

How was the decision made to open schools under Plan B?

On July 14, school districts across North Carolina received Governor's Cooper's decision to open schools in August under Plan B. Our work at New Hanover County Schools was already well under way to prepare for all three Plans A, B, and C, and now we are redoubling our efforts to prepare for a meaningful and successful year for all of our students under Plan B.

What is New Hanover County Schools opening plan under Plan B?

Plan B - Moderate Social Distancing

- Under Plan B in New Hanover County Schools:
- All Pre-K-12 students will attend face-to-face instruction on an alternating three-week schedule.
- Students will be assigned to groups (1, 2 or 3). Siblings will be in the same groups. Groups will attend school in an ongoing rotation by attending school in person for one week and receiving online instruction for two weeks.
- The district recognizes there some students with global delays who, by the nature of their disabling condition, have not demonstrated the capacity to gain meaning from remote learning models. For these students, expanded in-person services may be offered.
- English learners (newcomers) in their first 2 years of instruction will attend daily.
- A full K-12 school-based virtual academy through the student's home school will be provided for families who selected home learning for their student.

What is NHCS doing to prepare for school opening?

The health and safety of our students and staff are our top priority, and we have operations and health work groups establishing protocols related to health screening on buses, at schools, social distancing and traffic flow in buildings, meal service, cleaning and disinfecting procedures, and more.

Equally important is the delivery of challenging and engaging remote and face-to-face learning experiences for all students. Our teaching and learning work group is establishing instruction and device deployment plans to provide access and support for all students in all learning environments.

As we open, remote learning will be provided through school based virtual academies. In the long term, the district will be working to establish a virtual school.

How can families have input on school opening decisions?

In the next week, the district will be providing staff and families with a guide to school opening and a school based survey for families to communicate their decisions regarding the return to school in August.

This survey follows a high level survey assessment of gross trends conducted by the district last week. Those results are being posted to the district website. This second survey will allow families to communicate directly with their school. Survey participation is vital to the district's efforts to plan effectively for the coming year and we urge all families to participate.