

Etowah County Schools Reopening Plan 2020-21

Frequently Asked Questions

*This document will be updated as needed.



FAQs:

Q: What is the difference between traditional learning, remote learning, and virtual academy?

- Traditional Learning: Takes place in the classroom and may involve a combination of paper and digital tools.
- Remote Learning: Provided by the classroom teacher, will be used in the event of campus closure. Students who are in traditional classrooms will transition to a digital platform.
- Virtual Academy: Students enrolled at ECVA are assigned coursework that comes completely from a digital platform (SchoolsPLP, Access, etc.) and is facilitated by virtual academy instructors. Students enrolled in ECVA will not attend the school in an on-campus manner. Students may apply for ECVA. ECVA deadline to apply is July 23, 2020.

Q: Will I be asked to teach both a traditional class and virtually simultaneously?

- No, teachers will deliver instruction traditionally. In the event of campus closure, teachers and students will transition to remote learning. Etowah County Virtual Academy teachers will be responsible for all students enrolled at ECVA.

FAQs:

Q: How will instruction be provided for students with extended absences due to a positive COVID test or mandatory quarantine?

- Teachers will provide assignments to students who are absent for an extended number of days through online platforms or paper resources. Parents of students who are absent more than 14 consecutive days should collaborate with school administrators to develop a plan for instruction.

Q: Will teachers and students be responsible for grades in the event of campus closure?

- Grades will continue in the event of a campus closure. Graded assignments should focus on formative assessment assignments and not summative assessments or tests. Formative assessment assignments may include but should not be limited to practice questions, writing assignments, daily grades, informal quizzes, or review questions. Students should receive feedback on all work completed in the event of the campus closure. The feedback can be made through online options, emails, or phone conferences. The Etowah County BOE will work to increase available wifi hotspots within our school communities to serve students who have limited or are without internet access. Students who have limited or are without access to internet will be provided a grace period determined by the duration of remote learning to make up missed assignments.

FAQs:

Q: If the school transitions to remote learning, can teachers still come to the school to work?

- It is our hope that teachers will be able to use classroom resources to teach, but health orders and the spread of COVID-19 will determine access to the school. In the event that we transition to remote learning, further information will be shared.

Q: How does COVID-19 impact school supply lists?

- Teachers should be mindful of the hardships that families may have encountered over the past few months when requesting supplies. Teachers should not request cleaning supplies as they can be difficult to obtain, and the district will provide them.

Q: Will teachers be responsible for cleaning or sanitizing classrooms?

- Custodial staff will provide enhanced cleaning of classrooms. Teachers should support the cleanliness of the school for the safety and health of all staff and students. Follow principal's directions for specific instructions. Cleaning supplies will be provided.

FAQs:

Q: Do employees have to wear a facial coverings?

- Teachers will be expected to wear facial coverings when working with students within six feet. (As of 6/26/2020, the current health order (Item 13c) requires the use of a mask or other facial covering by a education employee within 6 feet of a person of a different household.)

Q: Do Students have to wear a facial covering?

- Students are highly recommended to wear facial coverings.

Q: How will I be expected to identify and address learning gaps created by the March-May 2020 campus closure?

- Teachers are expected to provide formative assessments during the first few week of school to all students. Teachers will collaborate with fellow teachers, instructional coaches, and administrators to plan for addressing the gaps in learning.

FAQs:

Q: Will I be expected to rearrange the desks in my room to maintain a six foot distance between all students?

- Teachers should maximize the distance between desks as much as possible. Unnecessary furniture should be removed from rooms in an effort to create more space between desks. Classrooms that utilize tables for student and group seating will need to evaluate their ability to distance students with the tables and discuss, in collaboration with their school administrator, about the feasibility and availability of desks, dividers, etc. and/or their ability to use tables. Administrators should work with teachers to remove flexible seating options that do not allow for social distancing.

Q: Will Extended Day Programs be available for students after school?

- Extended Day Services will be provided and will follow the guidelines of the health and safety procedures of the traditional school setting.

FAQs:

Q: Will visitors be allowed on campus for events, eat lunch with students, walk students to class, etc...?

- Visitor access will be extremely limited at this time. This means that visitors will not be allowed to eat lunch with their children in the cafeteria or visit for other non-essential activities. While we strongly desire parent and community engagement, we will work to collaborate and engage our community and family partners in new and innovative ways.

Q. Will schools have orientation?

- Any orientations should follow social distancing guidelines. Schools are encouraged to plan virtual orientations when practical and feasible. .

FAQs:

Q: Which ALSDE requirements will we be held responsible for during the 2020-2021 school year?

- All expectations of the Alabama Literacy Act should be met. Currently, all state testing, including ACAP and ACT, are planned for the 2020-2021 school year. The RTI process will be more vital than ever as students return to school after months of campus closure. Other yearly processes such as teacher evaluation are expected to continue as normal.

Q. Will there be a school closure for the 2020-2021 school year?

- Under current guidance we do not expect a campus closure. In the event of widespread COVID-19 cases within our local communities or county, we will possibly transition to our remote learning plan.

Q. What will determine if a transition to remote learning is necessary?

- Currently, decisions will be made regarding the transition from traditional learning to remote learning as a local decision based on consultation and guidance from ADPH, ALSDE, and CDC.

FAQs:

Q: Will classes be allowed to take field trips?

- Currently, classes will not be allowed to take off-campus field trips. Updated guidance will be provided once field trips are deemed allowable.

Q. My classroom uses mostly hands-on materials and equipment. How should I adjust my activities to ensure proper learning takes place while ensuring student safety?

- We have always and will continue to encourage students to actively participate in their learning. However in the current pandemic climate, due diligence must be made to ensure items are sanitized before being used or passed among and between students.

Q: How can I utilize small group instruction while maintaining social distancing and ensuring student safety?

- As educators, we know and understand best practices and the value that small group instruction brings to our students. We encourage the use of small group learning, but in a way that socially distances students to the best of our ability in a safe manner. We encourage faculty to work with their school administrators and instructional coaches to consider how they can conduct small group instruction in a safe manner.

FAQs:

Q: Can I have classroom visitors such as medical professionals, local leaders, policemen, firemen, etc.. visit my classroom?

- Although we certainly welcome the expertise and knowledge these professionals possess and the value they bring to our community and classroom. We encourage our faculty and staff to include them in classroom and lessons through innovative digital ways while we are under the current pandemic and while there is a need to minimize outside guests in our classrooms.

Q. With the minimization of library book checkouts and the support of online literary options through a virtual online library, how will librarians/media specialist support the classroom teachers?

- Each school's media specialist/librarian will work closely with the school administrator to develop a schedule whereby he or she can support the literary engagement of students and classroom teachers while providing and incorporating engaging literature into the classrooms.

FAQs:

Technical Support

- If your problem is associated with an assignment or a program, communicate with your classroom teacher first.
- If you have a problem with an ECBOE issued Chromebook, students and families can contact the technology help desk <https://tools.ecboe.org/supportform>.
- The helpdesk is open Monday through Friday from 8:00-4:00. A technician will assist you in troubleshooting the issue ASAP.
- Please note the IT Help Desk can also assist with the following:
 - Assisting with usernames and passwords
 - Directing the user to the correct URLs for program
 - Walking the user through troubleshooting tips.
 - Chromebook issues.
- The IT Help Desk cannot assist with the following:
 - Hardware issues with personal devices
 - Printers
- If a device repair is needed, it will be dropped off at the local school. Once repaired, you will pick it up at the local school.

FAQs:

School Help Desk: If you have an issue other than a technical issue, please use the email below to email your student's school.

Carlisle Elementary	ces_help@ecboe.org
Duck Springs Elementary	dses_help@ecboe.org
Gaston Elementary	gases_help@ecboe.org
Glencoe Elementary	ges_help@ecboe.org
Highland Elementary	highland_help@ecboe.org
Hokes Bluff Elementary	hbes_help@ecboe.org
Ivalee Elementary	ies_help@ecboe.org
John S. Jones Elementary	jsj_help@ecboe.org
Southside Elementary	sses_help@ecboe.org
West End Elementary	wees_help@ecboe.org
Whitesboro Elementary	wes_help@ecboe.org

FAQs:

School Help Desk: If you have an issue other than a technical issue, please use the email below to email your student's school.

Glencoe Middle	gms_help@ecboe.org
Hokes Bluff Middle	hbms_help@ecboe.org
Rainbow Middle	rms_help@ecboe.org
Sardis Middle	sms_help@ecboe.org
Gaston High	gashs_help@ecboe.org
Glencoe High	ghs_help@ecboe.org
Hokes Bluff High	hbhs_help@ecboe.org
Sardis High	shs_help@ecboe.org
Southside High	sshs_help@ecboe.org
West End High	wehs_help@ecboe.org
Career Technical Center	ecctc_help@ecboe.org
Refocus Center	refocus_help@ecboe.org