



Blueprint for Reopening School 2021-2022 School Year



**Tupelo Public School District
August 2021**

Introduction

The Tupelo Public School District has partnered with the Mississippi Department of Education to develop a plan for reopening schools in August in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The first day of school for all students is August 4.

This plan has been developed based on MDE, MDH, and MHSAA guidance in accordance with CDC considerations for opening schools at this point in time. Should any changes occur in regard to these agencies' guidance, the CDC's considerations for reopening schools, or the conditions of the COVID-19 virus, TPSD will make the necessary adjustments to our plan. We will keep parents updated and informed of any revisions.

The issues involved with reopening schools are divided into four topics:

1
Instruction

2
Technology

3
Health and Safety

4
Operations



Instruction



Traditional Schedule

Requires students to be physically present in school.



Virtual Schedule

Available to 7-12 students only but will be provided to k-12 students who are quarantined or when schools are closed.

K-2 students in the traditional schedule will have self-contained classrooms with no team teaching and approximately 20 students in a class. Lawhon 2nd grade will utilize team teaching.

3-5 students in the traditional schedule will also have self-contained classrooms, but team teaching will be incorporated with teachers moving from class to class and approximately 24 students in a class.

7-12 parents who choose the traditional schedule will follow a normal schedule. Schedules will be created to minimize transition times between classes and facilitate controlled arrival and dismissal times. Virtual Students will be required to meet specifications of high school and middle school.



Guiding Principles

Goals

- Maintain a safe and healthy learning environment for staff and students and keep schools open all year.
- Reopen schools in August with as close to possible a return to normal activities.
- Maintain our emphasis on a rigorous curriculum and instruction to increase student achievement for all students.

Parameters

- Establish clearly defined protocols for students and staff who are sick or who have been exposed to the COVID-19 virus. Develop expectations for sanitation efforts in high touch areas and janitorial services.
- Maintain an emphasis on the individualized learning needs of students with structured systems of support.



Instruction

- Provide copies of textbooks/workbooks to be used at home and school.
- Make available digital resources that accompany text and support Tier II and Tier III interventions.
- Provide early diagnostic screenings to determine student readiness for grade level instruction (adjusting plans to accommodate as needed).
- Modify pacing guides and scope and sequence to reflect more instruction for essential and foundational standards (adjusting as data shows need).
- Provide school supplies for each student.
- Follow current grading policies for TPSD, refer to policy IHA—Grading System.
- Follow current promotion and retention policies for TPSD, refer to policy IHE—Promotion and Retention.
- Dedicate district website page for parents related to academics and resources from MDE.
- Develop a master schedule that will balance class numbers as much as possible.
- Provide controlled small group work or partner interactions in class.
- Provide special education services through the IEP process due to the highly individualized nature of supports and accommodations.
- Separate student seating where feasible to provide for social distancing.
- Utilize baseline data for reading and math to determine instructional gaps and plan accordingly for interventions utilizing the MTSS process.
- Update Curriculum maps to allow opportunities for spiral review. Teachers will utilize the curriculum maps to guide instruction.



Technology

Upgrade technology so every child has equitable access to online curriculum.

- Chromebooks for every student – TPSD will provide a reliable Chromebook for every K-12 student.
- Chromebook Chargers – We will have two different models of Chromebooks for the district.
- CANVAS – TPSD will provide CANVAS (Learning Management System) for every teacher at TPSD. CANVAS is a very robust, 21st-century blended platform that provides flexible learning. This will be a one-stop shop with consistent student, parent and teacher access for all communication, instruction and feedback.
- Tech Support Protocols – We will establish a system to address questions/concerns from parents.
 - Extend internet WIFI access to one parking lot at each school for district issued devices.



Health and Safety

- Retain nurses so each school has a designated medical professional.
- Equip schools and buses with adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene.
- Provide touchless hand soap and hand sanitizer machines and touchless sinks and toilets.
- Provide professional development in the area of social/emotional support.
- Include instruction on proper hygiene to minimize virus spread.
- Post signage in high traffic areas to communicate how to stop the spread of COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols.
- Ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible.
- Create process for parent visits (scheduled office visit, no walking students to classrooms or visits).
- Continue CHAMPS at the K-5 schools.
- Utilize a school culture development program such as Capturing Kids' Hearts at the 6-12 level.
- Continue conducting temperature screenings.
- Parents are requested to take their child's temperature daily prior to sending them to school. If their child has a temperature of 100 degrees or higher, they must be kept home until fever free for 24 hours **without fever reducing medicine.**



Operations

- Schedule and communicate open houses.
- Ensure facilities are safe and aligned to the CDC guidelines.
- Implement safety protocols in the area of food service:
 - Allow hand washing and the use of hand sanitizer machines before and after meals, using disposable plates and utensils.
 - Create cafeteria procedures to ensure compliance with social distancing guidelines where feasible.
 - Designate entry and exit paths in the cafeteria.
 - Conduct cleaning throughout the day.
 - Gloves are required to be worn by staff while preparing and serving food.
 - Food and Nutrition staff at the school site will work with district Food and Nutrition staff and school staff to ensure students with allergies or special needs related to meal service are identified and receive appropriate meals.
 - Food and Nutrition school site staff will clean and sanitize all serving areas and/or serving carts.



Operations

- Implement safety protocols in the area of transportation:
 - Provide hand sanitizer for drivers and students.
- Sick Bus Cleaning Procedures
 - Remove bus from service until it has been deep cleaned and disinfected.
 - Sanitize the bus using disinfecting machines.
 - Receive approval from the Director or designee before bus returns to service.



Operations

- Implement safety protocols in buildings.
 - Clean high-touch areas throughout each school before the opening of school and each day when school starts.
 - Increase hand sanitizers.
 - Maintain janitorial staff and cleaning during the day.
 - Purchase additional equipment for disinfecting classrooms/playgrounds.
 - Reduce the number of students entering and using the restroom facilities at one time to ensure social distancing.



Frequently Asked Questions

- **Attendance** – TPSD will take attendance when students are in the building AND when students receive instruction via virtual learning .
- **Virtual Learning Option** – Grades 7-12 students ONLY will have an option to attend school virtually.
- **Intermittent Closures** – Due to possible outbreaks or inclement weather, the superintendent may be required to close a school or schools to prevent further spread. Students will receive instruction online during these closures.
- **Grades** – TPSD will grade work submitted through CANVAS when students are receiving instruction online or in the building.
- **Masks/Face Shields** – Students and staff will not be asked to wear masks/shields unless directed by Executive Order.
- **Visitors & Volunteers** – TPSD will establish a protocol for visitors: calling front office before entering and screening visitors where feasible.
- **Breakfast & Lunch** – Breakfast and lunch will be served in the cafeteria.
- **Water Fountains** – A bottle of water will be provided with lunch and breakfast. Students may bring water from home. Touchless water fountains will be installed.
- **Class Size & Design** – On average, there will be 20-24 students in K-5 classrooms and 25 students in 6-12 classrooms. The classroom design will be primarily whole group and facing the front of the classroom to achieve social distancing recommendations where feasible.
- **Accommodations** – Due to the highly individualized nature of accommodations, all services will be managed through the IEP/504 process



Frequently Asked Questions

- **Backpacks** – Backpacks will be allowed.
- **Lunch Boxes & Purses** – Lunch boxes and purses will be allowed. All previous rules from school handbooks regarding lunch boxes and purses will apply.
- **First Day of School** – Students will be supported by school staff to get to their classrooms. (Parents of K-2 students may walk students to class.)
- **Lockers** – Student lockers will not be used.
- **Recess** – Each site administrator will develop a plan for recess that allows for a reduced number of students in any one location at the same time, to the extent feasible.
- **Open House & Parent Teacher Conferences** – We will conduct in person open houses in August.
- **School Day** – We will return to 330 minutes of instruction daily. School will end at 3:00/3:15.

