CHOCTAW COUNTY

BOARD OF EDUCATION

REOPENING OF SCHOOLS

IN-PERSON LEARNING PLAN

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2021-2022 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Choctaw County Schools
2021-2022 School Year

First Semester

DATE	STUDENT CALENDAR	DAY OF WEEK
August 4, 2021	Professional Development Day	Wednesday
August 5, 2021	Professional Development Day	Thursday
August 6, 2021	Professional Development Day	Friday
August 9, 2021	Teacher Institute	Monday
August 10, 2021	First Day For Students	Tuesday
September 6, 2021	Labor Day	Monday
October 11, 2021	Professional Development Day	Monday
November 11, 2021	Veteran's Day	Thursday
November 22-26, 2021	Thanksgiving Holidays	Monday – Friday
December 17, 2021	Christmas Holidays Begin At 3:00 p.m.	Friday

Second Semester

DATE	STUDENT CALENDAR	DAY OF WEEK
January 3, 2022	Professional Development Day	Monday
January 4, 2022	Students Return	Tuesday
January 17, 2022	Martin Luther King Day	Monday
February 28-March 1, 2022	Mini Break	Monday – Tuesday
March 21-25, 2022	Spring Break	Monday – Friday
April 15, 2022	Good Friday	Friday
May 26, 2022	Last Day For Students At 3:00 p.m.	Thursday
May 27, 2022	Last Day For Teachers	Friday

REPORTING PERIODS			REPORT CARDS	PROGRESS REPORTS		
8/10/2021	10/8/2021	43 Days	10/14/2021	8/10/2021	9/9/2021	22 Days
10/12/2021	12/17/2021	43 Days	1/6/2022	10/12/2021	11/10/2021	22 Days
1/4/2022	3/14/2022	47 Days	3/17/2022	1/4/2022	2/7/2022	24 Days
3/15/2022	5/26/2022	47 Days	5/27/2022	3/15/2022	4/25/2022	24 Days

GRADUATION AND PROMOTION DATES	
SCHOOL	DATE
Choctaw County High School	Thursday, May 19, 2022
Southern Choctaw High School	Friday, May 20, 2022
Choctaw County Elementary School	Monday, May 23, 2022
Southern Choctaw Elementary	Tuesday, May 24, 2022

Calendar #1
Approved by Board on March 9, 2021

INTRODUCTION TO THE PLAN

The purpose of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III Fund is to help safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impacts of COVID-19 on the nation's students by addressing students' academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs. This plan describes how the Choctaw County School System will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other school and district staff during and following the return to full in-person instruction. If you have questions about this plan, please contact the Choctaw County Board of Education at (205) 459-3031.

OPERATIONS

Full Opening -- Monday through Friday, Face-to-Face Instruction

Transportation

- Parents will be notified that they will be required to check and verify temperatures at home before sending students to school. They will be required to sign and return the Acknowledgement of Responsibilities. Based on the CDC guideline temperature should be less than 100.4º F. Any student at or above 100.4º F should remain at home and contact their health care provider.
- Parents that can transport their children to and from school are encouraged to do so.
- All employees should follow the same guideline before reporting to work.
- If a student is displaying symptoms of sickness they will be placed in a designated area on the school bus. Upon arrival at the school they will be transitioned to a designated location and parent or guardian will be notified.
- Bus drivers will be encouraged to wear masks.
- Buses will display clearly visible signage to communicate the symptoms students should not have if traveling on the school bus.
- All students will be encouraged to wear masks. They may also wear a face shield in addition to the mask.
- Buses will load from the back first by family. Students from the same household will sit together. Social guidelines will be met with one seat between passengers.
- Buses will unload from front to back.
- Buses will be sanitized after each trip (twice a day).

Building Entrance

- All locations will be equipped with Body Temperature Scanners.
- Sanitizing stations will be located in designated locations throughout the buildings.
    - Entrance
    - Hallways
    - Cafeteria
    - Gym
    - Ensure all classrooms have hand sanitizer available.
- Bottle filling stations will be provided throughout the buildings.

Breakfast/Lunch

- Students will pick up Grab Bags and take them to the classroom as they enter the school in the morning.
    - Optional: Mark seating for social distancing for those that want to eat breakfast and allow them to eat in the cafeteria.

- Those not eating breakfast will go directly to the classroom.
- Establish a path that allows students to loop through the cafeteria to allow adequate traffic flow and keep students out of the hall.
- Cafeteria workers are encouraged to wear masks and face shields.

Classrooms

- Students will change classes while observing social distancing guidelines.
- Hallways will be marked for social distancing.
- All students and staff are encouraged to wear masks.
- Staff will be responsible for sanitizing their room/work area at the end of the day and/or as they change classes throughout the day.
- Classrooms will be equipped with plexiglass mounted to the student desks.

Computer Labs

- Computer labs will be equipped with plexiglass between each computer workstation.
- Students and staff are encouraged to wear masks (optional face shields) and sanitizer will be available.
- Staff will be responsible for making sure the computer lab is sanitized after each use.

Physical Education

- All students are encouraged to wear their masks and practice social distancing.
- Automatic tissue and soap dispensers have been purchased for the bathrooms.
- Sanitizing stations are available.

Break/Recess

- Designated break areas are set and communicated to staff by building administrators.
- Ensure students are properly sanitizing and washing hands before they enter the buildings and/or return to classrooms.
- Bathrooms will be monitored by custodial staff throughout the day.
    - Designated bathroom times (elementary schools) will be set and communicated to custodial staff, allowing them to monitor and ensure proper sanitizing and cleanliness of the bathrooms after each class. Any problems will be communicated to teachers. Teachers should talk with their class and ensure they are not leaving the bathrooms in a mess.

Libraries

- Plexiglass for computer workstations in the library.
- Librarians are responsible for ensuring the library is properly sanitized throughout the day and/or after each class.

Extracurricular Activities

- Follow Alabama High School Athletic Association Guidelines for COVID-19.

Clubs/Organizations

- Follow state guidelines and provide written plans to the building administrator and/or program coordinator outlining how you plan to meet CDC guidelines while meetings and/or activities are taking place.
- Transportation:
    - Organization must provide to the transportation department the number of students to be transported. If possible, provide count by bus stop/drop off location.
    - Buses will be loaded based on the first stop/drop off location.
    - The same transportation guidelines previously listed for the school day will be followed.

Alternative Setting

- All students entering the alternative setting classroom will have their temperature taken before entering the classroom. Any student with a temperature at or above 100.4º F will be sent home.
- Lunch and breakfast will be delivered to the classroom.
- Plexiglass will be installed as needed on student desks.
- Staff will be responsible for making sure the classroom is properly sanitized at the end of the day.

Special Needs/Services

- If a parent provides documentation indicating a child should not return to school, an alternative option will be provided.
- Parents will be required to check and verify temperatures at home before sending and/or bringing students to school. Any student at or above 100.4º F should remain at home and contact their health care provider.
- Lunch and breakfast will be delivered to the classroom.
- Plexiglass will be installed as needed.

Isolation Areas

- School staff/nurses will identify an isolation room/area.
- Establish procedures for pick-up or transport if COVID-19 symptoms present themselves.
- Train staff on safety protocols.

Cleaning

Custodians will:

- Wear disposable gloves to clean and disinfect.
- Clean surfaces using soap and water, then use disinfectant.
- Practice routine cleaning of frequently touched surfaces.

In the event someone is sick, the following will be performed:

- Close off areas used by the person who is sick.
- Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area.
- Clean and disinfect all areas used by the person who is sick, such as offices, bathrooms, common areas, shared electronic equipment like tablets, touch screens, keyboards, remote controls, etc.
- Once the area has been appropriately disinfected, it can be opened for use.
- Continue routine cleaning and disinfection. This includes everyday practices that schools normally use to maintain a healthy environment.

Ventilation

- Air purifiers will be installed in all HVAC systems.

Signage

- Signage about frequent handwashing, masks/face coverings, cough etiquette, nose blowing, and social distancing will be widely posted, disseminated, and encouraged throughout each campus. Principals will also be encouraged to mention the importance of the same on all student and parent communications.

The Choctaw County School will use the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines as a basis for decision making.

***In an effort to combat the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the CCS will work closely with local health agencies to promote all approved vaccination efforts.*

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL NEEDS

The Choctaw County School System utilizes a team approach to provide the most appropriate and effective social and emotional support to staff, students, and families. Each school is staffed with a counselor and a mental health therapist who work in tandem with the district social worker to address academic and social emotional needs. While school counselors mainly target academic support, mental health therapists focus on social emotional support. The therapists are equipped with an arsenal of evidence-based resources (Too Good for Drugs, Too Good for Violence, PATHs, Coping Cat, etc.) to provide individualized and group support. The district social worker provides support beyond the school setting through collaboration and partnership with outside agencies and organizations.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

Diagnostics, Screening, and Intervention

The Choctaw County School System strives to provide every student with a responsive, engaging, and standards-based education. In keeping with those ideals, diagnostic screeners are implemented to identify the most beneficial ways to serve students and families. This assists in the personalization of instruction and intervention needed to address learning loss. Screeners for kindergarten through third grade are STAR, mClass Amplify (for DIBELS and Dyslexia), and aimsweb, and are designed to identify areas of deficiency.

All schools (elementary and high) will utilize iReady as both a diagnostic and intervention tool to address COVD-19 related learning losses. iReady is a computer-based, adaptive, individualized program that allows students to progress at their own pace based on identified areas of need in reading and mathematics.

Learning Options

Families will have two learning options:

1. Face-to Face Learning: Teachers will use blended instruction, in which face-to-face and remote learning are combined. Students that cannot attend physical class for a period of time will continue learning through a combination of face-to-face and remote learning. They will remain assigned to their home school and will return when able. Attendance will be recorded and coded according to appropriate codes in the student information system and Board policy.

2. Virtual School (ACCESS Distance Learning): Choctaw County Schools will offer a program that is fully online, and all students who choose this option will receive virtual instruction. ACCESS courses are available on a case by case basis if needed for graduation requirements for students in grades 9-12. Students in virtual school can participate in extracurricular activities at their schools. Also, they are able to graduate and receive honors through their schools. A virtual school application has been developed and will be available to parents.

*****Advantages of Face-to-Face Learning with Blended Instruction:***

   a. Can shift seamlessly to fully remote learning in response to possible school closures
   b. Supports students with greater opportunities for differentiation, tiered instruction, and feedback
   c. Supports students and families with equity and health issues

Full Opening -- Monday through Friday, Face-to-Face Instruction

1. Blended learning will be delivered with Google Classroom, state- and teacher- provided courses and content, and various instructional technologies, such as ViewSonic interactive boards for videoing lessons while instructional content, activities, and assignments will be posted online. Face-to-face instruction time is used to facilitate, remediate, enrich, and deliver tiered instruction.

2. Schools will utilize all current instructional programs with online components (iReady, Reading Horizons, Accelerated Reader, My Own Reader, etc.).

3. Learning gaps: There will be early skills assessment and progress monitoring through various assessment programs for each K-8 grade level to determine instructional needs. 9-12 teachers will assess course standards and track progress toward learning goals using the critical standards and accompanying proficiency scales for each grade level and subject area as well as available formative assessments.

4. Assessments: Students experiencing extended absences or participating in the virtual school option ***must*** participate in required state and local assessments. These will be scheduled on the basis of individual need and available personnel. Alabama Literacy Act requirements are in effect for K-3 students.
   https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1E57yJgREObQRkXlXG4TvKO2jHy9Qaun6tbznwDXug8s/edit?usp=sharing

5. The Choctaw County School System will follow the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) guidelines to ensure appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies. This will be the work of the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) team.