

Atlanta Community Schools

Return to In-Person Instruction & Continuity of Services Plan October 2023

Under the American Rescue Plan: Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief III (ARP: ESSER III) local districts are required to develop and maintain a Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan. This plan outlines and details the district's plan for a safe return to, or maintenance of, in-person instruction and must include information regarding the district's implementation of the Center for Disease Control's (CDC's) most current guidance at the time of development.

Atlanta Community Schools deeply values in-person instruction and has implemented the practices detailed below in order to maintain the in-person learning environment.

The District may make adjustments to this plan in response to information learned regarding current and future variants of COVID-19 or other communicable disease and transmission rates in individual buildings, across the district, or if the risk of severe illness, hospitalization, or death increases. If such adjustments are needed, the plan will be shared again for public input. The plan will also be reviewed every six months during the life of the ARP ESSER III grant and updates will be completed if needed. The plan will be shared for public input during those intervals as well.

The district will comply with any and all local, state, and federal mandates/orders.

Instructional Services

Continuity of Instruction al Services

Elementary (Grades K - 5):

Elementary students attend school five full days in-person on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. This mode of instruction will remain in effect for the remainder of the school year.

Middle School (Grades 6 - 8):

Middle school students attend school five full days in-person on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. This mode of instruction will remain in effect for the remainder of the school year.

Any student, 7th-12th grades, who preferred not to return to in-person instruction were given the option of asynchronous learning with the Huskies @ Home program. These classes are provided through Edgenuity with a mentor teacher from Atlanta Community Schools assigned to each student. These students will remain in virtual learning until their families request a change of placement. Changes will be considered at the end of each 18 week semester.

	<p>High School (Grades 9 - 12): High school students attend school five full days in-person on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. This mode of instruction will remain in effect for the remainder of the school year.</p> <p>Any student, 7th-12th grades, who preferred not to return to in-person instruction were given the option of asynchronous learning with the Huskies @ Home program. These classes are provided through Edgenuity with a mentor teacher from Atlanta Community Schools assigned to each student. These students will remain in virtual learning until their families request a change of placement. Changes will be considered at the end of each 18 week semester.</p> <p>ACS works to continuously support the social-emotional and mental health needs of students across the district in Kindergarten through twelfth grade. Utilizing available grant funds, the district has worked to increase staffing in the areas of counseling and social work beginning in the 2021-22 school year. These services include access to a behavioral health counselor through Thunder Bay Community Health Services, 31n therapist through AMAESD and the School Success program through NEMSCA.</p>
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Health and Safety Protocols	
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COVID-19 Testing	Testing will not be required but test kits may be offered to families if provided by the State. Athletic testing will not be required unless mandated by the MHSAA or a local, state, or federal agency and/or a sanctioning body.
Cohorting	Mixing of student groups will be permitted. The District may consider temporarily restricting mixing of student groups where feasible as deemed necessary based on the local conditions.
Face Coverings (Masks)	Staff, students, volunteers, and visitors may wish to wear a face covering regardless of the current level of community transmission and are supported in doing so. The District will abide by all laws, lawfully executed order, regulations, etc. pertaining to facial coverings.
Facilities: Cleaning, Disinfecting, Ventilation	The District will follow regular cleaning and disinfection procedures. Additional cleaning and/or disinfection procedures within a classroom, school, or across the district will be implemented as needed based on local conditions.
Food Services	Normal food service operations will occur. Additional health and safety protocols may be implemented as required by local, state or federal mandates.

Hand Hygiene & Respiratory Etiquette	Proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette are encouraged and expected. Supplies, including hand sanitizer, will be maintained in order to facilitate proper hand hygiene.
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Health Screening & Student Illness	Parents/guardians are encouraged to conduct a daily wellness check to ensure students are well enough to attend school. Students should not be sent to school when they are ill. A child who has had a fever or is vomiting cannot return to school until they are healthy for 24 hours. Parents/guardians should follow medical professional and/or health department guidance regarding exclusion periods for communicable diseases.
Isolation & Quarantine	The District will follow current mandates/orders from federal, state, or local health agencies. In the absence of health department orders, the District encourages parents/guardians to follow current medical professional and/or health department guidance regarding exclusion periods for communicable diseases.

Vaccinations The District does not require staff or students to be vaccinated against COVID-19. OCHD, MDHHS, and CDC recommend COVID-19 vaccination as the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic as well as keep schools, extracurricular activities, and sports safely operational and in person.