



NOXUBEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Safe Return Plan
2021-2022 School Year
Washington Cole IV, Ed.D.
Interim Superintendent

UPDATED July 29, 2021
Board Approved August 10, 2021

ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING

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

The Noxubee County School District will analyze the benchmark assessment and state test results from the previous year to determine the academic needs of each student and develop small group or individual strategies to provide students opportunities to grow academically.

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.)

The ESSER II funds will be used for safely scheduling face-to face instruction of students. All HVAC systems will be professionally cleaned, paid for by the ESSER II funds. More sanitation equipment and thermometers will be purchased as well.

A vertical alignment analysis was conducted at Earl Nash Elementary, meaning that a study was done to determine which standards from previous grades are similar to teach to students in their current grade. All standards will not be able to be taught due to many students being academically behind, but the most important standards will be taught for students to be successful in the next grade level.

An extended day program will be explored and implemented if necessary. Each school has time in the master schedule set aside for intensive tutoring as required by the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS).

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)?

If schools in the district must close for a significant period due to a COVID-19, influenza, or hazardous weather, the instructional delivery method will switch to virtual. Microsoft Teams and Schoology will be utilized throughout the year, integrated in traditional instruction. If the instructional method is forced to be switched to virtual, then Teams and Schoology can be seamlessly integrated.

It is the intention of the Noxubee County School District to continue to provide the wireless hot spot service for the entirety of the 2021-2022 school year.

4. How will the school district monitor student progress at the elementary, middle, and

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secondary level, for both in-person students and students who may be receiving virtual instruction due to an underlying medical condition?

To monitor student progress, several benchmark and diagnostic assessments will be used. For PreK and Kindergarten, the students will take the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment. For 1st Grade, 2nd Grade, and 3rd Grade, the students will take the STAR Reading and Math diagnostic assessment. For Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and High School, the students will take the TE21 Benchmark Assessment. These benchmark and diagnostic assessments will be equally available to both in person and traditional students.

The STAR Reading and Math results are provided immediately after the students complete the assessments, and the TE21 assessment results will be available 3-5 days after the students complete these assessments. Adjustments in instruction, remediation, and enrichment will be made accordingly based on the results.

5. How will the school district ensure continuity of staff observation and feedback cycles, for both in-person and virtual instruction?

To successfully monitor the instruction of teachers, the Noxubee County School District will use the observation forms located on the Mississippi Department of Education Website. Teaching staff will be observed according to the requirements of the Mississippi Department of Education. For any staff who may be placed in virtual instruction the staff can be observed via Zoom or Microsoft Teams.

6. How will the school district gather feedback from staff about instructional programming and needed supports?

The building level administrators will gather feedback from staff about instructional programming and needed supports. They will be the most familiar with their staff out of all district staff. A survey can also be released to instructional staff to record needed supports.

OPERATIONS

7. What is the school district's process for student arrival and dismissal?

As students arrive to campuses each day their temperatures will be checked by thermometer device. If a student's temperature hits the threshold of a fever, the students will be isolated until the parents are notified, and the students will be sent home for the

day.

The process for student dismissal will be identical to prior non-pandemic years.

8. How will the school district provide transportation?

The Noxubee County School District has contracted with EccoRide to provide transportation to students. EccoRide will have their own requirements regarding safety protocols that they will need to provide to the district.

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

All schools will provide meals to the students in the cafeteria. Students will be required to wear masks, but other than this requirement the process of providing lunch will be the same as a non-pandemic year. The cafeteria still will thoroughly sanitize the cafeterias after each administration of meals.

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

The district academic calendar has been posted on the Noxubee County School District webpage at www.ourncsd.org.

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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

Academic supports will be provided to families of the Noxubee County School District such as assistance for parents so their children can properly use the laptops assigned to them. If virtual learning must be implemented on an isolated or wide-scale basis, families will receive support for virtual instruction, or “refresher” courses and support for laptops and software programs.

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

For the English Language Learner population in the Noxubee County School District, translation apps will be used when gathering feedback from these families. iPhones & iPads can translate speech in real time. Surveys can be translated in Spanish for parents to easily process information and gather feedback.

COMMUNICATIONS

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

To promote healthy behaviors to reduce the spread of COVID-19 or other diseases. The district nurse will be utilized to provide guidance of communications to all stakeholders. The communication will be posted on the district website as well as all official social media pages.

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

The Noxubee County School District will communicate health and safety issues or necessary changes to the district's regular operating schedule via several mediums. The Alert Now system will send audio messages to phone numbers in the system. The district webpage official social media pages will be utilized accordingly.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

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

On October 13, 2020, the Noxubee County School District adopted COVID-19 policies based on the current CDC safety recommendations which are available for viewing on the district website. The policies are subject to change as the nature of the pandemic changes through the pandemic lifespan. The policies will also be subject to recent MDE policy and Mississippi state statute.

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

The social, emotional, mental, and other needs of students will be addressed through the school counselors at each school location. The district behavior specialist will also be utilized as well as the district nurse to meet these needs. Community Counseling Services will also be utilized to provide services to students.

The social, emotional, mental, and other needs of staff will be addressed by their immediate supervisors at the school buildings and offices. A cordial, collegial, and professional working environment will be the goal for all school buildings and offices. The school building leadership and directors of offices will also create an environment in which staff can be honest about work related stress with the intent of finding workable solutions. The district leadership will ensure that sufficient

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safety equipment is provided to all schools as well as sufficient repairs to infrastructure. This is part of the solution to address these needs to staff and students.

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

The HVAC units in each classroom will be cleaned regularly of all dust, lint, and other particles so air can flow more freely in the classrooms, offices, and buildings. Also, in the ESSER II plan, funds have been allocated for professional cleaning of all HVAC systems. For the ESSER III allocation planning, a suggestion is to use part of the funds for new units that can filter viral and other microscopic particles.

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

Students will be subject to temperature checks via multiple thermometers available at each location. Parents will be encouraged to also check the temperature of their children before arriving to school. Students will be monitored throughout the day for any illness or symptoms and will be isolated accordingly. The district nurse will also be utilized to determine the next course of action for students.

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

Students will be subject to temperature checks via multiple thermometers available at each location. Parents will be encouraged to also check the temperature of their children before arriving to school.

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

Students will be highly encouraged to wear masks when being transported to campus, receiving instruction on campus, and being transported back home. The buses are contracted to EccoRide and students will ultimately be subjected to their safety rules and regulations.

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

Students and staff in the entire district will be requested to always wear mask. Wearing of masks cannot be legally required, however, it is the goal of the Noxubee County School District to create a culture of safety by highly encouraging all staff and students to always wear masks.

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

- Buildings, classrooms, and common areas

Custodial staff will be cleaning doorknobs and other high touch areas, and regularly always sanitize the air in these areas.

- Food and nutritional service areas

The cafeteria staff will thoroughly clean the student cafeterias and food service areas before and after the students eat breakfast and lunch.

- Transportation (buses, service areas, and equipment)

The buses are contracted to EccoRide and are not subject to the Noxubee County School District COVID-19 policies.

- Areas associated with cocurricular or extracurricular events

All athletic associated buildings and equipment will be regularly sanitized by custodial staff and coaches.

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

MDE policy mandates in person learning as the primary method of instruction. For students with documented medical or underlying health issues, the Noxubee County School District will develop a policy for virtual learning. Parents must provide documentation from a medical doctor to be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Staff's needs will also be handled on a case-by-case basis and not publicized due to medical privacy statutes.

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

The district superintendent is responsible for overseeing the health and safety within the school district.

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

Student athletes will be highly encouraged to be vaccinated and all athletes will be required to wear masks indoors. When practicing outdoors in extreme hot and humid conditions, wearing of masks may prevent students from breathing properly.

Spectators will be requested to wear masks and will be asked to social distance during games. A maximum cap of purchasing tickets for games may be implemented based on the severity of cases. Students participating in band will be required to regularly sanitize their instruments, and students in the choir will socially distance when practicing and performing.

TECHNOLOGY

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

Students and staff will have access to Microsoft Teams and Schoology as platforms to enhance in person learning as well as support remote learning. Most staff and students will be familiar with these platforms from utilizing them during the 2020-2021 school year.

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

New staff will receive training on these platforms by the professional development coordinator as well as their immediate supervisor. The staff can also receive professional development from their grade-level or subject area colleagues. Students can receive training from their teachers.