

Cullman County Schools Better Together

Recovery Plan for 2020-2021

A Guide for Parents

Q What type of instruction will my child receive as they enter school August 20th?

Parents may select between two options for students to receive instruction for the 2020-2021 school year:

- Traditional Learning, **or**
- Virtual Learning

Virtual Learning

- Parents who select this option will apply via the link available on the ccboe.org website. These students will be enrolled at their local school and participate in Cullman County Virtual Academy (CCVA).
- Students enrolled at CCVA are assigned coursework that comes completely from a digital platform (SchoolsPLP or Access) and is facilitated by virtual academy instructors.
- Students enrolled in CCVA will not attend the school in an on-campus manner.
- Enrollment for CCVA is **July 13th – 21st**. Applications can be found on the CCBOE website.
- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the challenging nature of the program, a trial period will be offered to first-time CCVA students. Any newly enrolled CCVA student will have until September 3, 2020 to decide if CCVA is right for them or if they should return to Traditional Instruction. After that date students enrolled in CCVA, will be required to complete the program for a minimum of one semester.

Introduction: Letter from Dr. Barnette

The events surrounding school closure in March 2020 led us into unprecedented situations. Now, students, parents, and teachers have been wondering about how and when we will return to school and what it will look like once we do return. It is my hope to provide some guidance to you as you prepare for the upcoming school year. I wish I could say this year would be simple and normal; however, as you are well aware, this will not be a normal year anytime soon.

We have missed our students-your children. I look forward to having them back on campus. I know that many of you have anxiety and worry about returning your children to school. But I assure you, their safety is in the forefront of our decision making. With that in mind, we can work together to achieve a great and successful school year. The students we welcome this year only have one chance to get a K-12 education, and it is our desire to be our very best for them.

In closing, this document is not all-inclusive or finalized, but rather is meant to serve as a tool to support you in making the 2020-2021 school year successful. I look forward to the new school year and know through our collective efforts we will serve the students of **Cullman County Schools better together**.

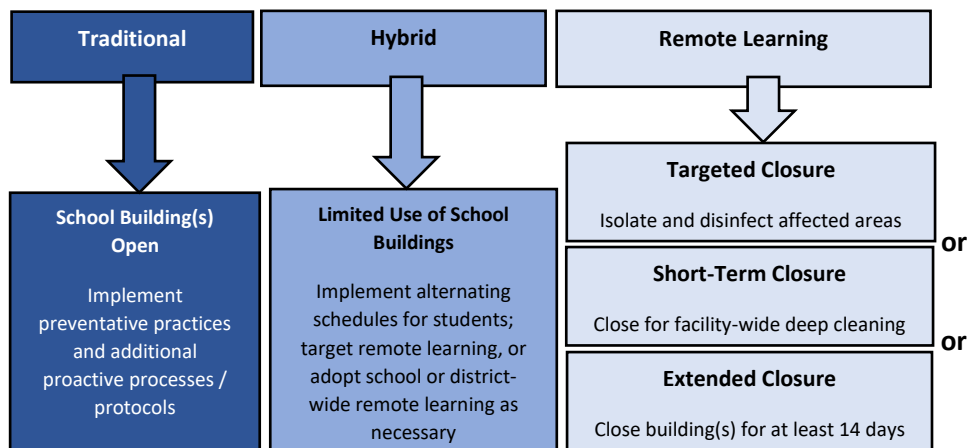
Shane Barnette
Superintendent of Cullman County Schools

Traditional Learning

- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, traditional learning students may be required to transition to hybrid or remote learning students, not to be confused with virtual learning which is a separate program, listed in the box above (CCVA). Classroom teachers will be responsible for instruction (Seesaw, Google Classroom/Google Meet).
- The students of parents who select the traditional learning option will return to school and will receive face-to-face instruction from classroom teachers.
- Students who are new to the system will enroll at the local school.
- Students enrolled in traditional learning may transition to hybrid or remote learning throughout the school year.
- Students who enroll in traditional learning will remain in traditional learning for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year unless an exception is granted due to extenuating circumstances.
- Any student will have until September 3, 2020 to decide if traditional learning is right for them or if they should go to Virtual Learning.

Student Wellness

- Check your child's temperature and do not send them to school if it is 100.4° or greater.
- Monitor your child's symptoms daily, including cough, congestion, shortness of breath, or gastrointestinal symptoms. If you see any change in these symptoms, your child should be kept home from school.



Q What is the difference between Traditional, Hybrid, Remote, and Virtual?

- Traditional learning takes place in the classroom and may involve a combination of paper and digital tools.
- Hybrid learning is a mixture of face-to-face and online learning. Students in traditional learning may transition to hybrid learning as needed throughout the school year. During hybrid learning, we will utilize a schedule modification of A/B rotations. Students with the last name beginning with the letters A-K will be Group A. Students with a last name beginning with the letters L-Z will be Group B. Households with multiple last names will follow the last name of the oldest child. Group A will attend school on Monday and Tuesday. Group B will attend school on Thursday and Friday. Teachers and staff will attend school Monday-Friday.
- Remote learning provided by the classroom teachers will be used in the event of school closure. Students who are in traditional classrooms will transition to digital learning on the Google platform.
- Virtual learning is for students enrolled in Cullman County Virtual Academy. Students are assigned coursework that comes from a digital platform facilitated by CCVA instructors. Students enrolled in CCVA will not attend the school in an on-campus manner. Applications can be found on the CCBOE website and will be accepted July 13th - July 21st.

Dr. Barnette will monitor health and safety factors in conjunction with the Alabama Department of Public Health, school administrators, and other leaders. One or more schools could transition from traditional learning to hybrid, or remote learning during the 2020-2021 school year.

Q What should I know when considering Cullman County Virtual Academy for my child's learning?

- Cullman County Virtual Academy is a rigorous program in which virtual instruction will take place at home. It requires a greater daily time commitment than was experienced during the last quarter of 2019-2020.
- There will be student attendance guidelines to follow.
- Families will need access to reliable Internet and a device other than a cell phone.

Q What are the expectations for student attendance during the 2020-2021 school year?

- Students who attend traditional school will be expected to attend on a regular basis in accordance with the attendance policy.
- Students who attend virtual school will be expected to meet the expectations of the CCVA attendance guidelines.
- The local school administration will consider extenuating circumstances related to COVID-19.
- Parents are encouraged to screen their child for COVID-19 related symptoms before allowing them to board the bus or enter the school building.
- In the case of COVID-19 related absence, the student is strongly encouraged to notify the school administrator and submit a physician's note in a timely manner to the school.

Q Will changes be made in the lunchroom due to COVID-19?

- Cullman County Board of Education and the local school will work with the ADPH to follow current guidelines.
- New procedures and guidelines will be in place to ensure safety of your child and promote social distancing to the extent possible. In addition, meals will be pre-portioned, grab-and-go.
- We encourage families to pay online using PayPams.
- Visitors should have minimal access to the campus during the COVID-19 pandemic. This means that visitors will not be allowed to eat lunch with their children.

Q How will cleanliness and safety measures be addressed on the school bus?

- While we encourage parents to transport students to and from school as often as possible, buses will be cleaned and sanitized before each trip. Frequently touched surfaces such as door handles, arm rest, grab handles, etc. will be cleaned, as necessary.
- Face coverings are not required for students to wear on the bus, but they are recommended to be worn while riding the bus and all instances of transitions.
- Bus drivers may provide hand sanitizer for students, or students may bring hand sanitizer from home.
- The first two seats behind the driver will be left open, if possible, and a seat will be designated for a student who is ill if needed.
- Students from the same household will sit together in assigned seats when it is possible to do so.

Q What cleanliness measures will be in place during a regular school day?

- Teachers and staff will receive training on proper cleaning procedures.
- Signs will be posted in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate about COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols.
- A schedule for the sanitation of facilities (door handles, stairwells, faucet handles, playground equipment, light switches, desks, tables, chairs, keyboards, cafeteria tables, etc.) will be created by the local school administration. This will include the cleaning of frequently touched surfaces at least daily and shared objects after each use.
- Restrooms will be sanitized multiple times daily. Soap and/or sanitizer will be available in the bathroom and throughout the school buildings. Students and staff will be allowed to bring hand sanitizer from home.
- Drinking fountains will be disabled and students will be allowed to bring water bottles from home. We highly encourage you to label your child's water bottle with their name.
- We will conduct deep cleaning of schools prior to students/staff returning. We may schedule periodic cleanings during weekends or school holidays/breaks (to the extent practicable).
- Teachers will teach and reinforce good hygiene measures such as handwashing, covering coughs, and face coverings.
- Students can wear appropriate face masks/coverings, and other appropriate PPE as desired. However, masks/PPE should be free of inappropriate or offensive messages/images.
- Teachers and staff are welcome to wear masks at their general discretion for their safety during the school day. Any required use of masks will be governed by the Alabama Health Order as directed by Governor Kay Ivey. (As of 6/26/2020, the current health (Item 13c) order requires the use of a mask or other facial covering by an education employee within 6 feet of a person of a different household.)
- Teachers will allow for as much space as possible between desks and they will all face forward. Teachers will utilize table dividers in situations where students are face-to-face at tables.

Find answers to other questions via the address below (also located on the CCBOE Website).

<https://bit.ly/CCBOEBetterTogether>

Submit other questions to covid@ccboe.org.