



Ashe County Schools Return Plans 2021-2022

Last Revision: Oct. 5th Board Meeting

Ashe County Schools Focus and Goals



- Prioritizing face-to-face learning for all students K-12
- Preparing students to live their best lives
- Alignment to CDC recommendations and latest guidance of DHHS related to health and safety measures
- Alignment to CDC recommendations and latest guidance related to health and safety measures based upon the Strong Schools NC Public Health Toolkit (K-12)
- Collaboration with local and state public health experts and continued partnership with Duke Collaborative Partnership
- Interventions and academic support for students to address learning gaps
- Focus on mental health and successful transition back to in-person learning

Ashe County Communication



- Ashe County schools will continue to use Connect 5 calls as a district
- Schools will use Remind App, Canvas and email to keep the communication that was established since March of 2020
- Ashe County Board of Education meets monthly to assess the current state of our county COVID numbers
- Continued reflection at the school and district level on communication strategies in order to enhance communication efforts for the 2021-2022 school year
- Continued communication with local and state health officials

ESSER Funding and Impact on Ashe Schools

ESSER I- CARES Act (The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act)

ESSER II CRRSA (Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act)

ESSER III ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act of 2021)

ESSER Funding will allow our district to provide resources for:

- Building and facilities air quality improvement
- Water bottle filling stations for improved sanitation
- Learning improvements including summer camp and tutoring with evidence based interventions
- Educational technology-one-to-one home to school devices and community hotspots
- Lead Innovator of Student Success at Ashe County High School
- Health and safety to include social, emotional, mental and physical
- Continued research based materials and technology resources that improve student learning



ESESSER I must be spent by September 30, 2022, ESSER II by September 30, 2023 and ESSER III by September 30, 2024

Possible Switch to Remote Learning



- Ashe County Schools has a plan in place for the event of it becoming necessary to close a school or the district
- Such decisions will be made in accordance with state and local health officials and our local board of education
- We currently have 1:1 technology in place for student learning along with ongoing use of online learning through the LMS Canvas (grades 3-12) and SeeSaw (grades K-2)
- We will continue to partner with the community to provide hotspots for Internet access

Health and Safety Measures

In-Person Learning
What to Expect the School Day
to Look Like



Learning Spaces and Building Capacity



- Return to in-person learning for all students at all grade levels
- Follow NC Toolkit for guidance regarding social distancing recommendations
- All students, staff, and visitors who enter the school building will be required to wear masks
- As mandated by SB 654, the local board of education will vote monthly on whether to require masks. As of Oct. 5, 2021, the vote was 3-2 in favor of mandatory masking
- Visitors will be allowed in buildings but will be required to follow protocol and wear masks
- Continued increased daily cleaning protocols in accordance with the CDC and Ashe County DHHS

Prevention and Mitigation Measures



- Encouraging all eligible students and staff to be vaccinated if they choose
- Require masks on all buses for all persons (proper mask wearing and masks provided for those who forget to bring their own)
- Ensure physical distancing to the greatest extent possible in all school settings
- Continue to emphasize hand hygiene-washing hands and using sanitizer-wash with soap and water for 20 seconds and sanitizer that is at least 60% alcohol
- Provide adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene
- Refer individuals who are symptomatic or have been a close contact to diagnostic testing
- Posting signage at entrances requesting those who are symptomatic not to enter
- Encourage staff and students to not come to school if symptomatic- Reminder Connect 5 calls and reminders at school
- Clean frequently touched surfaces on buses prior to morning and afternoon routes
- Clean surfaces at least once per day prioritizing high-touch surfaces

Mitigation Measures

Lessons Learned: Proven and effective strategies for stopping the spread of COVID-19



Sick students & staff must remain home
Los estudiantes y el personal enfermos deben permanecer en casa



Wash hands often
Lavarse frecuentemente las manos



Masks required to be worn at all times (except when eating)
Se requerida usar cubrebocas en todo momento (except al comer)



Avoid touching your face
Evitar tocarse la cara



Maintain social distancing (especially when eating)
Mantener el distanciamiento físico (especialmente al comer)



Follow all posted signage
Obedecer todos los señalamientos colocados

Health Measures



- General and close contact notifications of positive COVID-19 cases
- COVID-19 Dashboard for confirmed cases in Ashe County Public Schools
- Continued use of supervised isolation rooms
- Contact tracing in conjunction with local health department
- Quarantine guidelines for vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals
- Vaccinated staff and students are not required to quarantine.**
- Encouraging the COVID-19 vaccine for students 12 and older if they choose

What to do if My Student is Quarantined



As the COVID pandemic continues, we want to make sure that we keep in contact with our students and families to ensure our students are continuing their education. To help with this effort, each school has posted information concerning what happens and what protocol is expected of schools, teachers, and students if a student becomes quarantined at any point throughout the school year. While our schools follow similar protocol, contact names and slight details may vary. To access this information, please go to your student's school-specific website where the information will be posted throughout the school year. Thank you for your support as we work together as a team to continue educating our children.

What to Expect
the School Day to
Look Like:

**IN-PERSON
LEARNING**



Arriving at School



Students are expected to bring their school-issued, fully charged device and any other necessary instructional materials

Facial covering requirements for vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals will be based on the Ashe Board of Education's decision. Currently, facial coverings will be required for all students, staff, and visitors

**Facial coverings will be required on all buses
Students, staff, and visitors are expected to use designated arrival entrances**

Visitors will be allowed in buildings as long as they are masked and follow protocol

Actions to Accelerate Learning



Core elements for acceleration of learning moving forward:

- Build off of strong practices from the past year
- Ensure that all students experience high quality grade level teaching and learning that meets their needs
- Provide small group work or tutoring when a student needs additional support with grade level or off grade level learning within or beyond the school day.
- Provide vetted and effective after school tutoring when students need additional support

Student Technology



Provide devices for all students:

- Kindergarten- 1st graders – Chrome Tablets (with touch capabilities)
- 3rd-12th graders - Chromebooks

- Provide all teachers with laptops
- Make HotSpots available for families that are in need of internet access.
- K-2 use SeeSaw as Learning Management System
- 3rd-12th use Canvas as Learning Management System

Social and Emotional Learning



Supports and learning opportunities for students and staff:

- SEL screener (Panorama) for all students to identify student social-emotional strengths and identify those who may need additional support with social-emotional skills and competencies. By administering a screener to all students, we can design instruction or interventions that build on students' strengths while building their skills in other areas - before behavior problems occur.
- Responsive Classroom: Elevate teaching social and emotional skills and integrate into academic content
- How we work together as adults to create a safe, joyful, and inclusive school environment is as important as our individual contribution or competence.

- Counselors at each will assist in coordinating and leading comprehensive mental health programs and resources.

Recess and Enrichment



- Recess will continue to be held outdoors as long as weather permits.
- Use of playground equipment will be allowed.
- Face coverings are not required during recess and outdoor activities.
- During inclement weather students will be assigned to indoor spaces for recess.
- Students will attend and rotate to enrichment classes but seats will be assigned to help with tracing efforts

Field Trips, Gatherings, and Visitors



- Field trips will be allowed.
 - Field trip guidelines may change throughout the year to ensure safety protocols are followed
 - All indoor and outdoor gatherings are subject to state and local capacity guidelines.
 - Visitors will be allowed during the school day.
- Health and safety measures must be adhered to by all visitors, staff, and students

Breakfast and Lunch



- Ashe County Schools will continue universal breakfast and lunch for the 2021-2022 school year.
- Breakfast will be grab and go for students in grades K-12
- Lunch will be delivered to the classroom for Kindergarten and 1st grade students
- Students in grades 3rd-12th will pick up lunch through the cafeteria line and eat in the classroom or outdoor designated space
- There will be no meal box pick up available since we are not mandated to provide virtual instruction

Student Transportation



- Transportation will continue to be provided for all eligible Ashe County students. We will continue to follow mandated safety guidelines. Mandatory masks for all passengers and the driver is in place on all buses. Masks are provided if a student forgets to bring their own
- All bus drivers will be trained on safety protocols



Assigned seating will remain in effect for students on all routes

All buses go through a decontamination process after each trip

Questions?

Contact:

Ashe County Schools

336-246-7175

*Please visit the Ashe County Schools District website and your assigned school website for updates

