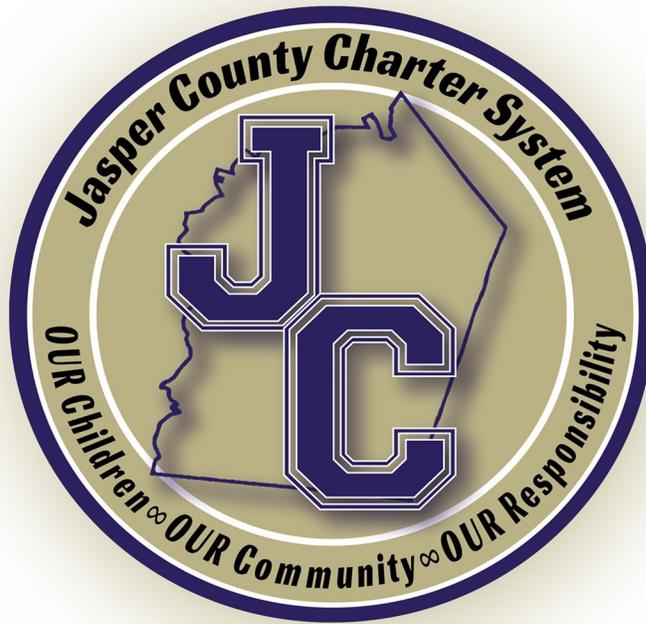


JASPER COUNTY CHARTER SYSTEM PLAN FOR REOPENING SCHOOLS



APPROVED JULY 21, 2020

JASPER COUNTY CHARTER SYSTEM PLAN FOR REOPENING SCHOOLS 2020-2021

Dear Jasper County Charter System Stakeholders,

Responding to COVID-19 is a tremendous undertaking for the Jasper County Charter System. Each of our schools is tasked with re-envisioning educational delivery models in a span of weeks and adjust practices accordingly. As we look toward the beginning of the school year, the safety and health of our students, educators, and families remain of the highest importance. The administrative team of Jasper County Charter System has developed a plan in order to establish protocols, general procedures, and provide a decision-making guide as we look to build a safe and quality educational environment.

Children rely on schools for academic needs, social development, food, and support for mental and emotional well-being. Achievement gaps have not closed in the last few years and school building closures will likely serve to widen those gaps further. The challenge of reopening schools for the 2020-21 school year will require extensive preparation, coordination, and communication.

Our most pressing priority is ensuring that students and staff have a safe and healthy learning environment. This document has been updated to reflect the latest guidance from the Georgia Department of Health (GDPH), the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC). **While this document provides a plan for reopening schools based upon the health guidance and recommendations from these agencies, it is not intended to eliminate the risk of transmission of COVID-19. This is an effort to significantly reduce the levels of transmission in our schools.**

Measures such as social distancing, hand washing, screening for symptoms, and the appropriate use of face coverings can help reduce the risk of disease transmission and are most effective when used consistently and in combination. Until there is a vaccine, these preventive actions are important even when transmission rates in a community are low. Employing these strategies, particularly when high compliance with recommendations is achieved, can help protect students and staff and may help avoid frequent, and potentially more disruptive, school dismissals and closures. As trusted partners in communities, schools are a vital partner in communicating the importance of these prevention strategies to students, families, faculty and staff.

As you refer to this document, please remember the Jasper County Charter System will update with additional guidance as we move forward. In order to provide the safest environment possible for our stakeholders, this document will be adjusted when updates are provided from our partner health agencies.

Thank you for your efforts in mitigating the spread of illness and promoting a safe environment in our schools. Your cooperation in adhering to the guidance provided within this document will make our system safer as we move forward into the 2020-2021 school year.

Sincerely,

Charles K. Garland, Ed.S.
Superintendent

**APPROVED BY THE JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
JULY 21, 2020**

This plan was developed by the administration team of Jasper County Charter System with consideration of Georgia's Path to Recovery for K-12 Schools. The Georgia Department of Education in partnership with the Georgia Department of Public Health developed the "Georgia's Path to Recovery for K-12 Schools" guidance to support districts in planning for the reopening of schools for the 2020-2021 school year. This plan has been made in the interest of keeping all students and staff as safe as possible while providing the best educational experience we can give while in the current situation.

The items listed in this plan are subject to change due to changes in circumstances such as virus spread or guidance from state officials.

Area/Subject	Safety Plan
<p>Traditional Learning/Online Learning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Parents will choose either an online or a traditional setting for students in grades KK-12 by July 31, 2020 so that plans can be made to accommodate online learning. ● Online learning, unless already enrolled in JCVA, must be done <u>off campus</u>. ● Contracts for online learning opportunities will be posted on the Jasper County Charter System webpage www.jasper.k12.ga.us ● Contracts must be fully completed on before July 31, 2020 in order to be considered for placement into online learning. ● The online platform used for implementation will be determined by the volume of participants. ● <u>Students participating in online learning must remain in online learning for at least the nine-week period at the KK-5 level and the semester at the 6-12 level. Parents may choose for students to return to the traditional school setting after the timeframe by contacting the school.</u> ● Expectations for Online Learning will be very similar to traditional school. Assignments must be completed. Grades will reflect work completed and can be negatively impacted if work is not completed. ● All assignments to support online learning should be turned in online when designated by the instructor. ● All assignments to support online learning must meet all submission timelines in order to receive full credit. ● Any student served by the Program of Exceptional Children (PEC) electing the online option will be contacted by PEC staff. ● Pre-K will only offer traditional setting for students. Students must have the capability to access connectivity with the ability to stream video.

Area/Subject	Safety Plan
Temperature Checks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students who do not ride the bus will have their <u>temperature taken upon arrival to school.</u> ● Students who ride the bus with monitors will have <u>their temperature taken before boarding the bus.</u> ● Students who ride the bus without a monitor will have their <u>temperature taken upon arrival to school.</u> ● Staff will have their <u>temperature checked upon arrival to school.</u> ● Any visitors entering the front office will have their <u>temperature checked upon arrival.</u> ● Initial temperature checks will be conducted by touchless thermometers. Individuals who have a temperature of 99.5 degrees or higher will be sent directly to the nurse/health partner to have their temperature rechecked and other assessment will be conducted. Parents will be contacted by the school. ● Temperature screening by school nurse/health partner will be conducted by an oral thermometer to provide the most accurate reading. ● Individuals found to be of fever greater than 100.4 will be sent home. ● If a student is found to be of fever greater than 100.4, it is strongly recommended they seek medical attention.

Area/Subject	Safety Plan
Cafeteria Meals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In an effort to provide social distancing each grade level will rotate days to eat in the classroom or in the cafeteria. For example, two classes of the same grade level will eat in the classroom and the other two will eat in the cafeteria during their assigned lunchtime. ● Parents are encouraged to send money in advance to avoid daily transactions with physical money. My School Bucks can be utilized by parents to electronically pay for student meals ahead of time. ● Disposable utensils and dinnerware will be used. ● To reduce traffic in the cafeteria line, each student will go through the line only once. All extra items will need to be picked up during the first trip through the line. ● Students will sit in same seating arrangement each day in order to contact trace students. ● JCPK students will eat in the classroom (breakfast and lunch). ● JCPS/WPES/JCMS will implement the lunch schedule with approximately 50% of capacity in cafeterias and utilize classrooms to accommodate the rest of the students. Schools will develop their individual schedules based on grade/class configurations. ● JCMS will utilize the gym concession stand and gymnasium in order to provide breakfast for car riders. ● JCHS will operate three lunch periods to promote social distancing. ● JCHS will reduce the number of seats at roundtables from 8 to 3. ● JCHS will utilize gymnasium and other areas to promote social distancing during meal services. ● All schools will utilize directional seating.

Area/Subject	Safety Plan
Facial Coverings	<p>EFFECTIVE AUGUST 4, 2020 THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURES WILL BE IMPLEMENTED.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All employees of the Jasper County Charter System will be required to wear facial covering at all campuses during operational hours. • Students PK-12 riding buses to and from school will be required to wear facial covering at all times while being transported to and from school. • Students in Grades PK-5 will be strongly recommended to wear facial covering during operational hours. • Students in Grades 6-12 will be required to wear facial covering during operational hours. • All stakeholders will be required to wear facial covering after a temperature screening produces a result greater than 99.5 degrees or higher. Facial covering will be worn during the additional health assessment. • Students in Grades PK-5 will be strongly recommended to wear facial covering during operational hours. • During activities, Physical Education, Band and Choral classes will remain socially distanced, as feasible, and not be required to wear facial covering. • Facial covering will be provided to all staff and students during opening day. Students and staff will receive two (2) cloth facial coverings. • Facial shields will be available for faculty and staff. • Facial covering exceptions will be made for individuals with health conditions. • All facial coverings will follow the guidelines set forth by the JCCS dress code policy.

Area/Subject	Safety Plan
Sanitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff in the maintenance and custodial department where appropriate will have schedules adjusted to accommodate increased cleaning procedures during the school day. ● Daily sanitizing techniques will be used on surfaces and objects that are touched often; such as bathrooms, water coolers, desks, countertops, doorknobs, computer keyboards, hands-on learning items, faucet handles, phones and toys throughout the day. ● Sanitation of sports and play equipment will occur between uses, as feasible. ● Disinfectant sprayers will be utilized in classrooms periodically when students are outside the classroom. ● Disinfectant sprayers will be used in gyms and weight rooms between classes. ● Ensure that ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible ● Conduct deep cleaning of schools prior to students/staff returning and schedule additional cleanings during school holidays or breaks.

Area/Subject	Safety Plan
Transitioning to classes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Efforts will be made to limit the number of students transitioning in the same area to the extent possible. ● In hallways where it is possible, a one-direction traffic flow pattern will be established and signs will be posted to indicate this direction. ● Staff will be stationed throughout the building to help insure all students get to their appropriate classroom safely. ● Classroom doors will be opened by staff, as feasible, in order to limit the number of people in contact with door handles. ● Hand sanitizer will be accessible as student’s enter new classroom settings. ● Students will socially distance, as feasible, during transition. ● Students will be directed to report to an area immediately when entering the building. These will be defined by each school as configurations varies.
Classroom Seating/Supplies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students will sit in assigned areas to promote contact tracing. ● Classrooms will be equipped, as feasible, with safety partitions between students. ● Desks will be wiped down, as feasible, as transitions occur with students.

Area/Subject	Safety Plan
Water Fountains	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Water fountains from which individuals drink directly will be turned off. ● Water fountains that are designed for filling of water bottles will be left on. (bottle filling station). ● Students are encouraged to bring a water bottle to fill up at a bottle filling station. ● Schools will designate a time for students to have the opportunity to fill water bottles.

Area/Subject	Safety Plan
Chromebooks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In grades KK-12, each student will be assigned a Chromebook to be used at school. The Chromebook will be housed at a location determined by each school. ● Time will be scheduled at the end of the day to return the device (Grades 3-12). ● If a student checks out early, the device will need to be returned to the appropriate setting before the student leaves. ● Students in grades 6-12 will be offered the opportunity to checkout Chromebooks for use at home. <u>This is not required but strongly encouraged.</u> ● Students and parents must read and sign the JCCS Chromebook 1-to-1 Initiative Parent/Student Handbook and pay the \$30 (non-refundable) user fee before receiving device for home usage. ● Parents may have the opportunity to pay for the device online via My School Bucks. An additional \$5 fee (non-refundable) will be applied due to processing. ● Parents may elect to make installment payments as determined by the school. ● If a student does not comply with the guidelines set forth by the JCCS Chromebook 1-to-1 Initiative Parent/Student Handbook, then they will not be allowed to take device home. The student will be assigned a device for use during the school day.

Area/Subject	Safety Plan
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <u>JCCS strongly recommends students be dropped off and picked up by a parent/guardian, as feasible, due to the difficulty in promoting social distancing on buses.</u> ● <u>MORNING BUS PICKUP-JCCS strongly recommends parent/guardian remain at pick up location for their child until loading. This is in case the student is found to be of fever.</u> ● Students will be assigned seats. ● Siblings will sit together on buses. ● All students will be highly encouraged to wear facial covering while on bus ● On buses with monitors, students will receive a temperature check as they board the bus. On buses without monitors, students will receive temperature check immediately upon arrival to school. ● If parent/guardian is with student at pickup location AND the student is found to be of fever (99.5 degrees or greater) then the student will not be permitted on bus. ● If parent/guardian is not with student at pickup location AND the student is found to be of fever (99.5 degrees or greater) then the student will be placed on bus in a designated area, socially distanced from peers. The student will be required to wear a facial covering during transportation. ● Hand sanitizer will be provided to students upon arrival to school and while boarding for departure. (Pre K will use sanitary wipes in lieu of sanitizer). ● Buses will be wiped down and cleaned after each route.

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Area/Subject	Safety Plan
School Visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● At this time, no visitors or parent volunteers will be allowed in buildings. NO EXCEPTIONS. ● Any outside agencies partnering with JCCS will need prior approval from JCCS administration before entering the building/working with students independently. ● Anyone visiting the school for any reason will have their temperature checked.
Field Trips/Large Group Gatherings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No field trips will be allowed until further notice. ● No large group assemblies will be allowed. (The number considered as a large group will mirror the number provided by state guidance, which is updated periodically.) ● Athletic Events will follow the guidelines established by the Georgia High School Athletic Association (GHSA).
Open House/Student Orientations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pre-k, Primary, and WPES will have an open house for parents and students August 10 ● JCHS will have an open house for 9th grade students/parents and newly registered students/parents August 10. ● JCPS will have Kinder camp (Grade KK) on August 6 and August 7. Students will be notified of the exact date/time. ● JCMS will have 6th grade orientation on August 7 1PM-3PM. ● JCHS will have 9th grade orientation on August 7 @ 6:30 PM. ● Temperatures will be taken of all stakeholders prior to entering the buildings. ● Anyone found to be of fever (99.5 degrees or greater) will not be permitted into the building. ● Parent/Guardian and students attending these three schools will be the only people allowed in each of the buildings. ● Parent/Guardian will be allowed to visit your child's teachers for the current grade level. ● Parent/Guardian nor children will be allowed to visit last year's teacher.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Please see below for a list of the times that you will be invited to your child’s school. If you need to visit more than one school (Pre-K, JCPS, WPES ONLY) then you will have time during that hour to do so. Please use the letter that corresponds with your child’s last name. A-E 9:00-10:00 F-M 10:30-11:30 N-T 1:00-2:00 U-Z 2:30-3:30● If you are not able to attend at one of the times above, then the school will be open for you to meet the principal and pick up back to school packets from 4:30-6:30 pm on this same day. Teachers will not be required to stay during these times.● Parents/Guardians will not be allowed to walk your child to their classroom the first day of school.● Parents will not be able to visit classrooms or eat with their children during school meal times until further notice.● Parents or guardians will not be allowed to bring in food that is purchased or home-made for special events (e.g. birthdays).● Schools will provide additional information regarding open houses and/or orientations, as feasible.
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Area/Subject	Safety Plan
Signage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Signs will be posted in appropriate locations throughout the building reminding students and staff to practice social distancing, frequently wash hands, and other disease prevention measures. ● Signs will also be posted to help individuals gauge spacing for social distancing. ● Directional arrows will be placed in schools, as feasible, to promote social distancing.
District Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students in grades KK-10 will take District MAP Growth assessments to help us better gauge progress and serve students. These assessments will be administered according to the testing calendar. ● District MAP Growth assessments will be administered three times per year. ● Students participating in Online Learning will be scheduled to take the District MAP Growth Assessment on campus at a time when the regular student population is not in attendance. ● Students participating in Online Learning may be scheduled to participate in additional district assessments on campus (depending on grade level) when the regular student population is not in attendance. ● Parents will be given a one (1) week notice before scheduling a District assessment when the regular student population is not in attendance. ● Parents must provide transportation to and from any District assessment scheduled when the regular student population is not in attendance.

Area/Subject	Safety Plan
<p>School Attendance Policies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● During this uncertain time, extra effort will be made to make up assignments missed due to absences to avoid negative impacts to students. ● School Personnel will follow the guidelines established by JCCS Board Policy and Families First Coronavirus Response Act. ● If a student is placed on quarantine due to COVID-19 exposure, assignments will be delivered through various communication resources established by individual schools. These procedures will be established during the first week of school. ● It is VERY important each school has correct updated contact information for each child.
<p>Substitutes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Substitute teacher's/bus drivers/custodians/school nutrition employees will be provided a face covering and will follow the safety plan described in this document. ● Substitute teachers will serve at one location, as feasible, until further notice.