



Paulding County School District

BACK-TO-SCHOOL

RE-OPENING PLAN

Information for Parents & Students Heading Into 2020-2021 School Year

The following information is provided to give parents and students an idea of what school will look like when in-person instruction resumes on Aug. 3, 2020. The school district's planning is based on the Georgia Department of Education's Restart and Recovery Plan. The DOE has outlined three options for reopening schools depending on the COVID-19 spread in each community. A copy of the plan is available here: <https://www.georgiainsights.com/recovery.html>

The school district will continue to monitor the spread of COVID-19 in our community and will adapt its planning accordingly. According to the Georgia K-12 Restart and Recovery Plan, schools in the Minimal/Moderate Spread category may open for in-person instruction based on guidance from the Georgia Department of Health (DPH). The district and all schools will diligently implement preventive measures and safe practices to protect students and staff. At a minimum, these measures will include:

- Diligent and thorough hygiene for students and staff.
- Masks strongly encouraged for students and staff on buses and in classrooms.
- Daily cleaning and increased and enhanced classroom and school disinfecting and sanitizing.
- Availability of hand sanitizer in all schools and on school buses.
- Increased signage throughout school buildings indicating health conscious protocols.
- Social distancing, where feasible, and in large group gatherings such as lunchrooms.

These options are tailored to the current COVID-19 environment in our community. However, if that environment should change, (example: if Gov. Kemp issues an Executive Order closing schools for in-person instruction as occurred this spring), PCSD schools are prepared to return to a fulltime online Digital Learning format. And if Paulding County's rate of COVID-19 spread should increase substantially, PCSD will adapt instruction according to DPH guidelines.

INFORMATION REGARDING OPEN HOUSES WILL BE PROVIDED BY INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS AT A LATER DATE.

SCHOOL BUILDING PROTOCOLS

Here is a brief listing of some of the protocols students, parents and staff can expect when school resumes on Aug. 3, 2020 under the current COVID-19 spread conditions.

School Buildings

- Post signage: How to Stop the Spread, COVID-19 symptoms, Preventative Measures, Staying Home when Sick, and Good Hygiene (classrooms restrooms, hallways, all entrances).
- Utilize tape lines, spots on the floors, etc., to help teach students about appropriate spacing.
- Custodial cleaning and disinfecting schedules for surfaces will be inspected continuously.
- Students and staff will be encouraged to bring their own water bottles to utilize during the school day as water fountains will be unavailable.
- Shared items/spaces utilized in classrooms including but not limited to computer keyboards, classroom novels, manipulatives, small group tables, PE equipment, etc., will be disinfected as often as possible.
- Social distancing guidelines will be implemented in all public areas as practical.



SCHOOL BUILDING PROTOCOLS

Entering School Buildings

- Hand sanitizer will be available for students/staff.
- Each school will develop a plan to limit unnecessary congregations of students in the morning.
- Students will be strongly encouraged to wear masks; please reference **Student Mask Guidelines**.
- All staff members including teachers will be strongly encouraged to wear masks when social distancing is not feasible. Nutrition Services employees will be required to wear masks when serving food.
- Schools will adjust the process for students entering the building, including making hallways one-way and using lines for spacing.
- Schools will not scan every student's temperature, though school clinics remain available for temperature readings. Parents are encouraged to monitor their children's temperature and health daily. Students who are sick, showing symptoms, and/or with temperatures above 100.4 degrees should stay home.

Visitors to Schools

- **Lunch with Student- temporarily suspend this practice**
- **Visiting Classroom- temporarily suspend this practice**
- Restrict all non-essential visitors and volunteers from coming inside the school.
- Parent Conferences- Virtual/Phone Conference only
- Limit the number of individuals allowed in front office lobby at one time (will depend upon size for each school).
- Masks and appropriate PPE recommended for entry into the office lobby.
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- Parent requests for school services should be completed via phone or email.

Transitions and Daily Practices

- Each school will utilize methods such as one-way hallways, roundabouts, and staggered class changes, as appropriate for each building.
- Schools will develop schedules for student hygiene breaks and handwashing breaks as applicable.
- Schools will utilize customary dismissal areas and processes as appropriate.
- Schools will implement appropriate social distancing for arrival staging. This may include the use of additional classrooms and large waiting areas to limit the number of students congregated in any one place.
- **Parents may not drop off students prior to school buildings being officially opened.**
- Schools may implement appropriate distancing measures which may include staggered dismissal times if necessary.

School Year Practices - First 20 Days

- Teach and reinforce good hygiene measures such as handwashing and covering coughs.
- Class meetings focused on sanitation and social distancing during the first few days of school; utilize technology for virtual delivery to limit group sizes and avoid large assemblies (High Schools).
- Build positive relationships with students.



SCHOOL BUILDING PROTOCOLS

During the School Year

- Communicate process/procedural changes with students and parents anytime adjustments are made. (Ex., switching from low/no spread to minimal/moderate spread)
- Regularly communicate reminders of recommended PPE protocols and enhanced social distancing guidelines being utilized within the school building.
- Regularly “drill and practice” digital learning so that students, staff, and parents are prepared and familiar.

Large Group Meetings

- Schools will limit unnecessary congregations of students and staff.
- Schools will abide by the maximum number of people allowed to congregate as defined by the Governor’s current statewide Executive Order.
- Schools will review locker room usage for physical education/athletics and implement enhanced hygiene processes. Usage may be different depending on level (6-8, 9-12) and size of the facility.
- PE Teachers will develop plans as appropriate that will allow rotations in the gym among classes. Utilize outdoor areas and/or classrooms for a rotation as appropriate and available.
- Review school cafeteria traffic patterns for breakfast and lunch and determine where specific entrance/exit should be utilized along with one-way movements.
- Lunchrooms: Implement social distancing as feasible (i.e., students using every other seat in the café, alternate eating/seating areas so that all students are not in the lunchroom at the same time, etc.) Or, if not feasible, allow lunch to be eaten in classrooms.
- Work with School Nutrition Staff on options for grab and go meal service for students.

Transportation

- Hand sanitizing dispenser units will be installed on all Paulding County school buses.
- Face masks and face shields will be provided to all Paulding County school bus drivers. Students are strongly encouraged to wear face masks as well.
- All school buses will be inspected prior to students’ return to school and will remain on a daily inspection/disinfecting schedule.
- All school buses will be disinfected every day after the am. and pm. routes are completed.
- All school bus doors will remain open in between routes during the school day.
- Parent letters/guidelines outlining social distancing practices at bus stops will be distributed to affected students. Parents/ students will be responsible for practicing social distancing at bus stops.
- For Middle and Elementary Schools, all student transportation changes regarding a bus will only be approved by Principal or designee when there is an emergency and the parent has no other method to transport their student home. Students who are going home with another student should be handled via car rider. Transportation decisions are principal discretion.
- High Schools will utilize customary transportation change procedures.



SCHOOL BUILDING PROTOCOLS

Student Mask Guidelines

- Students will be strongly encouraged to wear a mask on school buses and in schools.
- Students must remove mask as requested by school staff for identification purposes at any time.
- Students must be able to manage masks independently without adult assistance.
- Bandana face mask coverings are not allowed.
- Masks must comply with [Student Dress Code JCDB-R](#).
- Student masks may not:
 - ◇ Advertise or display the symbols of drugs, tobacco products or alcoholic beverages
 - ◇ Be considered racially insensitive or which displays or implies profane or obscene language or symbols
 - ◇ Include emblems, insignias, badges, tattoos, or other symbols where the effect thereof is to unreasonably attract the attention of other students or cause disruption or interference with the operation of the school
 - ◇ Display or wearing of any gang articles, paraphernalia, or clothing that can be construed as being gang related

Activities and Athletics

- Schools will follow GHSA and Department of Health guidelines for all athletic- and club-related activities.

After-School Program

- Learning Bridge is currently accepting applications for the upcoming school year and will provide its own guidelines and protocols for students and parents.