



Sylacauga City Schools Return to In-Person Instruction Plan

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Introduction

Sylacauga City Schools has prepared this plan in the best interest of our students. The Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) have given guidance for the return to in-person instruction. We will continue to adhere to this guidance in an effort to ensure the safety of our students and staff.

Since the onset of the pandemic in March 2020, we have witnessed the resiliency of our students, parents, and staff to persevere through the face of the unknown. Our hope is that the 2021-22 school year is a year of restoration and progress. We know that we will continue to face obstacles and hardships; however, together we will rise above. Our staff is prepared to meet these unforeseen challenges to ensure that all students have the opportunity to receive a quality education.

Thank you for your continued support.

Dr. Michele Eller

Reopening Committee:

Dr. Michele Eller, Superintendent
Dr. Jennifer Rosato, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning
Mr. Michael Robinson, Executive Director of Technology
Mrs. Debbie Barnett, Assessment Coordinator
Mrs. Tracey Abernathy, System Nurse
Mr. Bobby Hall, Executive Director of Learning Supports

2021-2022 School Calendar

The first day of school for students will be August 12, 2021. Students will attend school five days a week.

Wellness & School Operations

The health and safety of our students and employees have been at the forefront of our planning and decision making efforts. Sylacauga City Schools will implement school operation plans and wellness protocols based on current health guidance. As health information and guidance changes we will modify our plan as needed.

Health Checks/Screenings

We ask that our parents and employees self-screen each morning before coming to school or boarding a school bus. Parents will be provided a home screening checklist. Anyone with a fever of 100.4 or higher should not come to school. Students and employees should also screen for other COVID-19 symptoms. Those experiencing symptoms should not attend school or come to work. Symptoms include: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea. Students' temperatures will be screened before being dropped off in the car-rider line. Those students who ride the bus will be screened as they enter the building each day.

Face Coverings

Face coverings may help prevent people who have COVID-19 from spreading the virus to others. The CDC recommends that people wear face coverings in public settings when around people outside of their household. Under the current health orders, face masks are optional.

Physical Distance

Classroom setup will be modified to the extent possible. Where feasible, desks will be separated as much as the physical space allows, and students will face in one direction. Social distancing will continue to be encouraged.

Facility Cleaning

Sylacauga City Schools has high standards for cleanliness and remains committed to investing in the resources to keep our schools clean and sanitized as possible. Keeping our schools as clean as possible is a shared responsibility. Students and staff will be encouraged to wash hands frequently or use hand sanitizer.

Plans for Vulnerable Populations

An individualized approach for students with disabilities who have an IEP or Section 504 plan will be taken when considering in-person instruction taking federal and state laws into consideration.

Communication

Communicating our plan is continuous through our internal mechanisms to inform students, parents and the community and through the use of our local media outlets. School communications are managed by the principal and reviewed by the Superintendent. District communications are centralized with the Superintendents, The Executive Director of Teaching and Learning, the Executive Director of Technology, and the Communications Director.

Student & Staff Mental Health and Wellness

All students will receive counseling lessons on a variety of topics related to social-emotional learning, educational achievement, college and career readiness, healthy habits, and more. Additionally, all students will have access to the system's mental health liaison for support and referrals.

Health Room and Isolation Areas

Students or employees who exhibit COVID-19 symptoms while at school will be immediately directed to the health room where the school nurse will do an assessment in a designated isolation area.

Employees with a possible COVID-19 case will leave the school immediately. Parents of students with a possible COVID-19 case will be notified immediately and asked to pick up the student within the hour.

Operations & Facilities

COVID-19 Exposure & Contact Tracing

When a principal or director receives notice of an employee or student exhibiting COVID symptoms, receiving a positive test, or having been in close contact with a person with COVID, he/she will follow these steps;

1. Alert the Superintendent and Lead Nurse
2. Have the school nurse complete the COVID REPORT Card at <https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/covid19/healthcare.html>
3. Provide attendance rosters and seating charts with the report
4. Notify the individuals involved of the situation and direct them to stay home until they receive guidance from ADPH.
5. Notify the Superintendent when these steps are complete.

Transportation

Bus Drivers and Riders

1. When mandated by governing entities or district policy, drivers must wear a face mask or face covering when anyone else is on the bus.
2. Drivers and students are allowed to carry hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
3. Windows and ceiling vents will be open for ventilation when weather permits.
4. All buses will be sanitized with an electrostatic sprayer after every time a bus is used to transport any passengers.
5. Routes may be adjusted to keep buses at no more than two students per seat.
6. Assigned seating will be utilized wherever possible to ensure the same students sit together each day. Members of the same family will sit together when possible. Students boarding the bus at the first bus stop will proceed to the rear of their assigned age group seating area.
7. Students must remain in their seats, facing forward, and clear of the center aisle at all times while on the bus.

Child Nutrition

Students will return to eating lunch in the cafeteria for the 2021-2022 school year. If guidance is provided by the State Department of Education to social distance, then our plan will be adjusted.

Instruction & Technology

Attendance

School attendance remains important for consistency and academic achievement. 16-28-12, **Code of Alabama**, remains effective during the pandemic. Each child who is enrolled in a public school shall be subject to attendance and truancy provisions. Students who receive instruction from the traditional model of learning are expected to report to school on time and attend school the full day.

All students are subject to the same attendance policies. Parents should make every effort to schedule doctors' and dentists' appointments after school hours. Absences and tardies are either excused or unexcused.

Parents and guardians shall contact school officials to report student's absences. Parents or guardians shall send a note of explanation, i.e., court notes, doctor's notes, or parent excuses within three days of the child's initial return to school. Only an excused absence permits work to be made up. It is the responsibility of the student to communicate with the teacher to arrange make-up work.

Students who are absent from school due to a positive COVID-19 test, close contact with someone who has tested positive, or been ordered to quarantine will not be marked absent from school.

Alabama Literacy Act

All students in kindergarten through third grade are required to participate in benchmark assessments in accordance with the *Alabama Literacy Act*. Students not meeting benchmark will be provided with intervention during and after school.

Special Populations

Students who receive specialized instruction (IEP, I-ELP, GEP or a 504 plan) will still receive additional support. The delivery of services will be determined by the team responsible for the plan. Case managers will review all goals, services and accommodations to determine appropriateness during distance learning if needed.

Device Distribution

Sylacauga City Schools is one-to-one throughout the district. Students in grades 6-12 have been allowed to take devices home in past school years. If a student in any grade must be quarantined they can be issued a Chromebook for home use.

2021-2022 School Calendar

Sylacauga City Schools
 43 N Broadway Ave
 256-245-5256
 Sylacauga, AL 35150

July 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

August 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

September 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

October 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

November 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

December 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Aug 5-11	Professional Development Days
Aug 12	First Day of School for Students
Sep 6	Labor Day
Oct. 18	eLearning Day
Nov. 11	Veterans Day
Nov 22-26	Thanksgiving Vacation
Dec 20-Jan 4	Winter Break
Jan 17	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Feb. 21	No Students or Teachers
Mar 21-25	Spring Break
May. 26	Last Day of School (early release)

TEST DATES

Oct. 6	PreACT/ WorkKeys
Feb-Mar	ACCESS
March 29-31	ACT Plus Writing
Mar-May	ACAP

Grading Periods

1st Term Aug 12-Oct. 8	41 days
2nd Term Oct. 11 - Dec 17	44 days
3rd Term Jan 5- March 11	46 days
4th Term March 14- May 26	49 days

Student Days = 180

Teacher Days = 187

January 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

February 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

March 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

April 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

May 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

June 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

School Closed

Early Release

EP

Employee Planning (no school for students)

eLearning Day



First & Last Day of School