

2021-2022

# Safe Return to In-Person Learning Plan



“Education of Our Children: Top Priority”

# Acknowledgment

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The CMSD Leadership Team developed this plan based on the recommendations and guidance of the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) and Center for Disease Control (CDC) and for the best interest of our students, staff, community and other pertinent stakeholders.

## **Contributing Members of the Reopening Plan**

**Dr. Earl Joe Nelson, Superintendent**

**Dr. Toya Matthews, Assistant Superintendent**

**Dr. Shanta Rhodes, Assistant Superintendent**

**Michael Love, Transportation**

**Amanda Bell, Director of Technology**

**Elizabeth George, Tech Support**

**Wilma McIntosh, Food Service Director**

# Safe Return to In-Person Learning

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As Clarksdale Municipal School District plans for the 2021-2022 school year, we know that we must be prepared to provide the excellent education that our community expects. This plan contains guidelines for parents and school officials, and it is built within the framework of considerations issued by the Centers for Disease Control, the Mississippi State Department of Health, and the Mississippi Department of Education. CMSD's top priority has and always will be the safety and well-being of our students, families and staff.

CMSD is committed to opening school with guidelines that prioritize public health and that protect our students and staff to the greatest extent possible. Input was gathered and considered from staff, parents, and community through the use of a survey.

School districts face the challenge of implementing plans that will not be ideal for everyone. Every family situation is unique, and district officials are committed to providing the best educational experience possible for students under the current circumstances.

*Clarksdale Municipal School District will return to in-person (traditional), instruction during the 2021-2022 school year. However, an alternate virtual learning option will be offered to students with a qualifying medical diagnosis/medically fragile with a doctor's recommendation. Virtual learning will allow students to remain enrolled at CMSD while receiving teacher-facilitated online instruction.*

## Disclaimer

All plans are fluid and may change with updated guidance or changes in the number of cases in the local area. The information listed below will be re-evaluated and changed as new guidance is released from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Mississippi Department of Health (MSDH), Mississippi Department of Education (MDE), and the Office of the Governor.

The Reopening Plan will be reviewed every 3-6 months through September 30, 2023, and will seek public input on the plan and any revisions, and must take such input into account.

# Section 1: Academics



Clarksdale Municipal School District will provide a safe learning environment to all staff and students. We will continue to provide high quality instruction, maintain high academic expectations, and focus on impacting student achievement. In addition to high quality instruction, research-based intensive interventions, will continue be implemented this school year.

## **Extended Day Learning**

We will offer Level Up After School tutoring in the fall and spring. Opportunities for Saturday School Boot Camp will be available. R.I.S.E Up Summer Remediation will be offered this Summer 2021 and Summer 2022.

## **Assessments**

All students will be required to participate in all assessments on campus, including those participating in the Virtual Learning option. Universal screeners and state assessments are required by the Mississippi Department of Education and/or state law. Benchmark assessments and other assessments due to the student's classes or grade is necessary. These assessments will be completed at home if possible. Details regarding these assessments will be discussed with guardians when they become available. Safety for the students will be the top priority.

## **Social-Emotional Learning & Other Needs**

The Clarksdale Municipal School District will continue to utilize our school counselors and social workers. We currently have agreements with our local mental health agency to ensure our students have access to appropriate supports. We will be implementing a districtwide SEL curriculum for grades K-12 to provide equitable and adequate educational opportunities that will address the issues brought about due to COVID-19. We will implement evidence-based practices that will maximize students' social, emotional, and academic needs.

## **Special Education Services**

A free, appropriate, public education (FAPE) will be provided in the least restrictive environment (LRE) to all students with disabilities during in-person and/or virtual delivery of services. Individual programming is based on the students' IEP goals as well as the consideration of the health and safety of students and staff. Service delivery, including the use of assistive technology, is determined by the IEP Committee, to include high quality parental engagement, on a case by case basis.

## **Extracurricular Activities**

CMSD will follow the guidance of Mississippi High School Athletic Association, MDE, and the MSDH in reference to all extracurricular activities.

# CMSD Virtual Academy

The Clarksdale Municipal School District Virtual Academy is intended to assure that the students in the district have an equitable educational experience amid uncertainty with the COVID19 Pandemic. Its mission is to assure that all students, no matter internet capability or method of school attendance, are receiving quality instructional opportunities. The goals of the CMSD Virtual Academy are:

1. To Assure that all students have access to quality instruction
2. To monitor student progress towards standards achievement
3. To provide students and parents with assistance and support

The Clarksdale Municipal School District Virtual Academy will consist of virtual learning through the implementation of synchronous and asynchronous learning for students with online access.

## **Virtual Learning**

- For the Fall 2021 semester, an alternate virtual learning option will be offered to medically fragile students with a doctor's recommendation.
- Students will be required to complete school work during normal school hours. If work is not completed during this time, students will be counted absent.
- It is recommended that an adult be home during the school day to monitor the student while completing coursework.
- District officials will work closely with Mississippi Department of Education truancy officers to monitor attendance.
- Virtual learning will be the primary method of working towards competency in a grade level and/or content area.
- Adequate Internet Services is a must because Instructional paper packets will not be used to deliver instruction. Instructional packets will be used as an instructional resource/material.
- Mi-fi devices will be provided for students who are in need of Internet services.
- Students will use the district approved online learning management system.
- Virtual learning students will follow the academic calendar approved by the school board. Classes will start on the first student day in August 2020 and end on the last student day in the spring of 2021
- Attendance will be taken in accordance with the Mississippi Department of Education's attendance guidelines regarding distance learning.
- Students must maintain a 95% average daily attendance
- Students must maintain a C average.

## Section 2: Operations

### Transportation

#### Transportation protocols for students (car riders)

Each school will establish protocols for no-contact pick-up and drop off times. Students will be required to get in and out of their cars independently and prevent parents from walking students in the buildings. Our families will be encouraged to assign one person (if possible) who is not high risk to consistently pick-up and drop off their child each day.

#### Bus protocols for students

The CMSD bus fleet will adhere to social distancing guidelines while transporting students. This will reduce the capacity of our buses tremendously. Bus capacity will be limited to 30 students. One student per seat and each student will sit by the window of their seat. Routes will be modified to accommodate social distancing protocols. Our transportation department will ensure cleaning protocols are conducted daily after routes are completed. These protocols are subject to changed based on revised guidance from the Mississippi Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control. The district will develop procedures to address procedures for students who have underlying health issues.



## Food Services

- ❖ The CMSD Food Service Department will follow the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the Mississippi Department of Health Guidelines to provide nutritious meals for our students. Personal protective gear will be worn by staff while delivering meals and social distancing will be followed at all times.
- ❖ Lunch for all schools will be delivered to the classrooms by the cafeteria staff. Portable insulated serving bags will be used to ensure the safe delivery of foods to students.
- ❖ Meals will be sent home with students on the days they are not required to report to school. Instructions for storing and preparing food will also be sent home with students.
- ❖ If students attend virtually, parents will be allowed to come to the school to pick up a waiver to receive their child/ren (s) meal (s).
- ❖ If students enrolled do not have transportation to come and get meals, buses and cafeteria staff will deliver meals. Routes will be developed to canvas the city for our students to safely and conveniently get meals.  
Cafeteria staff will be on buses to deliver meals.
- ❖ Meals will be delivered and/or transported based on the start and end time for each school. Additional information regarding protocol and scheduled times for transporting meals will be developed.



## Section 3: Health & Safety

The Clarksdale Municipal School District will continuously focus on the health and safety of our schools. The following measures will be implemented:

- School nurses will be available in our district to support health needs
- All employees will be trained on CDC guidance to reduce the likelihood of COVID-19 transmission
- Daily screenings will be conducted for employees and students
- Face masks will be required for everyone entering the buildings
- Hand sanitizer and soap will be available and used throughout the day
- Social distancing will be mandated in areas that are high traffic areas.

All employees, students, visitors, and vendors will be required to be screened upon entering any facility of the Clarksdale Municipal School District. Each school/facility will have teams designated at each entry point. COVID-19 signage will be posted throughout the building for reference.

- All people entering the building will be undergo the same screening.
- All will be asked if they are experiencing any symptoms and the entry form will be completed
  - If anyone is experiencing any symptoms, they will be isolated, sent home, and referred for medical care, if needed.
  - Those individuals who respond “no” will be forwarded to temperature screening
- All individuals not experiencing symptoms and meet temperature screening standards (under 100 degrees) will be allowed to proceed.

COVID-19 has worsened the inequities and inadequacies in our educational system. CMSD recognizes the need to improve our current infrastructure to mitigate the risk of virus transmission. To improve the air quality in our buildings, dated mechanical systems will need to be replaced. Some of the mechanical systems will need to have duct work replaced and/or cleaned. Funds will be used to ensure our schools are able to have healthy, clean air flowing throughout our buildings.

## Protocols

### Protocols for Employees

All CMSD employees will be required to complete the COVID-19 Wellness questionnaire daily. Any employee with a temperature  $\geq 100$  and/or any other symptoms will be sent home and referred to seek medical treatment. If employees have underlying health conditions, each case will be presented to the Superintendent to determine the best options for these employees. The district will develop procedures to address issues related to teachers and other staff at higher risk of serious illness.

### Protocols for Visitors

Visitation will be limited to visitors who have scheduled appointments. All visitors must wear masks when entering a CMSD building/facility. Virtual meetings will be conducted when possible in addition to sending emails or contacting the school or district office by telephone.

### Social Distancing Protocols

Social distancing will be mandatory in all CMSD facilities. All students and staff will be required to remain 6 feet apart. This applies to classrooms, offices, hallways, cafeterias, restrooms, teacher work rooms, gymnasiums, libraries, staff meetings, bus lines, and dismissal lines.

Classrooms and office spaces will be configured and marked with tape to ensure 3 feet of space is between students and staff members. Signage will be placed throughout the buildings to remind students and staff of how-to social distance. Movement throughout the buildings will be minimized to every extent possible to control student contact with those outside of their classrooms.

All meetings (parent and teacher) will be held virtually unless a face-to-face meeting is unavoidable. If a meeting must be face-to-face, it must be scheduled in advance and social distance must be followed. There will be a limit of 5 people for any parent meetings if required to be face-to-face.

### **Isolation Protocols**

Each school will have a designated isolation area for students and staff who experience COVID-19 symptoms upon entering the building or while school is in session. These rooms will always be supervised, stocked with sanitizer, masks, and sanitized thoroughly daily.

Students and employees must self-quarantine if they test positive for COVID-19 or exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 based on CDC guidance:

- Fever of 100° F or greater
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Loss of taste or smell
- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea

The following protocol will be followed if a student or staff member should become ill while at school.

- Immediately isolate the student and/or staff member
- Contact the district nurse to report suspected and/or possible exposure to COVID-19
- The school nurse will investigate and complete a COVID-19 report form

Any area in the building in which the student or employee was present will be closed for immediate cleaning and disinfection. Any impacted students, staff, and parents will be notified of any closures and/or possible exposures.

### **Personal Protective Protocols**

All employees, students, visitors, and vendors are required to wear masks that covers both the nose and mouth throughout the school day while in the school facilities. Masks will be provided to employees and students if they do not have one. Visitors and vendors must come with their own personal protective equipment. Acceptable masks include both district-issued and personal masks, including face shields, disposable masks, homemade masks, handkerchiefs, a scarf.

Each K-12th class will have protective plexiglass dividers and desk guards for the student tables/desks. Each classroom will be equipped with an air purifier to clean the air and surfaces in the classroom.

### **Hygiene Signage**

Signage outlining hygiene tips and best practices will be posted throughout each building. All employees and students of CMSD will be required to follow guidelines outlined by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. All individuals will be required to wash and sanitize their hands using soap and water and/or hand sanitizer containing at least 60 percent alcohol. Hands must be washed for at least 20 seconds. Staff and students must

cover their coughs and sneezes and wash their hands immediately with soap and water. Staff and students will not be allowed to share materials, supplies, or equipment. This includes pencils, markers, books, scissors, and other instructional supplies. If sharing is inevitable, the items being shared must be sanitized by the student sharing the specific supply and the student who is receiving the supply. This must be monitored by the teacher and/or teacher assistant.

## Section 4: Technology

The Clarksdale Municipal School District has utilized Google Classroom/Meet as the Learning Management System for virtual learning.

CMSD will do the following:

- Continue to use Google Classroom/Meet platform as well as other online learning and accelerated learning platforms.
- Continue technology PD sessions offered based on needs assessment
- Elevating use of Google Suite in the classroom to increase rigor and student engagement.
- In person PD sessions with teachers/staff that include teachers creating a product to demonstrate their mastery and can be used in the classroom.
- Continue partnering with FriEDTech to assist with technology integration and hybrid learning to support all technical platforms (PCs, Mobile Devices, ClearTouch Boards, etc).
- Implement/train staff on use of Classroom Management System

In the spring of 2021, instructional staff and administrators across the district completed our BrightBytes technology survey to provide feedback on their use of technology in the classroom, access to technology, technology skills, and the environment of the school and district around technology use for learning. The feedback from the responses helped us identify the areas of greatest need for teachers for the district as well as each individual school.

Feedback from grade/subject area meetings were obtained. The feedback from the surveys and in-person meetings with teachers will be used to guide the support that is offered to teachers throughout the summer and the beginning of the school year.

The BrightBytes Survey will be re-administered at the end of August or early September to determine the most current technology professional development and guide the support offered to teachers to ensure both in-person and virtual learning lessons are engaging and supportive for teachers and students.

# Family Support

- (1) Redesign Parent Portal on Website
  - a. Video Library via Google Sites and YouTube Channel
  - b. Links to Resources for Internet Services, online tutorials, and educational games
  - c. Document Library (lessons, supporting documentation, supplemental programs, etc.)
  - d. Schedule to Support Working parents (virtual)
  - e. Digital Textbook Training for Students and Parents
- (2) Google Training and Support for Parents and Students (Recorded Virtual Training) (not limited to the following)
  - a. The Clever Portal (Single Sign-On for Users as well as integrated parent portal for ease of use)
  - b. Using your Smartphone as a PC
  - c. Using Google Classroom (Learning Management System) and Google Meet
  - d. Using Active Parent and Active Student
  - e. Using Google Apps for Education Suite (Docs, Drive, Sheets, Drive, Forms)
  - f. Classroom Management System (Attendance Tracking)
- (3) Device Distribution Training and Support
- (4) Acceptable Use Policies and Procedures
- (5) District 1:1 Device Policies for Staff, Parents, and Students
- (6) Videoconferencing Consent Policy
- (7) Parent and Student Hotline/Helpdesk Support
  - a. Multi-Tiered Level of Tech Support
    - i. Do It Yourself (DIY) Videos
    - ii. Remote Technology Services
    - iii. Call in Helpdesk hotlines (After works hotline 5-9) using Google Voice and Google Meet sessions via Calendly.
    - iv. Point of Contact for Each School
- (8) Provide WIFI access maps for Parents and Students on district websites
- (9) Creating and sending weekly, bi-weekly or monthly newsletters
- (10) Device Filtering, Monitoring, and Compliance with Parent Portal

## Section 5: Communication

CMSD is committed to educating parents, students, staff, and stakeholders about the CMSD Reopening Plan for the 2021-2022 school year. Our plan along with all updates will be placed on our district website and social media accounts. Our plan will be translated in other languages such as Arabic and Spanish for our parents of students who do not speak English. We will communicate using our Social Media Pages, SAM7, our student administrator software, School Status, and emails to send messages to parents.

Frequent and ongoing communication will ensure parents, students, staff, and stakeholders feel comfortable with our schools reopening. Our district will continue to partner with local public health officials and government officials to collect accurate data for our decision-making processes. Additionally, CMSD will work to contact parents immediately via the various communication channels of any school closures or COVID-19 related issues. We will develop, review, and revise board policies and procedures to ensure that staff and students are safe and we are providing an equitable work and academic environment as we plan to re-open schools for the 2021-2022 school year.

If and/or when there is a confirmed COVID-19 case in a school building, CMSD will contact our local health department immediately. We will notify parents, students, and employees to inform them of the confirmed case of COVID-19 and encourage them to cooperate with the district and health department. The individual(s) who is positive will not be identified in any communication to the district or community.

**District Website**      [www.cmsdschools.org](http://www.cmsdschools.org)

**District Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/cmsdSchools/>

**Email**                      [cmsdhelpline@cmsd.k12.ms.us](mailto:cmsdhelpline@cmsd.k12.ms.us)

**Phone**                      **(662) 627-8500**

