

WASHINGTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT'S RE-OPENING PLAN

2023-2024 School Year

A+ School District = Academics, Arts, and Athletics

Developing the Whole Child

INTRODUCTION

- This plan is designed to provide our students, parents, teachers, and staff with critical information about the re-opening of school in August 2023. It is important to remember that this plan was developed with collaborative input from our parents, teachers, paraprofessionals, staff, principals, district leaders, and Board of Education to meet the needs of our students.
- The WCSD re-opening plan for 2023-2024 is designed with considerations and recommendations from Georgia Department of Education and Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH). We support the guidance provided as we transition to post-pandemic of COVID-19.
- This document is fluid and flexible in nature.
- As needed, this document will be shared with parents and community-stakeholders when major events of spread (COVID-19/variants) warrants periods of closure/virtual learning options during the school-term. WCSD will continue to have safety as top priority for students, parents, and our employees.

Re-Opening Plan Goals

- Safety First as we prioritize face-to-face learning for all students.
- A focus of social emotional wellness of students, parents, teachers and staff members.
- Intensive Academic Acceleration/Recovery and extending arts and athletic programming for students.
- Developing and nurturing our organizational efficacy.
- Collaboration with local public health experts.
- Continued promotion of vaccine opportunities for adults and students as available.

USE OF CARES AND ARP FUNDS

Area of Focus	Funding Source	Duration of Implementation	School	Beneficiaries	Examples
Safety & Security	CARES/ARP & local funding	July 2020 - July 2025	All	Students Teachers Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing and maintaining secure entrances at all schools • Upgrading all communication devices for SROs • Providing masks, sanitizer, face shields, and other PPE • Adding additional custodians and cleaning services • Defogging the schools and buses • Providing COVID-19 vaccination opportunities • Mitigation protocols using trained contact tracers • Extending learning opportunities • Improve student readiness for academic learning and social emotional Development • Enhanced Tier I interventions and enrichment
				Parents Community	
Adding an additional Pre-K classroom	CARES/ARP, State funding, & local funding	August 2021-beyond	All	Pre-K students Teachers Parents Community	
Reduced class sizes	CARES/ARP & local funding	August 2021 - July 2025	K-5	Students Teachers Parents	

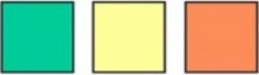
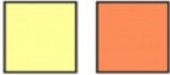

Area of Focus	Funding Source	Duration of Implementation	School	Beneficiaries	Examples
Accelerated Learning Opportunities	CARES/ARP & local funding	September 2021 - July 2025	All	Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EIP • Remediation • Specialized instruction • Small group instruction • Intervention Specialist(s)
Extended Learning	CARES/ARP & local funding	September 2021 - July 2025	All	Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projected-based learning - STEM comps • Gifted activities • Early SMART Start (K-2)
Additional School Supplies for students	CARES/ARP & local funding	September 2021 - July 2025	All	Students Teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School supplies for students and teachers
Transportation	CARES/ARP & local funding	September 2021 - July 2025	All	Students Bus drivers Parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adding additional buses to our aging fleet • Designing bus stops
Improving facilities	CARES/ARP & local funding	September 2021 - July 2025	All	Students Teachers Parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining efficient HVACs and upgrading all schools
Adding additional teachers	CARES/ARP & local funding	September 2021 - July 2025	All	Students Teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing class size for more learning acceleration
Adding additional support staff	CARES/ARP & local funding	September 2021 - July 2025	All	Students Teachers Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adding paraprofessionals • SRO • Nurse at WCHS
Adding additional technology	CARES/ARP & local funding	September 2021 - July 2025	All	Students Teachers Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrading with new chrome books • Promethean Boards

District Plan for Remote Learning if Needed

- WCSD recognizes the importance of having a plan in place in the event it becomes necessary to switch to remote learning.
- Use of social media, Parent Square, and other communications to inform parents, students, and staff of the need for school closure and switching to remote learning.
- Decisions will be based on guidance from DPH, local health officials, CDC, and other state –level officials.
- We currently have 1:1 technology in place for students along with ongoing use of online learning and engagement platforms and resources integrated into the daily learning activities.

Updated Guidance from CDC

Individual-Level Prevention Steps You Can Take Based on Your COVID-19 Community Level

LOW, MEDIUM, AND HIGH At all COVID-19 Community Levels:	MEDIUM AND HIGH When the COVID-19 Community Level is Medium or High:	HIGH When the COVID-19 Community Level is High:
		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stay up to date on vaccination, including recommended booster doses.• Maintain ventilation improvements.• Avoid contact with people who have suspected or confirmed COVID-19.• Follow recommendations for isolation if you have suspected or confirmed COVID-19.• Follow the recommendations for what to do if you are exposed to someone with COVID-19.• If you are at high risk of getting very sick, talk with a healthcare provider about additional prevention actions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If you are at high risk of getting very sick, wear a high-quality mask or respirator (e.g., N95) when indoors in public• If you have household or social contact with someone at high risk for getting very sick, consider self-testing to detect infection before contact, and consider wearing a high-quality mask when indoors with them	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wear a high-quality mask or respirator.• If you are at high risk of getting very sick, consider avoiding non-essential indoor activities in public where you could be exposed.

FACE-TO-FACE INSTRUCTION

- Face-to-face instruction for all students at all grade levels
- Masking is optional for all students, staff, and visitors
- Meals will be provided in the cafeteria at all schools.
- Increased daily cleaning protocols
- Students fully engaged in all content areas including core subjects, electives, connections, and specials
- Blending of best of pre-COVID and COVID learning tools to create safe, respectful learning environments where students are engaged and challenged
- Focus on grade level learning and accelerating learning where gaps exist in academics and SEL
- Students continue to have technology devices to support independent learning
- Access to before and after school activities in compliance with CDC/GaDPH guidelines.

General Health & Safety Measures

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Regular handwashing is one of the best ways to remove germs, avoid getting sick, and prevent the spread of germs to others. Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds several times throughout the day, especially before and after eating, after sneezing/coughing/blowing nose, after using the restroom and/or if they are visibly dirty.

Covering coughs and sneezes and keeping hands clean can help prevent the spread of serious respiratory illnesses. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue, if available and throw used tissues in the trash. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your elbow, not in your hands.

Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

Custodial personnel will clean high-touch surfaces daily.

HVAC units are set to allow for maximum ventilation, that all filters are clean, and that all units are working properly.

Coordination with state and local health officials

The school system will work in coordination with and maintain frequent communication with the Washington County Health Department to keep abreast on the most current data and guidelines set forth by the Georgia Department of Health and the CDC. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>

Encouraging the COVID-19 vaccine for all eligible students.

Student Transportation

Transportation will continue to be provided for all eligible Washington County students. We will continue following best practices standards enacted during the pandemic, along with guidelines and recommendations set forth by CDC and GaDPH.

Safety Measures

All bus drivers and monitors will be trained on safety protocols.

Frequently touched surfaces, including hand railings, student bus seats, and surfaces in the driver cockpit will be sanitized daily.

School Nutrition

Washington County Public Schools will continue to operate under the Community Eligibility Provision in 2023-2024. Breakfast and Lunch will be offered at no cost to all students attending school during the times meals are offered.

Recess

Recess will continue to be held outdoors as long as weather permits.

Use of playground equipment will be allowed.

During inclement weather students will be assigned to indoor spaces for recess.

Mitigation Measures

Lessons Learned: Proven and effective strategies for stopping the spread of COVID-19



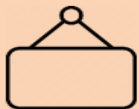
Sick students & staff must remain home

Los estudiantes y el personal enfermos deben permanecer en casa



Wash hands often

Lavarse frecuentemente las manos



Follow all posted signage

Obedecer todos los señalamientos colocados



Avoid touching your face

Evitar tocarse la cara

Facilities

Continued daily cleaning protocols in accordance with CDC and GaDPH guidelines

Continued cleaning of restrooms and commonly touched surfaces such as doorknobs, railings, sinks, countertops, etc.

Water fountains and/or bottle filling stations available at each school

Ventilation upgrades (HVAC units set to allow for adequate fresh air induction, air filters are changed regularly on all HVAC units)

Hand sanitizer stations throughout buildings and in all classrooms and common areas

Health and safety signage

Floors to be steam cleaned during summer break

Monitoring and Revision

WCSD leaders, local public health leaders, and community stakeholders have a shared interest in ensuring the time, energy, and resources invested to safely return to school is effective. Consequently, monitoring and revising the Safe Return to School Plan is essential for keeping the plan a living and meaningful document. To ensure that consistent monitoring and revision of the priorities, objectives, and strategies of our plan takes place, we will ensure the following:

Involvement and active participation by school personnel, students, parents, and other community stakeholders.

Periodically scheduled meetings of the COVID-19 Task Force where monitoring and revising the plan are an intentional part of the agenda/discussion.

Data review, information sharing, and discussion regarding progress toward objectives and effectiveness of strategy/activity implementation.

A decision-making process for revising the plan and approval of those revisions.