

WEST TALLAHATCHIE SCHOOL DISTRICT
SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION AND CONTINUITY
SERVICES PLAN



2021-2022

Mission Statement

The mission is to ensure each learner is provided a quality education that enables students the opportunity to successfully meet the demands of a rapidly changing society.

Vision

To create a comprehensive school for educating our youth for tomorrow while enhancing and embracing who they are today.

District Goals

Goal 1 : Increase student achievement across the district.

Goal 2: Provide a safe, secure and orderly environment in all schools in the district.

Goal 3: Increase the number of students who are college and career ready.

Goal 4: Maintain sound financial stability.

Goal 5: Increase parental and community engagement within the district.

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity Services Plan

2021-2022

During the 2020-2021 school year, schools all over the world have faced extended closures due to COVID-19. Today, we have seen additional outbreaks of different variants in our country since the beginning of last year. However, we have also seen a decline in the number of cases in our community. With the decline in the transmission of COVID-19, we in the district and the community recognize the need to prepare our students for returning to school in-person for the fall.

Shifting from virtual learning back to the traditional school setting requires thoughtful planning and coordination in the development of an extended continuity of a learning plan to be used for the upcoming year. This plan will be implemented when the school district resumes in August 2021. This plan will be amended to comply with any additional specific safety requirements for in-person learning.

General Prevention Strategies

1. Universal and correct use of masks
2. Physical distancing
3. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
4. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities
5. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine

Specific Plan Components

Academic Programming	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. In case of a prolonged closure of schools in the district because of a pandemic or inclement weather, the district and staff will ensure continuity of learning will not be interrupted. The district will ensure everyone has accessibility, quality materials, information, and resources to maintain learning at all times. Technology will be incorporated into daily classes so that, in the event of a school closure, student learning will continue at home without interruption.2. The instructional design will be planned and aligned with the skill level of each student. As for students who are on grade level, the teachers will build on what the students already know as a way to access new learning. The students who are below grade level will be provided interventions through acceleration which include tutoring, out-of-school interventions, and extended school year enrichment. These students

	<p>will have tutoring during the school day, high dosage of tutoring on specific skills each week, and evidence-based strategies for struggling students who need additional support (including using data from diagnostic assessments). Increased resources and additional instructional time will be provided for students with disabilities in order to ensure safe and adequate learning environment for high-need student populations.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Should the district close again, the contingency plan for instructional delivery to students will be virtual. The instructional staff will deliver lessons through Google Classroom or Google Meet to the students during the day. Students will log in to their classes from at regular times to receive continued instruction without interruption. The students will also have access to other learning applications such as I Ready, Edgenuity, Star, and etc. Assignments will also be posted on the district's website and the Facebook page. Overall, the district will provide continuity of instruction through synchronous remote learning. 4. In person learning progress will be monitored through curriculum based monitoring tests. The teacher will use standardized tests from material presented over a specific duration, daily observations and interactions, and formative assessments. As for students doing virtual learning, the students will be monitored based on participation, attendance, and educational software. 5. The principals will have to monitor teachers daily by going to the classrooms and teaching platform (Google Classroom) to ensure teaching and learning are taking place. The monitoring process will include walk-through observations and formative evaluations. These forms must be submitted electronically to the superintendent at the end of each week. 6. Teaching staff will be required to fill out a monthly survey to assess needs, determine the effectiveness of current programming and make suggestions for improved instruction. The surveys will be analyzed in order to determine what areas each teacher will need support. Once the analysis has been completed, professional development sessions will be implemented for support. Teaching staff will also be encouraged to communicate any immediate needs to their supervisor so that these needs can be addressed without waiting for surveys to be analyzed.
Operations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. The arrival from the bus will be implemented by students getting off in a cohort. If students are from the same family, they will exit the bus together; however, if they are not, they will exit six to three feet to six apart. Dismissal will be by buses with students maintaining the same distance as exiting a bus. The

- arrival time and drop-off time will be staggered at different locations.
8. There will be car riders and buses for transportation. A chart will be used for seating arrangements on the bus. For example, one student per seat unless from the same household, skip a seat, load/seat students from the back first and then move forward and unloading will be from the front to the back. Each student will have an assigned seat on the bus that will be used daily. Before getting on the bus each morning, temperature of each child will be checked. Students with a temperature above 100.4° will not be allowed on the bus. Students must wear a mask at all times. Students who arrive at the bus without a mask will be provided with a mask by the bus driver. Signage will be installed with visual cues in order to promote mask and social distancing. Windows will be open to circulate air if the weather permits. The bus will be disinfected prior to loading and after the students have returned home. Every seat must be cleaned before students enter the bus. The students will be loaded from specified locations. Transportation for students with disabilities consistent with the student's IEP or Section 504 plan will be provided through reserving specific seating arrangements that will not be used by other students in the school system. Students who arrive at school by car will have their temperature checked as they exit the vehicle. Students with a temperature of 100.4° or above will not be allowed to enter the building.
9. A limited number of students will be allowed in the cafeteria for meals; however, other students will receive meals in the classrooms by designated staff members. Weather permitting, a limited number of students will be allowed to eat outside. A rotation schedule will be followed to ensure that all students have an opportunity to eat in the cafeteria and outside.

West Tallahatchie School District

District Calendar

SY 2021-2022

JULY			JANUARY		
Jul 2 - 5	F - M	July 4th Holiday - Offices Closed	Jan 2	SU	Winter Holidays End
Jul 13	TU	Board Meeting - 6 PM - Central Office	Jan 3	M	Professional Development - No Students
AUGUST			Jan 4	TU	Classes Resume
Aug 2 - 3	M - TU	New Staff Orientation	3rd Nine Weeks Begins		
Aug 4 - 6	W - F	Teacher/Staff Work Days	Jan 11	TU	Board Meeting - 6 PM - Central Office

Aug 9	M	Students' First Day		Jan 12	W	Report Cards Sent Home
Aug 10	TU	Board Meeting - 6 PM - Central Office		Jan 17	M	MLK Holiday - NO SCHOOL
SEPTEMBER				Jan 18	TU	Classes Resume
Sep 1	W	Progress Reports Sent Home		Jan 26	W	Progress Reports Sent Home
Sep 6	M	Labor Day - NO SCHOOL		FEBRUARY		
Sep 7	TU	Classes Resume		Feb 8	TU	Board Meeting - 6 PM - Central Office
Sep 14	TU	Board Meeting - 6 PM - Central Office		Feb 21	M	President's Day - NO SCHOOL
OCTOBER						Inclement Weather Make-Up Day
Oct 4 - 8	M - F	Nine Weeks Exams		Feb 22	TU	Classes Resume
Oct 11	M	2nd Nine Weeks Begins		Feb 28 - Mar 4	W	Nine Weeks Exams
Oct 12	TU	Board Meeting - 6 PM - Central Office		MARCH		
Oct 19	TU	Report Cards Sent Home		Mar 7 - 11	M - F	Spring Break
Oct 20	W	Professional Development - No Students		Mar 14	M	Classes Resume
Oct 21 - 22	TH - F	Fall Break				4th Nine Weeks Begins
Oct 25	M	Classes Resume		Mar 15	TU	Board Meeting - 6 PM - Central Office
NOVEMBER				Mar 23	W	Report Cards Sent Home
Nov 3	W	Progress Reports Sent Home		APRIL		
Nov 9	TU	Board Meeting - 6 PM - Central Office		Apr 6	W	Progress Reports Sent Home
Nov 22 - 26	M - F	Thanksgiving Break		Apr 12	TU	Board Meeting - 6 PM - Central Office
Nov 29	M	Classes Resume		Apr 15 - 18	F - M	Easter Holiday - NO SCHOOL
DECEMBER				Apr 19	TU	Professional Development - No Students
Dec 13 - 17	M - F	Nine Weeks Exams		Apr 20	W	Inclement Weather Make-Up Day
Dec 14	TU	Board Meeting - 6 PM - Central Office				Classes Resume
Dec 17	F	Early Release - 1 PM		MAY		

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	district, posted online and during parent meetings. Schools will utilize their Parent Liaison in order to conduct regularly scheduled meetings with the purpose of disseminating information to parents/guardians of students in the West Tallahatchie School District. The Elementary school will also employ the services of the Community Engagement Coordinator provided by Save the Children as an additional means of informing members of the community about important updates within the district.
	14. In order to ensure a healthy and safe environment, the district will communicate with families by educating them of the procedures and guidelines established by CDC and the district. The forms of communication will be through social media, parent meetings, letters, and handbook. Also, visitors will see signage posted on buses and throughout the buildings of the district.
Health And Safety	<p>15. IAASA-Distance/Online Learning, IAAB-Staff Conduct on Virtual Meetings, IJ-R Internet/Technology Acceptable Use Policy, JGAA-Return to School During COVID-19, and JRAB-Compliance with FERPA</p> <p>16. The district will provide professional development presentations, on-site consultations from in-house counselors and outside counselors along with purchasing effective, field-tested multi-tiered services and supports that are specifically geared to the students and staff in the district. Also, standards that address social, emotional and mental health needs will be incorporated in the curriculum.</p> <p>17. To increase fresh air flow during operation, windows will be open as weather permits. Filters will be in each classroom to help circulate the air. Outside air ventilation will be increased throughout buildings HVAC systems, and new purification equipment will be installed in classrooms.</p> <p>18. Yes, the district will require daily health screening. Parents will be required to fill out a temperature check and symptom survey prior to their student(s) loading the bus. The students must submit the form to the bus driver.</p> <p>19. Upon arrival to school, students will be checked for fever using touchless thermometers. Staff and Resource Officers will be assigned at school entrances to screen students and visitors. All staff must pass through the touchless temperature machine before entering the building. Staff will also be required to self assess before arrival. Both staff and students will be encouraged to stay home if they are displaying any symptoms until they can be tested.</p> <p>20. Yes, all individuals being transported by bus or car must wear a mask. Buses will be sanitized between bus</p>

	<p>routes and at the end of the day. Students will be able to remove their mask once they are seated behind the plastic shield.</p> <p>21. All students grades K-12 will be required to wear masks. Students with severe disabilities will not be required to wear a mask.</p> <p>22. The school will follow all recommendations proposed by CDC for cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting buses, equipment, classrooms and buildings. The school district will utilize cleaning products that are known to combat COVID-19 and are approved for safe use in school. Some of the school district's cleaning products are alcohol and Clorox (bleach) based. The district and schools will implement COVID-19 mitigation strategies outlined for distribution of meals.</p> <p>Cordless electrostatic sprayers for quick and effective infection control will be utilized daily. Sprayers will be used when students are not present on buses or within school buildings. Once items have been sprayed, a thoroughly wipe down will be utilized for every item in contact with residual from the spray. Sprayers will not replace other effective cleaning practices such as wiping down high touch surface.</p> <p>Classrooms and restrooms will be sanitized frequently throughout the day. Frequently touched surfaces including but not limited to doorknobs and stair rails will be cleaned and sanitized throughout the school day. Sanitation procedures per recommendations from CDC will be followed nightly to disinfect school prior to use the next day. All district offices will be disinfected mornings and evenings. Disposable disinfecting wipes so that employees can wipe down commonly used surfaces (e.g., doorknobs, keyboards, remote controls, desks, and other tools and equipment before and after use.</p> <p>Common areas will be closed or limited where employees are likely to congregate and interact, such as break rooms, parking lots, and in entrance/exit areas. Visual cues such as floor decals, colored tape, and signs to remind workers to maintain distance of at least 6 feet from others, including at their workstation and in break areas.</p> <p>Food and nutritional services will adhere to the guidelines recommended by CDC. Examples are:</p> <p>Staff will be encouraged to stay home if they are sick, have tested positive for COVID-19 exposure and</p>
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	<p>transmission, practice frequent handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol before, after, and during shifts, before and after eating, after using the toilet, and after handling garbage, dirty dishes, or removing gloves.</p> <p>Clean high-touch surfaces and objects between use or as much as possible. Surfaces that come in contact with food should be washed, rinsed, and sanitized (using an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-approved. Employees must wear masks during their shifts and breaks, except when eating and drinking.</p> <p>Meals will be served either by grab-and-go individually packaged items or individually plated meals.</p> <p>Grab-and-go meals can be picked up from a conveniently located table, cart, and eaten in a different location.</p> <p>Ensure the safety of students with allergies and help expedite meal choice by separating or clearly labeling meals prepared specifically for students with allergies or dietary restrictions.</p> <p>Disposable food service items (e.g. utensils, dishes, napkins, tablecloths) will be used. Handwashing stations will be set up in the cafeteria.</p> <p>Accessibility accommodations will be provided for individuals with disabilities.</p> <p>Staggered meal distribution times will be incorporated throughout the year.</p> <p>Or Meals will be delivered directly to a student's home, to a bus stop, or other community location that families can safely access. Staff must wear masks and gloves while distributing meals and riding on the buses. Students must wear a mask while receiving the grab-and-go meal.</p> <p>Transportation department will also have on buses visual cues as floor decals and signs to remind students to stay 6 feet apart. Foot-traffic single direction in narrow or confined areas on the bus to encourage single-file movement at a 6-foot distance. Hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol in multiple locations throughout the bus for students. Buses will be well ventilated-natural ventilation (i.e. opening windows) to increase outdoor air dilution of indoor air. Decrease the number occupancies on the buses.</p> <p>Extracurricular activities will be limited to those that can maintain social distancing, limit mixing of students and</p>
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	<p>support proper hand hygiene and wearing of mask within group settings. Band classes consist of no sharing of instruments at this phase. However, the band instructor will work with the administrator to identify safe and appropriate lessons the students can participate in at this time.</p> <p>P. E. Classes gyms will be off limit for closed contact activities. Wellness activities may be provided to students in cohort groups while in the gym. When it is possible, physical education activities may occur outdoors when weather permits.</p> <p>Art Classes will minimize the need for utilizing shared materials to the greatest extent possible. Students will need to bring their own supplies to class. Art instruction will be provided to students in their classroom.</p> <p>23. A questionnaire will be provided to parents to complete for their child with underlying health issues. These forms will be placed in the child's folder and a plan will be developed as to how the school will address those needs. Also, staff will complete a similar questionnaire and complete a medical form that will be placed in the file. HIPPA laws will be observed at all times during this process. Overall, the district will ensure staff and students have access to educational opportunities they need to succeed.</p> <p>24. Mr. Robert Skipper, Safety Director</p> <p>25. The district will follow the guidelines CDC recommended for gatherings. All visitors will have to wear a mask, small groups will be able to assemble on the campus for extracurricular activities when it is allowable.</p>
Technology	<p>26. For students to work effectively in an in-person/virtual learning environment, the enhancement of technology is integral in supporting teaching and learning; therefore, additional technology will be infused in the classrooms, such as the use of the assigned Chromebooks, I-Pads, expand course offerings, support learning outside the regular scheduled time (24/7). Each student in the district will have access to a Chromebook, I Pad, and hotspot for use in transitioning to virtual learning if needed. In addition, instructional staff members who will be interacting with students through a web-based platform (Google Classroom) will have this same level of access to computing devices.</p> <p>27. Professional learning needs of staff will be identified through different surveys that will be administered online throughout the school year. Additionally, a district wide technology consultant will periodically be</p>

	available to meet with teachers on a one-to-one basis in effort to enhance technology knowledge in classroom.
Protection/Utilization of Space	<p>28. Maximum allowable distance will be practiced with students and staff. Non-essential equipment and furniture will be removed from classrooms. Students will be assigned to certain seating arrangements. Large classes will be assigned to a large area (gym) for accommodations. Only employees of the district will be allowed access to the classroom. Plexiglas and desktop barriers will be utilized in each class where appropriate. Sharing of items among students will not be permitted. When possible, additional materials will be purchased to eliminate sharing. Each student will be in possession of his/her own electronic device (computer). Students movements will be limited to specific restrooms breaks and change of classes. These areas can be utilized only when it is safe to do so (after properly being disinfected). All assemblies and large gatherings will be cancelled. Throughout all the buildings in the district, safety signage will be posted. All water fountains will be turned off. Students will be provided with water in a bottle. Disposal cups will be available. Visitors will be prohibited during the school hours to the greatest extent possible. Nonessential visitors and activities involving organizations or any other group will be restricted. Depending on the number of recent cases in the last 14 days, in-person meetings at schools and district offices will be by appointment and possibly virtual. IEP and 504 meetings will continue to be held remotely when possible; however, in-person meetings will occur as needed.</p>
Extra Curricula Activities	<p>All field trips will be cancelled. Extracurricular activities will be limited to those that can maintain social distancing. P.E. classes/activities when deemed appropriate can be held outdoors when weather permits. Sharing of equipment while in P.E. is unacceptable.</p> <p>School Guidelines for Winter Sports/Activities</p>

Note: This is not an exhaustive list and there might be additional steps in each community to help prevent the spread of virus. Even when taking all precautions, there will still be risk of transmitting illnesses. Everyone should stay vigilant about the health of members of their teams. These guidelines are to be integrated with the NFHS guidelines and the MHSAA Mississippi Sports Medicine guidelines. The situation with Covid-19 is rapidly changing. Please keep up with the latest from the CDC and the Mississippi Department of Health.

Prior to resuming practice or competition, coaches and administrators should consider meeting with students and parents to discuss the importance of reporting symptoms and exposure as early as possible, as well as review the isolation, quarantine, and return to play protocols before practice begins. *All students participating in school-sponsored extracurricular activities will be required to take a Rapid Antigen Test weekly to determine their COVID-19 status. All student-athletes who test positive will be required to isolate for 10 days and will not participate in any school activities until the isolation period expires.*

It is recommended that coaches and administrators complete a basic education course on COVID 19, such as the free *NFHS COVID-19 for Coaches and Administrators Course* (www.nfhslearn.com)

By implementing well understood concepts, many of which will be familiar as part of the return to workouts guidelines issued for Summer 2020, we aim to reintroduce sports and extra-curricular activities and competition to public school in the safest manner possible. Our overall goal is allowing students to enjoy the benefits of MHSAA sports/activities without allowing our teams to be a source of rapid spread of COVID 19 or danger to our communities. **In the event that the member school's district policy differs from that spelled out in this document, the stricter policy will be considered the one to use.**

Stadiums/Gyms

Attendance policy & quarantine procedure will be determined before team competition begins and at the appropriate time.

Post social distancing signs inside & outside of facility.

No mask no entry.

	<p>All game day personnel involved in the athletic event should be screened prior to working the event. Game day personnel include, but are not limited to, chain crew, officials, athletic trainers, timers, judges, scorers, ball boy/girl, etc.</p> <p>Hand sanitizing stations.</p> <p>On duty personnel wear mask/gloves.</p> <p>Any auxiliary persons (ticket takers, concession stand workers, security, media, and volunteers) should be screened prior to working an athletic event. Method of screening may be determined by host school.</p> <p>Any auxiliary participant who experiences any symptoms of COVID-19 should follow CDC and MDH guidelines before being allowed to work an event.</p> <p>Restroom attendant mask/gloves.</p> <p>Concession stand workers mask/gloves.</p> <p>Create a plan for line management at concession stands.</p> <p>Establish a plan for proper food preparation per FDA/CDC guidelines for food.</p> <p>Use single-serve condiment packets.</p> <p>Only clock operator & PA announcer in the press box.</p> <p>Have PA announcer broadcast social distance reminders.</p> <p>Restrict pedestrian flow in common areas.</p> <p>Create media guidelines and communicate these prior to and at each event.</p>
	<p><i>Cleaning & Sanitizing</i></p> <p>Shared equipment, such as balls, and agility drill aids should be cleaned daily after use using CDC Approved cleaning solutions. A link with appropriate cleaning solutions will be placed on the MHSAA website.</p> <p>Shared locker room or indoor practice space and equipment must be cleaned daily after use.</p>
	<p><i>Dressing Rooms</i></p> <p>These areas must be cleaned daily if used by single teams, or between teams in the event they are used for a tournament or competition that involves several teams using the same facilities during a single day.</p> <p>Size of facility should be large enough to social distance.</p> <p>Time spent in dressing room for home/away team should not be excessive.</p>

Spirit Teams

Cheer teams spaced on sidelines/stands for social distancing (stunt with admin approval).

Dance teams spaced on sidelines/stands for social distancing.

Teams should limit the number of athletes on each side of the basket to allow for social distancing.

Shared indoor practice space and equipment must be cleaned daily after use. This includes shared flooring such as tumbling mats (follow manufacturer cleaning directions) or team seating.

Personal equipment water bottles, etc. should not be shared.

No visiting before/after game or half-time between schools.

These groups should always remain separate from game participants and remain away from the fans or non-group members.

Coach and Administrator Preparedness

Coaches should regularly confirm the availability of, and access to hand-washing facilities, hand sanitizer and cleaning materials at all locations used by their students.

The emergency action plans for each sport and individual venue should be updated to reflect changes necessary to meet COVID 19 requirements.

Each school must provide its coaches and athletic medical staff access to adequate Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), including masks, gloves and face shields.

Teams should enter and leave the field of play or gym promptly without intermingling with spectators after competition.

Pre and post-game interactions between competing teams and personnel as well as competing teams and fans should be limited as much as possible.

Water bottles should be designated to each player whenever possible. In the event that this is not possible (due to team size, venue, etc...) then non-shared water sources need to be used such as disposable water cups.

- See the *Guidance for Hydrating Athletes* document posted to the MHSAA website

Venues

It is an expectation member schools will comply with CDC, MDH, and local health agencies related to best practices for facilities.

When possible, team bench areas should be arranged so access is for team personnel only. In addition, bench

	<p>areas should accommodate proper physical distancing. When not feasible, other mitigation methods, such as facial coverings may be implemented.</p> <p>Revise team drop-off/pick-up procedures to allow for social distancing.</p> <p>Eliminate team walks through fan zones.</p> <p>Use gofan.co for digital ticket sales.</p> <p>Establish designated parking areas for team buses/equipment trucks.</p> <p>Discourage congregating in parking lots before/after event.</p> <p>Address social distancing with tailgating.</p> <p>Host schools should communicate prior to an event the local restrictions regarding mitigation of COVID-19 to the visiting team, officials, media, fans, etc.</p> <p>Communication between member schools should also include, but is not limited to, information regarding parking, concessions, locker rooms, ticketing, payment methods, entrance/exit gates, band, cheerleaders, etc.</p> <p>Post new guidelines on school website & social media throughout the season.</p> <p>Re-assess current policies for inclement weather during an event.</p>
	<p><i>Officials</i></p> <p>Host schools should provide contest officials an area to enter and exit separate from fans when possible.</p> <p>Officials should be provided a dressing and meeting area that has been cleaned and disinfected prior to their arrival that provides for appropriate spacing between individuals.</p> <p>Officials' table should be limited to essential personnel which includes home team scorer and timer with a recommended distance of 3 to 6 feet between individuals. Visiting team personnel (scorer, statisticians, etc.) are not deemed essential and may need to find an alternative location. The number allowed at the officials' table is determined by the space available at the table. When physical distancing cannot be maintained, facial coverings are suggested.</p> <p>Officials should have their own labeled, beverage container, and these should be brought onto the field or court for their use during time outs or breaks.</p>
	<p><i>Transportation</i></p> <p>Local school system and school administration may determine the safest way to travel to and from contests in accordance with CDC, MDH, and their local health department.</p> <p>When physical distancing cannot be maintained, facial coverings are suggested.</p> <p>Assigned seating is suggested.</p>
	<p><i>Contests</i></p>

	<p>MHSAA bylaws allow non-traditional students (virtual) to participate in athletics if they have met all other MHSAA eligibility requirements.</p> <p>However, local school system(s) may have more restrictive guidelines. If a school or school system prohibits virtual school students from athletic/activity participation, it is a local school decision.</p> <p>Before a sports season begins, member schools who choose to participate must agree to abide by the following: In the event any contest is not played during the regular season or playoffs, the game will be a no-contest. For playoff seeding purposes, the game will be considered a forfeited game (loss) by the school team who chooses not to participate. The opponent will receive a "win" for the cancelled game.</p> <p>If a school chooses not to participate in a contest, the local school principal must notify the MHSAA Executive Director and opposing school in writing.</p>
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West Tallahatchie School District

MAY 26 2021

Board Approval