicles.

A face covering must be secured safely over the nose, mouth, and under the chin. **Bandana style face coverings will not be allowed.** State health officials strongly recommend face coverings for all people over the age of two.

Face coverings are not required for individuals who:

- Cannot tolerate a face covering due to developmental, medical, or behavioral health needs
- Are “actively” eating or drinking
- Are “strenuously exercising”
- Are seeking to communicate with a hearing-impaired person in a way that requires the mouth to be visible
- Have found that a face covering is impeding visibility to operate equipment or a vehicle
- Are children whose parent, guardian, or responsible person has been unable to place a face covering safely on the child’s face.

Face coverings are an important step to help slow the spread of COVID-19 when combined with everyday preventive actions and social distancing in public settings.

Face coverings will be provided for students who do not have access to one. If given a reusable face covering, it is the responsibility of the family to wash it when needed and bring it back to reuse it.

Please review face covering best practices on the CDC website with your child and help them practice wearing face coverings appropriately for extended periods of time.



Handwashing

Handwashing is one of the best ways to protect yourself and your family. The CDC recommends everyone wash their hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. Teachers will be teaching handwashing in the classroom, incorporating handwashing breaks into the school day, and reinforcing handwashing during key times throughout the school day such as before and after eating, using the restroom, and touching shared objects.

Use of Hand Sanitizer

Washing hands with soap and water is the best way to get rid of germs in most situations. If soap and water are not readily available, individuals are encouraged to use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer (containing at least 60% alcohol). Schools will have hand sanitizer available, as well as all school buses. If your child has sensitivities to hand sanitizer, please communicate this with your child’s teachers so they can provide your child with other opportunities to clean their hands. To prepare for the return to school, please review the hand sanitizer best practices on the CDC website with your child.

Social Distancing

All schools are taking actions to ensure all campus spaces and buildings support health and safety. These actions include: signage and floor markings to remind students of social-distancing practices, changes to foot-traffic flow through buildings and on campus pathways, furniture placement in classrooms, and much more. Before and after school, we ask students to avoid congregating on campus. Employees will direct students to clear the hallways and parking lots and to leave campus in an effort to encourage social distancing.

6 feet





Cleaning and Disinfecting

Buildings and transportation vehicles will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected throughout the day and every evening. Our disinfectant is an EPA-approved disinfectant for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. Cleaning and disinfecting protocols will continue to be reviewed and enhanced in terms of frequency and intensity on an ongoing basis.

Visitors

Only essential visitors will be allowed in school buildings in an effort to protect the health and safety of our students, staff, and community. Virtual or telephone meetings with families and guests will be used as an alternative to face-to-face meetings.

If it is necessary to have family members or visitors enter the facility, they must complete the same health screening process as students and employees. All visitors are required to follow the guidelines in the Cloth Face Covering section of this document. Any meetings with a family member or visitor must follow social-distancing guidelines.

Water Fountains

In response to COVID-19, students will be prohibited from drinking directly from water fountains. All students are encouraged to bring their own bottled water or reusable water bottles. All water bottles should be clearly labeled with the user's name. It is the students' responsibility to keep track of their water bottles and take them home for regular cleaning. If students need water and do not have a water bottle, they may ask an employee for a cup to get water from the water fountain.

Athletic and Co-Curricular Activities

At this time, no decisions have been made on resuming a full athletic program and co-curricular activities. Asheboro City Schools will follow the guidance provided by the North Carolina High School Athletic Association, along with guidance from public health officials.



Field Trips

For the 2020-2021 school year, in-person field trips have been suspended to ensure the safety of our students and staff.



Cafeteria

School Nutrition staff will continue to prepare food in our school kitchens following very strict food safety and sanitation procedures required by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS), and NC Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI). All meals will be individually packaged for direct service to students. Breakfast and lunch will be served in the classroom. Cafeteria spaces may be used when social distancing and safety protocols are possible.

Parents of elementary students:

When students return to school this fall, there will likely be a need for assistance from an adult to open pre-packaged lunch items. Please have them practice opening things themselves before the first day of school. Consider easy to open options that will help keep your child safe by limiting other hands on containers that may go into their mouth.

Easy to open examples:

- Flip top water bottles
- Sectioned lunch containers (Bento Box or Tupperware)
- Ziplock bags
- Reusable sandwich bags
- Twist off snacks



Harder to open examples:

- Milk carton
- Juice box with straw
- Lunchables (many packages to open inside)
- Yogurt tubes
- Individual chips/snacks
- Twist off drinks



If you send harder to open items, please have your child practice opening. If an adult needs to assist with opening, they will likely be putting their hands on areas that go in your child's mouth. If students can open everything in their lunch, it will mean less time waiting for help and more time eating, and less potential spread of germs.

