



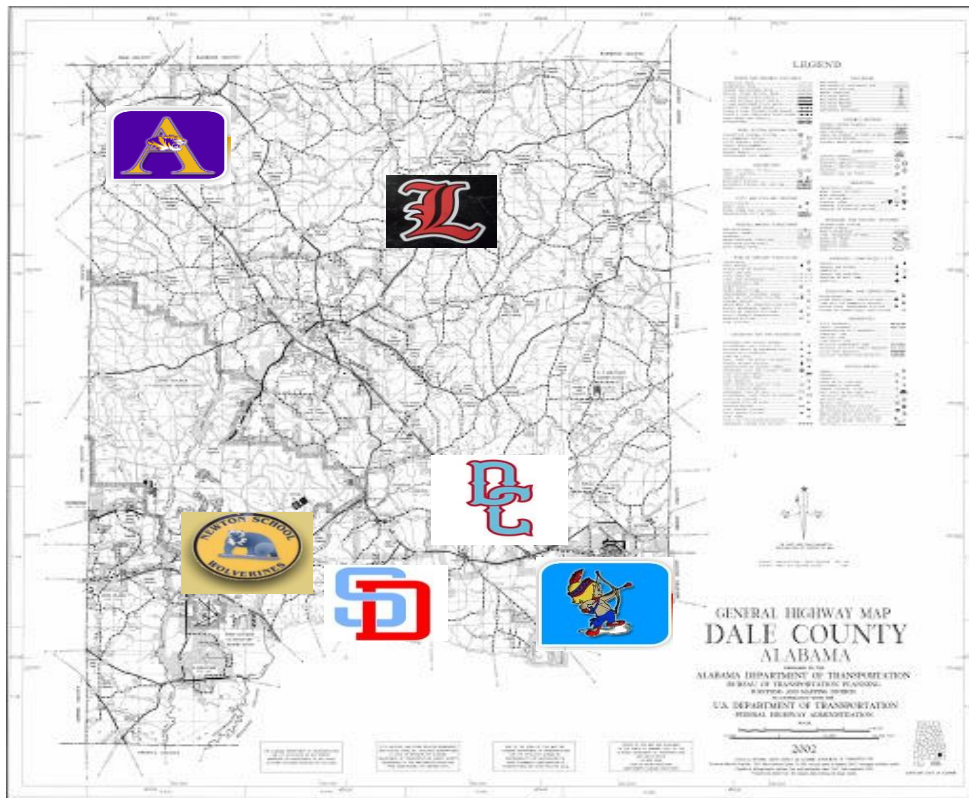
DALE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

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DALE COUNTY SCHOOLS

“Roadmap for Returning to In-Person Instruction”



Destination: Excellence

Dale County Strong!

Revised October 1, 2023

I. Notes to Stakeholders

A. Message from Superintendent Ben Baker

Dear Stakeholders,

I begin by saying we are very thankful for the excellent work and dedication displayed during the past school year. We all - families, teachers, school support staff, and community members pulled together to have school during a worldwide pandemic. Under the extreme circumstances, we still had a very successful school year. We look forward to returning to complete face-to-face learning for the 2021-2022 school year. We still have challenges ahead, but the schools will be prepared to deal with issues that may arise. We have used resources to hire extra personnel and invested in programs to get our students back on track to become college or career ready. We have also invested in supplies to continue to fight the spread of COVID-19. We are prepared to bring students back to campus for the 2021-2022 school year. We have many learning deficits to fill and we have curriculum gaps to overcome, but we have shown when we work together we can accomplish much. I ask for your patience, your understanding, and your trust as we work together to educate the youth of Dale County. We look forward to a great school year!

Sincerely,

Ben Baker

B. Disclaimer The information provided in this document does not, and is not intended to, constitute legal or healthcare advice. Instead, all information, content, and materials available in this document are for general informational purposes only. Information in this document may not constitute the most up-to-date legal, healthcare or other information. Readers of this document should contact their primary healthcare providers to obtain advice with respect to any particular health matter. No reader or user of this document should act or refrain from acting on the basis of information in this document without first seeking healthcare advice from local healthcare advisors in the relevant jurisdiction. Only your healthcare provider can provide assurances that the information contained herein, and your interpretation of it, is applicable or appropriate to your particular situation. All liability with respect to actions taken or not taken based on the contents of this document are hereby expressly disclaimed. The content in this document is provided "as is." No representations are made that the content is error-free. This guidance is not mandated or state required. Local school districts have the authority and flexibility to meet their individual needs and be responsive to their communities.

II. Wellness

A. Dale County Schools Monitoring and Attendance

HOME is the first point on the screening continuum. Students and employees that exhibit the symptoms of COVID-19 should stay at home. Families are encouraged to self-monitor symptoms of illness, which could include fever, dry cough, loss of taste/smell, sore throat, etc. Employees and students that have the symptom of COVID-19 or a positive COVID-19 test should self-quarantine and seek medical attention. Dale County Schools will honor recommendations of health care professionals on timelines for a student or employee to return to school.

TRANSPORTATION is the second point on the screening continuum. Bus drivers will communicate with school administration if a student displays symptoms while traveling on a school bus. Bus drivers will place symptomatic students away from other passengers.

SCHOOL is the final point on the screening continuum. School staff will visually check for symptoms during the school day (which may include temperature checks) and/or confirm with families that students are COVID-19 symptom free. In the case of a positive COVID-19 test of a student or staff member; or if a student or staff member displays symptoms of COVID-19 he/she will be immediately isolated from others and arrangements will be made for the sick employee/student to be sent home. Employees and students with symptoms of COVID-19 are encouraged to seek professional medical attention

before returning to school. School officials will use best practices in protecting others at school. Cleaning protocols are in place to mitigate the spread of all viruses and illnesses.

B. Healthy Habits

FACIAL COVERINGS have been shown to be a good method in stopping the spread of COVID-19. Students and employees will wear facial coverings at their own discretion.

MAINTAINING PHYSICAL DISTANCE between persons is another method that may reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19. Maintaining physical distance will not always be practical/possible inside school settings (including buses) and there should be no expectation to do so. However, Dale County Schools will implement best practices when possible and practical. The suggested physical distance is 6 foot between un-masked persons and 3 foot between masked persons.

PROPER CLEANING AND SANITATION are important tools to kill viruses and, thus, reduce the spread of infection. Dale County Schools will implement best practices in proper sanitization. Care will be taken to make sure the appropriate sanitizers are purchased and that custodial staff understand the proper application as well as safety precautions. Proper hand washing and/or the use of hand sanitizers is also a tool to kill viruses and remove them from the environment, thus reducing the spread of infection. Teachers will instruct children to wash hands and to apply hand sanitizers in a safe and responsible manner as we have done for decades. Dale County Schools will have a heightened awareness of the importance of these practices. Custodial and other related staff may receive professional development on proper sanitation and disinfecting procedures and products. Cleaning schedules will be modified to handle sanitation/disinfecting after COVID-19 symptomatic individuals are identified.

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY is expected of all students and stakeholders. We all must take personal responsibility. This simply means to be responsible in your decisions – stay at home if you are sick, wash your hands often, don't touch your face, keep a distance from non-household members, sneeze and cough in a tissue or your elbow, monitor members of your family/household for symptoms of COVID-19. If you have a known exposure to COVID-19 you are encouraged to self-isolate and contact your healthcare provider.

SYMPTOMATIC STUDENT OR STAFF MEMBER

Students or employees that display symptoms of COVID-19 will be sent to the school nurse. The school nurse will evaluate the situation and, along with school administrators, implement best practices for isolation and disinfecting. In the case of a positive COVID-19 test of a student or staff member, school officials will use best practices in protecting others at school. Families should monitor symptoms; students and/or employees should stay at home and self-isolate if displaying COVID-19 like symptoms. Dale County Schools may choose to honor all healthcare provider notes as for as quarantines and releases.

III. Class Options

A. Curriculum Options

Dale County Schools will offer a traditional learning model. Students will receive in-person instruction five days per week. Students in grades 9-12 will be offered virtual opportunities in accordance with Code of Alabama Section 16-46A-1.

IV. Day to Day Operations

A. School Calendar

Teachers Begin – July 31, 2023
Students Begin - August 4, 2023
179 Student days
187 Teacher days
Last Day Students – May 23, 2024
Last Day Teachers – May 24, 2024

B. Daily Schedule

- ✓ Buses will unload as directed by school administration to prevent long term exposure; all persons entering school facilities should sanitize their hands by hand sanitizer or by traditional washing of hands with soap and water.
- ✓ Students will report to their first class assignment upon arrival to school.
- ✓ Breakfast will be delivered to the classroom or served “grab-n-go” style in the hallway/cafeteria.
- ✓ Students/employees will be allowed to bring and have bottled water for use during the school day; water fountains will be available.
- ✓ Parents are encouraged to pay for meals using our online payment system “My School Bucks”, which can be located on the Dale County School’s webpage.
- ✓ Parents are encouraged to apply for free/reduced meals online at the Dale County School’s webpage, the application is under “My School Apps” link; paper applications will be distributed.
- ✓ Physical Education, Career Tech, and other close contact classes will social distance as much as possible without disrupting the integrity of the lesson/activity.
- ✓ Playgrounds, lunchrooms, weight rooms, and other common areas will be sanitized often and to the best extent possible.
- ✓ Hand sanitizer will be readily available in classrooms, common areas, and hallways.
- ✓ When checking students out of school – only one person should enter the school and report directly to the office; the visitor should respect social distancing and conduct the check-out process as quickly as possible; the parent and child need to leave campus immediately.

C. Special Events

- ✓ Athletic events will be scheduled and regulated in accordance with guidance provided by the Alabama High School Athletic Association.
- ✓ Field trips, pep rallies, assemblies, and award ceremonies are allowed. This decision may be re-evaluated as the school year progresses.
- ✓ Club activities are allowed and encouraged, but may be re-evaluated as the school year progresses.

D. Child Nutrition Program

- ✓ Meals will be served in the school cafeteria.
- ✓ All meals will be served in accordance with USDA guidelines.
- ✓ Cafeteria tables will be sanitized between each lunch period.
- ✓ Water fountains will be available for use.
- ✓ We will serve breakfast in the classroom at each school or have a “grab-n-go” style breakfast.
- ✓ Students will eat lunch in the lunchroom.

E. Attendance

- ✓ Dale County Schools will continue to record/take attendance and enforce compulsory attendance laws for students
- ✓ COVID-19 positive students, symptomatic students, and/or quarantined students should provide the school documentation from healthcare providers of such for an excused absence
- ✓ Employees will take leave as provided by board policy; the system no longer has COVID leave

F. Health Services

- ✓ Each school nurse will provide updates from the local health department, ADPH, ALSDE, and CDC as new and evolving guidelines are issued to the Superintendent.
- ✓ The Lead Nurse will report and communicate to the Superintendent and/or Associate Superintendent on a regular basis of changes or modifications to procedures and/or guidelines; and report on symptomatic students/employees or positive COVID-19 cases.

G. Technology

- ✓ All students in grades K-12 have access to a digital device.
- ✓ All students and employees have access to Wi-Fi on campus and at on campus events.

H. Human Resources and Personnel

- ✓ Additional personnel that will be employed to support the Return to Instruction Plan
 - Literacy Specialist/Interventionist
 - Math Specialist/Interventionist
 - Extended Day teachers
 - Intervention Teachers
 - At-Risk Aides
 - EL District Teacher
 - Intervention Aides
 - Class Size Reduction Teachers to keep class sizes as small as possible

V. Transportation

Social distancing on a school bus is not practical. Dale County Schools will implement best practices to try and prevent the spread of COVID-19. Best practices like assigned seats, loading back to front, unloading front to back, wearing facial coverings, and safe bus behaviors may be implemented to promote health and safety. CDC guidelines for public transportation require the use of facial coverings on school buses. Bus drivers will have facial coverings available upon request by students/parents.

VI. Contact Information

Ariton School

Principal -	Mr. Josh Herring	334-762-2371	jherring@dalecountyboe.org
Counselors -	Ms. Ashley Chappell	334-762-2371	cchappell@dalecountyboe.org
	Ms. Mindy Blankenship	334-762-2371	mblankenship@dalecountyboe.org
Nurse -	Ms. Kim Ingram	334-762-2371	kingram@dalecountyboe.org

Dale County High School

Principal -	Mr. Matt Humphrey	334-983-3541	mhumphrey@dalecountyboe.org
Counselor -	Ms. Abby Saunders	334-983-3541	asaunders@dalecountyboe.org
At-Risk Coach -	Ms. Sydney Edmonds	334-983-3541	sedmonds@dalecountyboe.org
Nurse -	Ms. Jazmine Harper	334-983-3541	jharper@dalecountyboe.org

GW Long Elementary School

Principal -	Ms. Celeste Johnston	334-774-0021	cjohnston@dalecountyboe.org
Counselor -	Ms. Candice Lawrence	334-774-0021	clawrence@dalecountyboe.org
Nurse -	Ms. Macey Money	334-774-0021	mmoney@dalecountyboe.org

GW Long High School

Principal -	Mr. Daniel Barrentine	334-774-2380	dbarrentine@dalecountyboe.org
Counselor -	Ms. Diana McCraney	334-774-2380	mmccraney@dalecountyboe.org
Nurse -	Ms. Macey Money	334-774-0021	mmoney@dalecountyboe.org

Midland City Elementary School

Principal -	Ms. Jennifer Snellgrove	334-983-1252	jsnellgrove@dalecountyboe.org
Counselor -	Ms. Jacy Pouncey	334-983-1252	jpouncey@dalecountyboe.org
Nurse -	Ms. Tomoko Turner	334-983-1252	tturner@dalecountyboe.org

Newton School

Principal -	Mr. Eric Andrews	334-299-3581	eandrews@dalecountyboe.org
Counselor -	Ms. Desiree Williams	334-299-3581	dewilliams@dalecountyboe.org
Nurse -	Ms. Jennet Ammons	334-299-3581	jammons@dalecountyboe.org

South Dale Middle School

Principal -	Dr. Perry Dillard	334-983-3077	pdillard@dalecountyboe.org
Counselor -	Ms. Tabitha Burgess	334-983-3077	tburgess@dalecountyboe.org
Nurse -	Ms. Amy Gullede	334-983-3077	agullede@dalecountyboe.org

Special Education Coordinator -	Mr. Patrick Reed	334-774-2355	preed@dalecountyboe.org
Virtual School Principal -	Mr. Jason Steed	334-445-5585	jsteed@dalecountyboe.org
Transportation Director -	Mr. Michael Smith	334-774-2360	msmith@dalecountyboe.org
English Language Learner Contact	Ms. Patrick Reed	334-774-2355	preed@dalecountyboe.org
Liaison for Community Partners	Mr. Ben Baker	334-774-2355	bbaker@dalecountyboe.org
Homeless Liaison	Mr. Chuck Walker	334-774-2355	cwalker@dalecountyboe.org

Dale County Schools Website – www.dalecountyboe.org