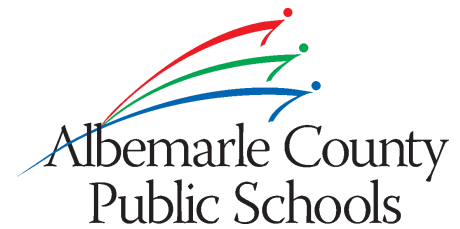


Instructional Plan for 2020-21



Introduction

This instructional plan presents information, including links to web content and external documents, addressing the processes and infrastructure supporting the efforts we are making to ensure a safe return to learn for 14,000+ students during the COVID-19 pandemic.

At their meeting on July 30, 2020, the Albemarle County School Board reviewed a staged approach to opening Albemarle County Public Schools (ACPS) for the 2020-21 school year. The board considered five stages ranging from a fully virtual model to a return to in-person learning for all, and ultimately approved starting school on September 8, 2020, in Stage 2, which includes virtual learning for most students and in-person access for a limited number of students.

Details about our stages of returning, including information about the transition between stages, are available on our [Stages of Returning](#) web page. This web page is part of our [Return to School](#) website, which includes a wealth of information, guidance and resources for families and employees related to our transition to the 2020-21 school year.

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Stage 2: Virtual Learning for Most + In-Person Access for a Limited Number of Students

Under Stage 2:

- ACPS will deliver instruction virtually to the majority of students.
- ACPS will offer optional in-person access to buildings to a limited number of students, including:
 - Students without internet access or limited access that we cannot improve
 - Students with special needs who cannot access the curriculum virtually as determined by their Individual Education Plan (IEP)
 - English Learners in Grades 4-12 at WIDA Level 1 (entering English) or Level 2 (emergent bilingual)
- ACPS will not offer athletics or in-person extracurricular activities.
- Students who return to school through in-person access to school buildings will be arranged in small learning groups (“pods”) of 10 or fewer and will be provided with a learning coach who will assist with the virtual experience as prescribed by the student’s teacher(s).

Operational Infrastructure to Support Learning

In early May 2020, ACPS convened a “Return to School Task Force” to craft initial guidance to support a safe and welcoming return to school for students, teachers, support staff, and visitors. The [Return to School Planning Guide](#) is the collaborative product of that work. The guide, which was finalized on June 26, 2020, provides a framework to guide the division’s ongoing and comprehensive planning efforts to safely, successfully and equitably reopen our schools in alignment with guidance we receive from public health officials and the Virginia Department of Education. The four focus areas addressed by the guide include healthy environments, healthy staff, healthy students, and healthy learning.

Supporting Virtual Learning

The following resources provide recommendations for how to maximize synchronous and asynchronous learning time with a focus on relationships, active engagement, differentiation, and building students’ agency in a virtual environment:

- [K-5 Recommendations for Synchronous & Asynchronous Learning](#)
- [Secondary Recommendations for Synchronous & Asynchronous Learning](#)

New & Equitable Instruction for All Students

We continue planning to provide new instruction to all students equitably, with a focus on meeting the learning needs of all students and attention to vulnerable and special populations. Special populations include, but are not limited to, students with disabilities; economically disadvantaged students; English Learners; students who disconnected from school during the spring 2020 closure; students already identified as being part of a gap group; young learners; and gifted students.

preparing teachers through professional development; robust family engagement; and communication with stakeholders.

ACPS focus for the upcoming start of school has been to assist teachers in planning for student learning when students return to school. To that end, ACPS has done the following:

- Published a [Virtual Learning: Then and Now](#) web page that provides a side-by-side comparison of the virtual learning experience from this past spring and the virtual instruction planned for the 2020-21 school year.
- Presented [Return to School Planning Update: Stages of Returning](#) to the School Board on July 30, including details on our Stages of Returning (Slides 16-29); and Professional Development (Slides 42-44).
- Presented [Return to School - Virtual Style](#) to the School Board on August 27, including schedules for each grade band and information regarding learning management systems.

Identification of Instructional Gaps and Student Needs

The division continues to plan for identification of learning needs through formative assessment; supports for student success and well-being; revisions to curriculum; pacing; and instructional delivery.

Remote Learning

Our [Stages of Returning](#) web page explains that the school board's decision to open the 2020-21 school year in Stage 2 applies for the first quarter (first nine-week period) of the school year, from September 8 to November 6. Halfway through this period, the superintendent will make a recommendation to the school board for the second quarter (second nine-week period) that begins on November 9.

Four-and-a-half weeks prior to the end of each quarter, the superintendent will recommend to the school board whether the school division should stay in Stage 2 or progress to the next stage for the coming quarter. As part of this recommendation, the superintendent may make changes to the details of each stage.

Any shift in the division's stage of operation would go into effect at the beginning of each quarter, unless it is necessary to revert to a previous, lower stage—a move that could occur sooner if needed.

Should further closures become necessary and ACPS must move to a Stage 1 approach (no students in buildings), the division, by beginning with a virtual learning plan will be equipped to continue learning no matter the health of the community.

Child Care for School Aged Children

ACPS is in the process of developing a program to provide child care for our teachers and classified staff when schools reopen on September 8. We have so far determined the following:

- The ACPS child care program will operate Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. only as long as virtual learning is the primary form of instruction for ACPS students.
- Children aged 4-12 are eligible for the program. Residency in Albemarle County is not required, and children do not need to be ACPS students.
- Child care will be offered at select school sites, based on need. (We need to serve a minimum number of children to justify a location.)
- The program will provide age-appropriate educational enrichment activities and permit students to access their virtual learning assignments and curriculum; however, child care staff are not expected to serve in a teaching role. Students should bring their school-issued remote learning devices and appropriate school supplies.
- The program will implement health and safety guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Virginia Department of Social Services.

We anticipate that child care will be provided by our Extended Day Enrichment Program (EDEP) staff and Special Education teaching assistants; however, we are still in the process of surveying these employees about their availability to staff the program.

Our ability to staff the program will determine the number of students we are able to serve, the locations we are able to offer, and the cost of the program.