



Eufaula City Schools Reopening Plan 2020-2021

Overview:

Eufaula City Schools will offer two learning environments for the 2020-2021 school year: traditional “on-campus” classrooms and online “learn-at-home” classrooms. Students who are opting for the online “learn-at-home” environment need to register by July 28, 2020, by calling 334-687-1100 extension 0. The remaining sections of this document provide information related to each option and the importance of parent/guardian support regardless of the instructional setting. Prior to selecting the classroom environment, parents/guardians are asked to thoroughly review the contents of this document.

Parent/Guardian Responsibility:

Parents/guardians are asked to monitor their child(ren) for symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough, fatigue, difficulty breathing, headache, sore throat, congestion, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea). Students with a fever of 100.4 degrees or higher should not report to school. Parents/guardians of sick children who have concerns should immediately contact their respective school nurse to discuss symptoms, obtain physician clearance, and discuss an appropriate return to school date. Parents/guardians are encouraged to be transparent with the school nurse or administrator should a child or a family member be diagnosed with COVID-19.

Masks/Facial Coverings:

Students will have the option of wearing masks/facial coverings and will not be required to wear a mask during the school day (Unless mandated by state or federal officials). Parents/Guardians are encouraged to educate students on the importance of maintaining physical distance, when possible, as well as the option of wearing a mask/face covering when physical distancing is not feasible. If worn, cloth masks (those other than disposable medical masks) must adhere to the dress code policy referenced in the Code of Conduct. Neck gaiters may be worn around the neck when not being utilized as a face cover. Typical disposable surgical masks are also permitted.

Transportation:

Eufaula City Schools will offer transportation to students for the 2020-2021 school year. We are asking all who can transport their child(ren) to and from school to do so to reduce the number of students riding school buses. We will make every attempt to separate students, but we can not guarantee physical distancing on buses while transporting students. Masks will be required on the bus due to the inability to effectively social distance. Disposable masks will be available on all buses for students if needed. Buses will be disinfected by school personnel at the conclusion of each route.

Child Nutrition:

Eufaula City Schools will not use cafeterias to serve meals. Students will eat breakfast and lunch, free of charge, in their classrooms or smaller designated areas identified by local school administrators. Cafeteria staff will maintain compliance with the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) and Barbour County Health Department (BCHD) when preparing and serving food. Cleaning and disinfecting measures by cafeteria staff will uphold high standards in preventative measures against the spread of COVID-19. Visitors will not be permitted to eat lunch with students during the 2020-2021 school year. Students should bring personal water bottles (with lids) to school.

Classroom Setting:

Class sizes will be similar to previous years. Teachers will monitor students to ensure appropriate practices that assist in limited transmission are in place. While all square footage of each classroom will be utilized, it is unlikely that students will be able to always maintain six (6) feet physical distance throughout the school day (class, period, or block). Parents/guardians are encouraged to educate students on the importance of maintaining physical distance, when possible, as well as wearing a mask/face covering when maintaining physical distance is not feasible.

**School Visitors:**

To support physical distancing, campus access to visitors will be restricted and will require administrator approval. All approved school visitors are required to report to the main office upon arrival at a school campus. All approved visitors will be required to present photo ID, sign in, and secure a visitor's pass. Masks will be required by visitors. Visitors will not be permitted to eat lunch with students during the 2020-2021 school year.

Health and Wellness:

COVID-19 guidelines in conjunction with heightened health and wellness protocols have been implemented for the 2020-2021 school year. School nurses will work closely with the ALSDE, ADPH, and BCHD regarding protocols, quarantine measures, and regulations for COVID-19. School nurses will aid parents, guardians, staff, and students with medical referrals and testing sites for COVID-19 as deemed necessary.

First aid areas in each school will be maintained and function in compliance with ALSDE, ADPH, and BCHD. Sick and well-child first aid areas are established at each school. School nurses will maintain each area to support the needs of students. School nurses will teach preventative measures to students and staff, including proper handwashing techniques, cough/sneeze etiquette, and the importance of keeping hands away from the face, as well as how to properly wear a face covering and other important preventative measures such as physical distancing.

Thermal scanning thermometers are located at each school. Temperature checks will be conducted periodically and in instances when a student demonstrates potential signs of fever/illness.

All teachers will be provided ample cleaning supplies to utilize during the school day and throughout the 2020-2021 school year. Cleaning and disinfecting of common areas and classrooms will take place daily at all schools. Cleaning and disinfecting practices will uphold high standards in preventative measures against the spread of COVID-19 and other illnesses.

Students will be provided with opportunities to wash their hands throughout the school day. Additionally, hand sanitizer will be available. Parents/guardians are encouraged to reinforce the importance of personal hygiene to include proper washing of hands.

All faculty and staff will be provided appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) to wear when the individual faculty or staff member deems such items necessary. (Unless mandated by state or federal officials)

Should a student or faculty member be diagnosed with COVID-19, contact tracing, according to state officials, is the responsibility of the BCHD. In these instances, determination of steps to be taken after reviewing the identified case will be coordinated between Eufaula City Schools and BCHD officials. However, the Eufaula City School System will make every effort to send notification home with students in the event we are made aware of student/employees being exposed or testing positive for COVID-19. Names of individuals cannot and will not be shared.

In our efforts to keep our students and staff as safe as possible we will rely heavily on our parents/guardians to keep school personnel aware of any situation where there is a positive Covid 19 case in your household. We are not asking for names but will need to know if someone in the household is positive so that we can take the proper precautions at school. Please make sure that you are also following the guidelines regarding quarantining if there is a positive case.

Students will need to bring their own school supplies to limit exposure. No school supplies will be shared among students.



Learning Options:

Traditional

Traditional Learning will occur through face-to-face instruction on a regular schedule. This model represents a return to the school campus and the classroom where students will interact directly with their teacher(s) and classmates. The school day will follow the standard schedule that includes all core classes and other subject areas. In short, it represents a return to the traditional school environment--with several significant changes involving enhanced health and safety precautions. Technology will be part of the traditional learning model so that students will be familiar with online learning should we have to close school or a student needs to stay home. PreK-5th grade music and art will be taught in the homeroom classroom. PE activities will be a combination of indoor and outdoor activities in smaller class sizes.

Online Learn-At-Home

For the 2020-21 school year, the online "learn-at-home" option is for parents/guardians who have a concern about students being educated in a traditional environment due to COVID-19. Students will not work at their own pace. Students will be assigned to an online classroom facilitated by a Eufaula City Schools teacher. It will be the responsibility of parents, guardians, and students to meet appropriate deadlines and to participate in online meetings as scheduled by the teacher. Lessons will be completed and assignments submitted based on established due date. Online learn-at-home instruction will include interaction with an ECS teacher via an online video platform (synchronous instruction). Students will be able to interact with each other and engage in real-time learning. Students will receive feedback and grading in Schoology Learning Management System (LMS). Virtual attendance is a mandatory requirement for learn-at-home.

The ALSDE recently awarded a contract to SchoolsPLP for digital content to be delivered through Schoology LMS. SchoolsPLP is not a virtual classroom in which students rely solely on the online content provider to deliver effective instruction. Rather, it is a resource utilized by a Eufaula City Schools teacher who will design both synchronous (students online at the same time, learning together) and asynchronous (students online at different times learning independently) instruction scheduled during a traditional school day or as communicated by the teacher. Grades will be given in the online learn-at-home option. Parents and students will sign a virtual contract for participation in this model of learning.

ECS students will be enrolled in the learn-at-home option for a semester. Consideration for movement prior to the semester end will be handled on a case by case basis. Students enrolled in the learn-at-home option will not be allowed to participate in athletics or extracurricular activities.

Eufaula City Schools is working to secure mobile internet boxes to provide internet connectivity in areas of need. In addition, our school buses can also be stationed in areas to provide wifi connection.

Disclaimer:

All information provided is based on the infection rate of the city of Eufaula at the time of document publication. An increase in the COVID-19 rate of infection within the community may necessitate modification of response practices. Eufaula City Schools is required to comply with policies mandated by the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE), Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA), Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH), Barbour County Health Department (BCHD), as well as local and state orders/ordinances created in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Eufaula City Schools

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Frequently Asked Questions



What will class sizes look like in traditional school?

This will depend on the number of students who enroll in traditional school and online school. Every effort will be made to have class sizes as low as possible, but class sizes will most likely look like they have in previous school years.

Will students social distance?

It is unlikely that students will be able to maintain a six (6) feet physical distance throughout the school day.

How will we handle lunch, PE, and recess?

PE may be delivered through multiple formats such as: face to face, zoom, and pre recorded lessons. Breakfast/Lunch will be served in classrooms or in smaller identified areas by local school administrators. Recess will be in classrooms or in smaller identified areas by local school administrators.

How will our buildings be sanitized?

All buildings will be cleaned multiple times daily with approved sanitizing chemicals. We will be using traditional and automated sprayers to disinfect all areas.

Will students be required to wear masks?

Masks/facial coverings are strongly encouraged but not required. (Unless mandated by state or federal officials).

What are the learning options for Eufaula City Schools for 2020-21?

Eufaula City Schools will offer two learning options: traditional learning and online learn-at-home. Traditional learning will occur face to face with Eufaula City Schools teachers on a regular schedule. Technology integration will be a key component in this standards-based instructional model. Online learn-at-home learning is for parents/guardians who have concerns about students being educated in a traditional environment due to COVID-19. Eufaula City Schools will offer this virtual classroom that will be overseen by Eufaula City Schools teachers utilizing SchoolsPLP curriculum and/or lessons designed by teachers. The deadline for enrollment for Online At-Home Learning is July 22, 2020.

My child has an IEP. How will that work?

Every child with a disability is entitled to a free and appropriate education and is entitled to special education services based on their individualized education program (IEP). Students receiving special education services may be more negatively affected by distance-learning and may be disproportionately impacted by interruptions in regular education. It may not be feasible, depending on the needs of the individual child and adolescent, to adhere both to distancing guidelines and the criteria outlined in a specific IEP. Attempts to meet physical distancing guidelines should meet the needs of the individual child and may require creative solutions, often on a case-by-case basis. Please contact your child's school or the district's Special Education Coordinator, Jan Bowen, at (334) 687-1100 or jan.bowen@ecksk12.org regarding their individualized plan.

Will students be issued a device?

All students, with the exception of pre-K, will be issued a Eufaula City Schools iPad for use.

If my student chooses the learn at home option, can they still participate in athletics and other extracurricular activities?

No

If a student or teacher in my child's class tests positive for COVID-19, what are the plans for the other students?

Will schools be required to close if a student or a staff member tests positive?

Once a case is confirmed, parents will be informed but the public health department will be responsible for contact tracing.