

## **Paulding County Opportunity School (Western Buckeye ESC) 2021-2022 Opening Plan**

We are looking forward to the start of the 2021-2022 school year. In much the same manner as we approached the start of last school year, Paulding County Opportunity School (Western Buckeye ESC) is reviewing the health and safety recommendations and guidelines from ODH and ODE as we prepare for our staff and students to return to school. **Paulding County Opportunity School (Western Buckeye ESC) is planning to provide in-person learning for all students at our campus.** We will continue to address the same five key areas we did last school year to make certain all staff and students are in a safe and healthy environment while at school. These areas are: assessing symptoms, hand washing, sanitation of facilities, practicing social distancing, and face coverings. Our 2021-2022 Opening Plan addresses each of those five areas in detail. Health, safety, and providing a quality education to our students are the three vital, determining factors in the decisions we make.

Listed below are the ways in which we will be addressing the five key areas referenced above:

### ASSESSING SYMPTOMS:

- All students, caregivers, and staff are asked to monitor their health before departing for school each day. Anyone showing symptoms or with a temperature over 100 is asked to stay home.
- Staff members will NOT be conducting temperature checks as students enter buildings, classrooms, or school buses.
- Temperature checks will only be administered if a student has already arrived at school and reports that he/she is not feeling well.
- We expect parents/guardians to administer temperature checks before sending their child(ren) to school.
- Parents are expected to keep any child home if he/she is sick or displays any symptoms of illness

### HAND WASHING:

- All students and staff will be provided time throughout the day to wash their hands.
- Extra hand-hygiene stations will be available throughout the district.
- Studies show that hand washing is the most effective way to eliminate germs; therefore, students will receive increased opportunities and promptings to wash their hands.
- Sharing materials among students will be eliminated wherever possible.

### SANITATION OF FACILITIES:

- All buildings, classrooms, offices and buses will receive regular cleaning and disinfecting to promote healthy environments. Frequently touched surfaces, door knobs, handrails, etc. will receive special attention.

### PRACTICING SOCIAL DISTANCING:

- In the school setting, social distancing for students at times may be difficult due to class sizes, space constraints, and available resources. School personnel will do their best to accommodate social distancing guidelines.

#### FACE COVERINGS:

- The federal, state and local health departments recommend and encourage everyone to wear face coverings when indoors or where social distancing is not possible.
- Students and staff may choose to wear face coverings; however, face coverings will NOT be mandated in our school buildings.
- The CDC continues to require that masks be worn on all public transportation, including school buses. All students and staff utilizing the district transportation will be required to wear face coverings while on the bus/van. This requirement is regardless of vaccination status and students are to comply without arguing with the bus driver.

Paulding County Opportunity School (Western Buckeye ESC) is also providing the following information to make certain our stakeholders are informed in regard to the 2021-2022 Opening Plan:

#### 2021-2022 SCHOOL CALENDAR:

- We will NOT plan to adjust the 2021-2022 school calendar unless deemed absolutely necessary by public health authorities.
- The first student day will be Wednesday, August 18, 2021.

#### ALTERNATE EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS:

- At this time, we plan to operate with all middle and high school students on campus receiving face-to-face instruction.
- An online learning platform (i.e. NOVA) is NOT an option for our middle school students at this time.
- High School students will need to work with their guidance counselors for learning opportunities available to them, if interested.

#### PHYS.ED., RECESS AND VISUAL/PERFORMING ARTS:

- Health professionals agree that all individuals need physical activity and encourage increased time outdoors, when possible.
- All physical education, recess, and visual/performing arts classes (band, music, art, choir, etc.) will resume normal classroom activities, with as much distance provided for all individuals as possible given the nature of the activity.

#### LUNCH PROCEDURES:

- Students will eat lunch in the Paulding MS/HS cafeteria/other areas with one another.
- Students will sit near each other in the cafeteria/other area setting.
- The school lunch program will continue to be offered daily.
- As always, students are permitted to bring a packed lunch from home.

- Note: According to the federal guidelines all students will continue to receive breakfast and lunch free of charge.

#### VISITORS AND VOLUNTEERS:

- All visitors and volunteers will once again be kept to a minimum.

#### TRANSPORTATION:

- Many of our students take advantage of their member school's transportation which will continue to be provided to all students in grades PK-12. The member school will continue to run our normal routes to Paulding County Opportunity School each morning and evening.
- Students will be sitting side-by side.
- Students may be required to wear face coverings on the bus.
- Parents may choose to transport their child(ren) to/from school daily if they prefer not to use bus transportation provided by the member district. It will be expected that established drop-off/pick-up routines be followed by all.
- Transportation for athletes to/from contests will be provided by the member school district.
- Bus drivers will be required to wear face coverings while driving, if wearing such does not impede them from safely operating the bus.
- Bus drivers will sanitize their bus immediately following each route or trip.

In closing, we assure you that Paulding County Opportunity School (Western Buckeye ESC) will do everything possible to decrease the risks associated with contracting COVID-19, as well as any other virus, illness, or disease. We understand sending your child to school in the midst of a health pandemic is a family decision not to be taken lightly. Ultimately, we are tasked with providing the best educational setting and opportunities available for children; and in turn, we need our parents to support these efforts and to send their child(ren) to school. Thank you for your patience as we continue to forge ahead in this new era of student safety and education.