



School Reopening Overview

The Elbert County School District is committed to providing students with a high quality education while prioritizing the health and safety of staff, students, and the Elbert County community. Our system and school leaders continue to work with local and state officials to monitor circumstances surrounding COVID-19 in order to make the most informed decisions. Our plan to reopen schools for face-to-face instruction on Monday, August 17th is based on the most current information; however, we acknowledge that the situation is subject to change. We will continue to collaborate with appropriate officials in order to make adjustments to these plans as necessary.

In response to COVID-19 and feedback from our community, ECSD has created a K-12 digital learning option, [EC Online](#), for families not wishing to return into the school building for face-to-face instruction at this time.

Instruction [20--21 ECSD Academic Calendar](#)

- Face-to-face instruction
 - In case of a temporary closure, students will continue learning from their teacher(s) through the Google Classroom platform and printed work packets.
- EC Online option
 - Parents must be able to provide a reliable internet connection.
 - Grades 6-12 has an 18 week commitment
 - Grades K-5 has a 9 week commitment

Illness

- All students and staff should self screen. Those who are sick or have [symptoms](#) are required to stay at home.

- Any student or staff member that tests positive for COVID-19 must self-report to the school and follow [Georgia's Path to Recovery for K-12 Schools](#) and [DPH](#) guidelines before returning.
- Any student or staff member who has a direct exposure (within 6 feet) to a person with COVID-19 without appropriate PPE must self-report to the school and follow Georgia's Path to Recovery for K-12 Schools and DPH guidelines before returning.
- Anyone with a temperature of 100.4 or higher will be asked to go home and not allowed to return until they are fever free for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medicine.
- All schools will have a room to temporarily isolate symptomatic persons until they are able to leave the campus.
- School nurses will serve as the COVID related point of contact for each building.

Masks and Face Coverings

- Face coverings/masks are strongly recommended, particularly in settings where social distancing is difficult to accomplish (i.e. class transitions, drop-offs/pick-ups, bus, etc.).

Hygiene

- Frequent handwashing will be encouraged.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms and hand sanitizing stations will be located throughout the school buildings.
- Students will be taught to cough/sneeze into an elbow or a tissue.
- Students and staff will be reminded to avoid touching one's eyes, nose, and mouth.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

- Daily and rigorous cleaning protocols will be followed by custodians.
- High touch areas and surfaces will be cleaned frequently throughout the school day.

Bus Transportation

- Face coverings/masks are strongly recommended for drivers, monitors, and students.
- Buses will be cleaned and sanitized after the morning and afternoon route.
- Buses will have hand sanitizer for student use.

School Nutrition

- Students will eat breakfast and lunch with their class separated from other classes.
- Disposable plates and utensils will be used at all locations.
- No self-serve lines will be available for students.
- Water fountains will be available for filling bottles. Students are encouraged to bring water from home daily.

Extracurricular Activities and Sports

- GHSA guidance will be followed for school athletics.
- Clubs and CTSOs are allowed to meet but must follow stricter distancing guidelines and sanitation processes.
- Field trips are suspended until further notice.
- All Elbert County students, regardless of which learning option they choose, are eligible to participate in school athletics, activities, and receive school services. However, these activities may or may not have the ability to operate through a distanced structure.

Visitors

- Only essential visitors, such as contractors and public safety officials or parents by appointment, will be granted access past the main office at each school.
- All visitors will undergo a temperature check and respond to screening questions prior to gaining entry past the office.

Vulnerable Populations

- Individuals with documented underlying health conditions can request reasonable accommodations consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Other School Level Procedure Enhancements

- Modifying classroom procedures and layout to promote social distancing.
- Modifying start of the day and dismissal procedures to promote social distancing.
- Parent school meetings and events will be held virtually or in a blended fashion when possible.
- Traffic patterns will be defined in hallways and common areas.
- Shared materials will be minimized.

Temporary Closures

- Based on guidance from Georgia's Path to Recovery for K-12 Schools, DPH, and local health officials, schools may need to close down temporarily for increased sanitation.
- Students will transition to distance learning through Google Classroom (follow school guidelines)
- Once per week meal distribution from school sites will be available.

Communication

- We ask that all staff and students self report positive COVID-19 cases to their school.
- The school district will disseminate information to the local DPH as well as informing those individuals who are suspected of having close contact with a person that has tested positive for COVID-19.
- Students and staff will be notified if they have been in direct contact with an individual that has confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis. Department of Public Health guidelines will be followed.