

Tunica County School District
District Guidance on the Development of a
Safe Return to In-Person Instruction
and Continuity of Services Plan

May 2021

Dr. Margie Pulley, Interim Superintendent

INTRODUCTION

As a requirement of the American Rescue Plan: Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP / ESSER III) fund, school districts (LEAs) receiving funds must develop a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. The Tunica County School District has modified its return to school plan. Please know that mask mandates are subject to change before school opens in August. Please review this plan and respond to the survey on page.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING

1. How will the district ensure continuity of services for academic needs of students?

- The TCSD will continue to focus on teaching and learning by continuing to implement the district's adopted research-based instructional model (EDI).
- The TCSD will continue to utilize the LMS (Canvas) to ensure the continuity of instruction if there is a need to quarantine or unexpected school closure.

2. What is the school district's plan for safely scheduling face-to-face instructional delivery students when school opens? (prioritized content, accelerated learning opportunities, intensive tutoring, after-school learning opportunities, etc.)

- TCSD re-opened schools with face-to-face instruction on March 22, 2021. The district follows state and local guidelines concerning COVID-19. The following guidelines were put in place:
- Focused/targeted instructions in all classrooms
- After school/extended day learning opportunities will be available at all schools for accelerated learning opportunities.
- All schools have built-in opportunities for intensive tutoring/interventions that are placed on the schools' daily schedule for enrichment opportunities and remediation.
- Signs are posted throughout the buildings for hand washing, physical distancing, and face coverings.
- All buildings and classrooms are cleaned daily.
- Frequently touched areas are cleaned multiple times throughout the day.
- Students and teachers practice physical distancing in all classrooms.

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- Students have assigned seats in each classroom and they will face the same direction.
- Students do not share materials.
- Students and teachers shall wear facemasks.
- Students eat breakfast in their classrooms.
- Students wash their hands before and after breakfast. Sanitizer will be provided and utilized.
- Cafeterias and kitchens are cleaned and sanitized daily.
- All schools have a nurse on site.
- Hand washing, cough coverings, and social distancing are practiced.
- Each school has an isolation room for students or staff who may get ill.
- School nurses conduct temperature checks daily for all faculty, staff and students.
- No field trips will be taken unless approved by the Interim Superintendent.
- Students will be allowed to participate in athletics. Safety precautions will be put in place.
- Students and staff with confirmed cases of COVID-19 will follow all local, state, and federal guidelines.
- Parents are asked to check for coronavirus symptoms before sending students to school.
- Parents are asked to keep students home when ill or if they have a fever or symptoms.
- The TCSD will report any confirmed cases to the health department.

3. What is the school district's contingency plan for scheduling instructional delivery to students should the district or school(s) have to close due to an outbreak (i.e., COVID-19, influenza)?

The TCSD will revert to the district's virtual learning plan.

- The school district will use Canvas as its learning management system for distant learners.
- The district will continue its one-to-one technology initiative and ensure that all students have access to a hotspot/internet.
- Distance learning students will follow the academic calendar approved by the Interim Superintendent.
- All Tunica County School District grading policies and procedures will apply during distance learning.
- All state assessments will be administered according to the guidelines of the Mississippi Department of Education.
- Meals will be delivered to all students.

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- 4. How will the school district monitor student progress at the elementary, middle, and secondary level, for both in-person students and students who may be receiving virtual instruction due to an underlying medical condition?**
- TCSD will track daily attendance for in-person students and students in the virtual setting.
 - Attendance – The TCSD has adopted its Virtual Learning Attendance Policy. This policy is in line with the Mississippi Department of Education's Virtual Learning policy. Attendance will be checked daily.
 - Assignments – Students will be held accountable for the completion of all assignments.
 - The assignments will be graded in accordance to the TCSD Grading Policy and will be reflected in daily grades, semester averages, and final grades.
 - Tunica County School District will ensure mastery on content for Carnegie credit courses.
 - Tunica County School District will relay students' academic progress through progress reports placed in Active Parent accounts to parents.
- 5. How will the school district ensure continuity of staff observation and feedback cycles, for both in-person and virtual instruction?**
- Tunica County School District will continue to utilize its Professional Growth Systems Evaluation Tool.
 - The district will continue to conduct in-person classroom observations, as well as, virtual classroom observations via GoogleMeet.
 - Classroom observations and feedback loops will be conducted daily.
- 6. How will the school district gather feedback from staff about instructional programming and needed supports?**
- The Tunica County School District will solicit feedback from staff via surveys, needs assessments, and focus groups multiple times throughout the year to gauge teacher needs and concerns.
 - This data will be leveraged for continuous school improvement.

OPERATIONS

- 7. What is the school district's process for student arrival and dismissal?**
- Temperature checks will be required for all students as they exit the bus or as they are dropped off to school.
 - They will report directly to their homeroom.
 - At the high school, students will be on a block schedule and transition only

three times throughout the school day while maintaining social distancing and all safety protocols.

- Students will be dismissed in the afternoon by busload according to bus number.
- Car riders will have a designated area for parent pick-up.
- Some middle and high school students will walk home.
- Walkie –Talkies and the intercom will be utilized to dismiss students.

8. How will the school district provide transportation? (include description of district protocols: windows, masks on bus, cleaning schedule, seating arrangement based on loading order / unloading order)?

- All students will have assigned seats on buses.
- Students from the same household will be allowed to sit together.
- For better air circulation, windows will be opened when weather permits.
- All buses will be cleaned and sanitized daily.
- Masks will be required on all buses.
- Safe and sanitary services will be in place while transporting students.

9. Where will the school district provide meals to students?

- Breakfast will be served in the classrooms.
- Lunch will be served in the cafeterias.

10. What is the school district's academic calendar for the 2021-22 school year?

**SY2021-2022 ACADEMIC CALENDAR
TUNICA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Date	Activity	# Student Days	#Teacher Days
August 2, 2021	1 st Day for Teachers		
August 3-4, 2021	Professional Development		22
August 5, 2021	1 st Day for Students	19	
September 6, 2021	Labor Day Holiday	21	21
October 15 th & 18 th 2021	Fall Break	19	19
November 22 -26, 2021	Thanksgiving Holidays	17	17
December 17, 2021	Last Day (first semester ends) Christmas Break	13	13
January 4, 2022	Teachers Return/ <i>Professional Development</i>		
January 5, 2022	Students Return	18	19
January 17, 2022	MLK Holiday		
February 21, 2022	Presidents' Day	19	19
March 14-18, 2022	Spring Break	18	18
April 15 th & 18 th 2022	Good Friday/Monday	19	19
May 26, 2022	Last day for Students	19	
May 26, 2022	Graduation		
May 27, 2022	Last Day for Teachers		20
Total Days		182	187

Tentative Make-up Days- February 21st April 15th & April 18th 2022

Approved- April 15, 2021

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

11. How will the school district provide academic support to families?

- The TCSD will provide interventions for students with identified learning gaps.
- Teachers will be available to meet with parents and students for additional support.
- The district will offer extended day for students.
- The district will provide additional learning resources for parents that will be placed on the district's webpage and each school's webpage.

12. How will the school district gather feedback from families of diverse student groups about instructional programming and needed supports?

- The Tunica County School District will solicit feedback from families of diverse student groups multiple times throughout the year to gauge the needs of diverse families via:
 - Surveys
 - Needs Assessments
 - Focus Groups
- This data will be leveraged for continuous school improvement.

COMMUNICATIONS

13. How will the school district communicate regularly with families to promote healthy behaviors to reduce spread?

- TCSD Facebook
- TCSD Webpage
- School Webpage
- Emails
- Active Parent
- Virtual Parent Meetings Canvas (Parent Portal)
- Parent notes
- School Newsletters

14. How will the school district communicate health and safety issues or necessary changes to the district's regular operating schedule?

The Tunica County School District will post any health and safety issues or necessary changes to the district's regular operating schedule utilizing the following platforms:

- TCSD Facebook
- TCSD Webpage
- School Webpages
- Emails
- Active Parent
- Virtual Parent Meetings
- Canvas (parent portal)
- Parent notes
- School newsletters

HEALTH AND SAFETY

15. What specific policies has the district adopted regarding CDC safety recommendations?

- Refer to TCSD Policy GBRIA Federal Medical and Leave Act (FMLA)
- Refer to TCSD Policy GBRI Absence from Duty

16. How will the district address the social, emotional, mental health, and other needs of students and staff?

- The Tunica County School District will utilize Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) guidelines to provide support for students.
- The district will utilize MTSS Behavioral supports.
- The district will utilize in-house certified guidance counselors.
- The district will partner with community mental health providers.
- The school nurses will monitor students' health needs and will make appropriate referrals.

17. What specific steps has the school district taken to address air quality within school facilities?

- The Tunica County School District will use ESSER II and ESSER III funds to address air-quality at all schools.
- These projects will mitigate virus transmission by providing cleaner

air quality and increased ventilation levels to existing buildings.

- This work includes but is not limited to: rooftop units, furnaces, condensing units, coils, upgrading filters, adding UVC emitters and ionizers to ductwork, cleaning ducts and replacing entire HVAC systems and equipment at the school sites.
- Additionally, ESSER II and ESSER III funds will be used to improve air quality by replacing doors, windows, carpet, asbestos, and upgrade bathrooms as needed at schools.

18. Does the school district plan to require daily health screening by families before students come to school?

- Yes, daily health screening protocols will continue at all schools to include questionnaire and temperature checks.

19. Does the school district plan to conduct temperature checks for staff and students upon arrival?

- Yes

20. Does the school district plan to require masks of students and adults while being transported and on campus?

- Yes

21. If requiring masks of students, what ages / grade levels will be required to wear a mask?

- The Tunica County School District will require all students and staff to wear masks.

22. What is the school district's comprehensive plan for regularly cleaning the following areas?

- Buildings, classrooms, and common areas are sanitized and cleaned daily.
- The district utilizes the fog machine to sanitize daily.
- All buses are cleaned and sanitized daily.
- All cafeterias are cleaned and sanitized daily.
- The district utilizes no-touch hand sanitizers throughout the buildings.
- No-touch faucets have been added to all bathrooms.
- All classrooms are provided with sanitizing wipes, sanitizing spray, and hand sanitizer.
- Traditional water fountains are no longer in use; bottled-water is provided to all staff and students.

23. How will the school district identify and address the needs of students and staff with underlying health conditions?

- To identify students and staff with underlying health conditions, the district will require parents and teachers to submit documentation from their health care providers.
- The Tunica County School District will identify the needs of students through the registration packet.
- Staff members will be identified via school orientation packet.
- The district will address the needs of students and staff via doctor recommendations.
- Staff members will limit their interactions with others as much as possible.
- Emphasize hand-washing guidelines from the CDC recommendation of 20 seconds.
- Ensure that physical distancing is being practiced.
- Mandate face coverings for everyone.
- Clean and disinfect all buildings, classrooms, buses, and frequently touched surfaces multiple times a day.
- Make sure school nurses are aware of those students and staff with underlying conditions.
- Monitor their temperatures and be alert for Covid-19 symptoms.

24. Who is responsible for overseeing health and safety within the school district?

Point of contact: Dr. Stanley Ellis

Hotline or phone number: 662-363-2811

Dedicated email address: elliss@tunicak12.org

Dedicated website address: tunicak12.org

25. How does the school district intend to ensure safety of students, staff, and spectators involved in co-curricular and extracurricular activities (athletics, band, choir, etc.)?

Upon return, the school district will implement the following protocols:

- Masks will be required for all academic and extra curricular activities.
- Social distancing will be encouraged.

TECHNOLOGY

26. How will the district utilize technology to enhance in-person learning and support remote learning for students as needed?

- Tunica County School District has purchased laptops for students and teachers.
- Technology will be used to enhance face-to-face instruction on a regular basis.
- The district will continue to utilize the Canvas Learning Management System for in person learning and virtual learning for those students with identified health issues.
- Technology will be used to promote enrichment and remediation.

27. How will the district identify the professional learning needs of staff in utilizing technology to enhance in-person learning and support remote learning?

- The Tunica County School District will collect and analyze data from teacher needs surveys, staff meetings, teacher observations, and PLCs to identify and address any technology needs.