



Press Release
August 17, 2020

ASHE COUNTY SCHOOLS TO RETURN TO SCHOOL UNDER PLAN B & ASHE ONLINE. WE'RE READY!!!

The Ashe County Board of Education met on Thursday, August 6, 2020 to approve the return-to-school option of **Plan B** as proposed by Superintendent, Dr. Eisa Cox. Governor Roy Cooper announced on July 14, 2020, that schools could reopen under enhanced safety guidelines known as Plan B or that schools could elect to reopen under an all remote learning option known as Plan C. Local school districts were given the discretion to choose between the two options, but could not elect to reopen under Plan A, which would essentially bring all students back for in-person instruction each day. *"We are excited to see our students and we are looking forward to what this year will bring!"* Principal Amanda Hipp, Ashe County High School.

Under Plan B, safety and screening protocols are rigorous, especially at the points of entry for schools. All students, staff, parents, and visitors will have their temperatures checked and will be asked a series of questions in order to screen individuals for entry into the buildings. There are social distancing and face covering guidelines for everyone in school buildings and on campus. For more information about Plan B, please refer to our [Plan B: Student & Parent Guidebook](#).

Teachers and staff returned to the school buildings on August 10, 2020 and have been working hard to learn new procedures and to develop plans that will help them meet the needs of all students. *"Teachers, custodians, and the entire middle school staff have worked incredibly hard this week to prepare for the school year. We are going to do our best to not only provide for the safety of our students, but also for a top-notch middle school experience both academically and socially."* Principal Dustin Farmer, Ashe County Middle School.

Students will be in-person (Plan B) and remote learning (Plan B), or attending [Ashe Online](#). Ashe Online is our county's first all-virtual learning experience for grades K-12 students. Nearly 30% of our students will be attending school entirely online this semester. The other 70% will attend in a mixture between in-person instruction 2 days per week and remote instruction for 3 days per week. Students will be assigned to in-person days and remote days based on their last name. Students with last names beginning in A-K will attend school on Mondays and Tuesdays and work remotely on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Students with last names beginning in L-Z will attend school on Thursdays and Fridays and work remotely on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays.

"We are excited to have students back in our buildings and see them online! We have put in a lot of time and effort to make sure that this year is an excellent year for students. I cannot say enough about the hard work that has been put in by our whole Ashe County Schools team. Last week, we walked each school building to see how inviting our teachers have made learning spaces. We tested out the new safety procedures in place. We witnessed teachers and leaders planning together via Zoom and while social-distancing in person. I am impressed with the collaborative conversations focused on our students." Ashe County Schools' Superintendent, Dr. Eisa Cox

While we have been preparing for this new beginning, we ask for patience, grace, and kindness as we work through any challenges. And, we are ready to meet the challenges that are before us. *"As we all work together, our students will be safe, healthy, happy, and successful. I look forward to seeing great things from our students and school staff this year."* Principal David Blackburn, Mountain View Elementary

We are ready to meet student needs in new and exciting ways and make this school year the best yet!