



ATHENS CITY SCHOOLS

# ROADMAP TO REOPENING

2020-2021 SY

---

LAST UPDATED 07.16.2020



# WE ARE READY

School in the time of COVID-19 is a unique challenge. Athens City Schools is committed to providing the best educational opportunities and experiences possible to every student, every day, no matter what.

## WELCOME BACK!

Athens City Schools is excited to begin the 2020-2021 school year! We know many challenges lie ahead, and we look forward to working through those with our school community and providing a safe and instructionally sound plan for reopening Athens City Schools.

This roadmap serves as a guide that will require updates and revisions throughout the school year. This guide is organized into three main sections of information:

- **Wellness**
- **Operations and Facilities**
- **Instruction (Traditional and Remote)**

Local decision making will be influenced by four levels of COVID-19 spread in the community. To learn more, review the Alabama Department of Public Health's Public Health Guidance for Reopening.



*Our mission*

is to be a progressive, high-quality school system that connects students and their families to a caring, traditional community.



## WELLNESS

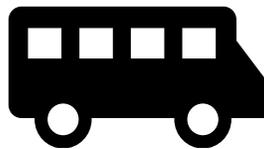
Athens City Schools will implement a screening continuum and other mitigating strategies to reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection and transmission.

### SCREENING CONTINUUM FOR STUDENTS



1

#### HOME



2

#### TRANSPORTATION



3

#### SCHOOL

- Parents should monitor for fever and COVID-19 symptoms.
- Students with a fever of 100.4 or greater must not come to school, and must be fever free for at least 72 hours without the use of fever reducing medications before returning to school.
- Students who have been exposed to COVID-19 should self-isolate for 14 days from the last close contact (or as directed by a physician or ADPH). Blended learning will be utilized.
- **NOTE: Exposure is defined as being within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 10 days OR living with someone who has tested positive within the last 10 days.**
- Students who test positive for COVID-19 must self-isolate for 14 days (or as directed by a physician or ADPH). When well enough, blended learning will be utilized.

- Parents should ensure that children practice physical distancing while at bus stops.
- Buses will use clearly visible signage that students should not have fever or COVID-19 symptoms if traveling on a school bus.
- Each bus will have a quarantine seat for students who show symptoms enroute.
- Students who begin to show symptoms during transportation will be assigned a specific seat for the duration of the route. Upon arrival at the local school, the driver will communicate with the school administration and/or school nurse as to the observed or noted symptoms.

- School system staff should visually check for symptoms (which may include temperature checks and/or confirmation with families that the students are COVID-19 symptom free). Symptoms include, but may not be limited to, fever, chills, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new cough, loss of taste or smell. Refer to CDC list of symptoms.
- In the event a student begins to show symptoms of COVID-19 while at school they will be sent to a quarantine area until a parent picks them up.
  - **If diagnosed with COVID-19, the student can return to school after 14 days of symptoms first appearing (or as directed by a physician).**
- It is the responsibility of the Alabama Department of Public Health to notify individuals of possible exposure to COVID-19.

The parent/guardian of a student who tests positive should notify their school nurse and/or school principal upon knowledge of this positive result (student/staff identification will remain confidential). Families should follow ADPH guidelines when a student or close family member tests positive for COVID-19 [www.alabamapublichealth.gov/covid19/patients.html](http://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/covid19/patients.html)



# WELLNESS

---

Athens City Schools will implement a screening continuum and other mitigating strategies to reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection and transmission.

---

## SCREENING CONTINUUM FOR EMPLOYEES



- Employees should monitor for fever and COVID-19 symptoms at home.
- Find the CDC Symptoms of COVID-19 information online at [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html)
- CDC guidelines are subject to change so check the CDC website at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) for the most up to date information.
- Employees who are symptomatic should not report to work and should contact their administrator immediately.
- In the event an employee begins to show symptoms of COVID-19 while at school, the employee will contact the school nurse and school principal immediately.

## CURRENT CDC SUGGESTIONS FOR RETURNING TO WORK

- **Employee tested positive**
  - Employee has been fever-free for 3 days without medication;
  - Any respiratory symptoms have improved (coughing, congestion, runny nose, etc.); AND
  - It has been 10 days since symptoms first appeared or positive test was received
- **Employee was symptomatic but tested negative**
  - 14 days after symptoms began (in case of false negative)
- **Employee was symptomatic but not tested**
  - Employee has been fever-free for 3 days without medication;
  - Any respiratory symptoms have improved (coughing, congestion, runny nose, etc.); AND
  - It has been 10 days since symptoms first appeared
- **Employee had close contact with a positive person (within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes) but not symptomatic**
  - 14 days from exposure
- **Employee had close contact with a positive person (within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes) and is symptomatic but not tested**
  - 14 days from exposure



# WELLNESS

---

Athens City Schools will implement a screening continuum and other mitigating strategies to reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection and transmission.

---

## EMPLOYEE SICK LEAVE



- Employees should become familiar with Paid Sick Leave and Expanded Family and Medical Leave under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.
- Nicole Eggert is the ACS Central Office contact for questions and/or FFCRA paperwork. Email [nicole.eggert@acs-k12.org](mailto:nicole.eggert@acs-k12.org)
- [www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WHD/posters/FFCRA\\_Poster\\_WH1422\\_Non-Federal.pdf](http://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WHD/posters/FFCRA_Poster_WH1422_Non-Federal.pdf)

---

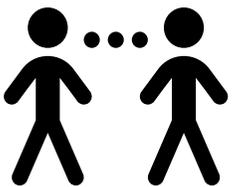
## FACE COVERINGS



- Unless mandated by a government entity, it is recommended that facial coverings be worn when you are within six feet of a person from another household.
- Face coverings/masks must cover your nose and mouth.
- Students may bring a facial covering from home.
- Masks will be provided while supplies last.
- Designated facial covering/mask breaks will occur throughout the day when students can be six feet apart.

---

## PHYSICAL DISTANCE



- Physical distancing will be practiced to the extent possible in the classroom.
- Teachers will be making adjustments to their classrooms to allow for students to spread out as much as possible.
- Hallway traffic may be staggered to promote physical distancing.
- Arrival/Dismissal procedures may be altered to allow for physical distancing.

---

## SANITATION & PERSONAL HYGIENE



- All employees (including substitute teachers) will be trained on health and safety protocols.
- Teachers will teach hygiene and sanitization practices, including proper use of facial coverings.
- Athens City Schools will partner with parents in educating students on the importance of hand washing, hygiene, and physical distancing.



# OPERATIONS & FACILITIES

---

## ATHENS CITY SCHOOLS WILL...

- Intensify regular cleaning and disinfecting procedures in all schools.
- Sanitize high touch surfaces throughout the day.
- Purchase and provide classroom cleaning supplies and materials.
- Accept parent donations of Clorox wipes and hand sanitizer.
- Recommend, unless mandated by a government entity, that staff wear facial coverings when they are within six feet of a person from another household.
- Provide hand sanitizer throughout the buildings.
- Clean and disinfect schools daily.
- Enforce regular handwashing and the use of hand sanitizer.
- Routinely clean classrooms, bathrooms, cafeterias, and all high traffic areas.
- Utilize electrostatic sprayers to sanitize buildings.
- Encourage students to bring personal hand sanitizer if desired.
- Post signage showing best practices for hygiene and sanitation.
- Encourage all students to bring a refillable water bottle or bottles as some water fountains will be unavailable.
- Limit adult access to school facilities. Parents should not enter school buildings during drop off and pick up. Parents will not be able to eat lunch with students until further notice.
- Suspend classroom parties until further notice. (No outside food for shared use)
- Hold virtual parent-teacher conferences and other meetings to the extent possible.
- Utilize virtual field trips until further notice. (No off-campus field trips)





# INSTRUCTION

Athens City Schools will provide families two instructional options:  
traditional and remote.

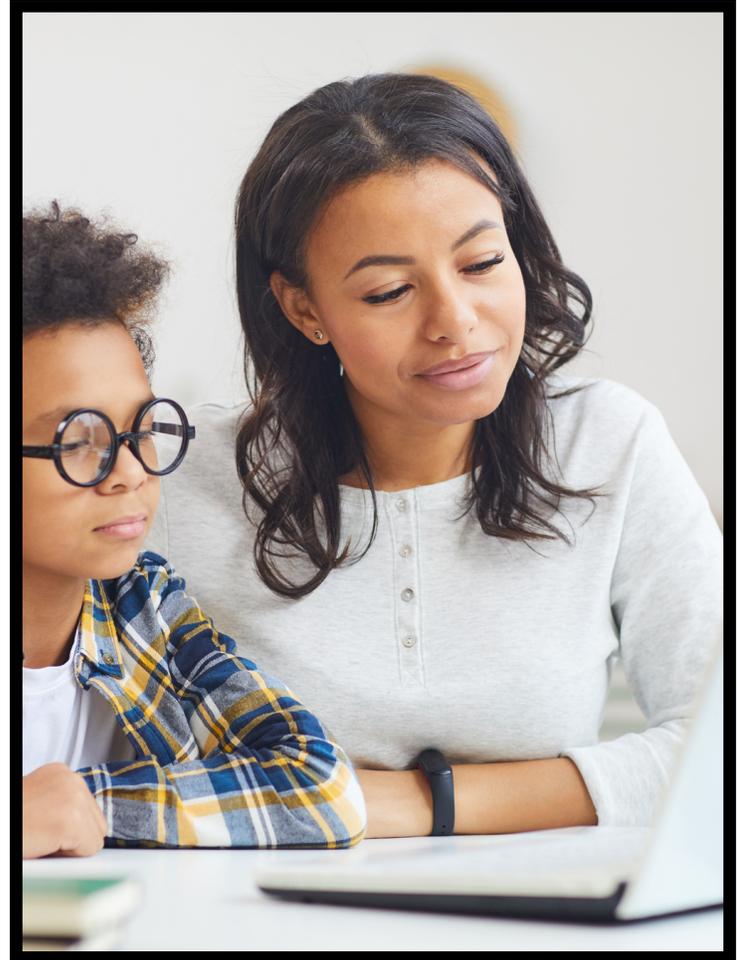
## 1 TRADITIONAL INSTRUCTION

Students attend classes in a traditional, on-campus setting.



## 2 REMOTE INSTRUCTION

Students attend classes “remotely” using a variety of virtual resources.





# INSTRUCTION

Athens City Schools will provide families two instructional options: traditional and remote.

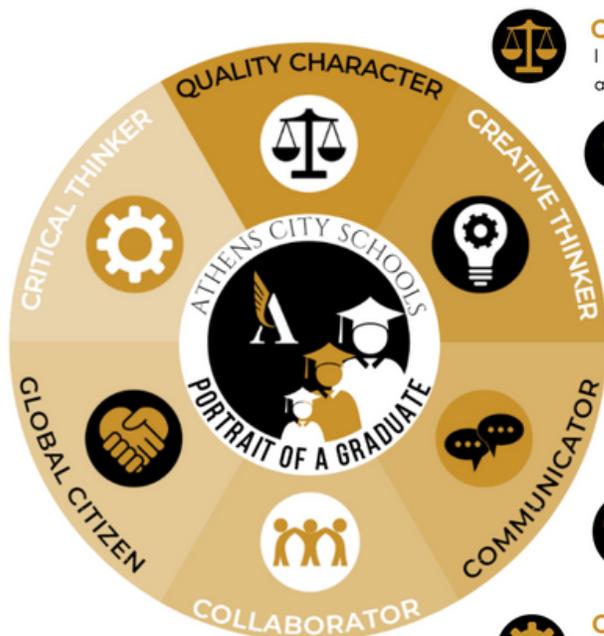
## SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

Social emotional learning activities for both traditional and remote learning will be connected to the ACS Portrait of a Graduate.

# PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE

EMPOWERING ALL STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS MEANS MORE THAN ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT.

For students to be prepared for life beyond graduation, our community believes we must focus on the whole individual. Our Athens City Portrait of a Graduate describes the characteristics and skills that will empower all students for success now and in the future.



**QUALITY CHARACTER** I inspire the trust of others and believe in myself. I nurture overall physical and mental well-being and act honestly, responsibly and ethically. I manage and monitor myself, use sound judgment, and persevere in the face of challenges.



**CREATIVE THINKER** I generate new ideas and build on existing ones. I pursue imaginative approaches and solve problems by asking questions, being flexible in my thinking, and taking the initiative to turn my ideas into action.



**COMMUNICATOR** I explore and exchange ideas with others. I actively listen to and honor the voices of others, and I communicate clearly through the three fluencies of writing, speaking, and digital depending on my audience.



**COLLABORATOR** I form partnerships with others. I work with others to accomplish goals and tasks by building relationships, managing team dynamics, making shared decisions, and learning from and contributing to the learning of others.



**GLOBAL CITIZEN** I serve as an active participant in a larger society. I contribute to solutions that benefit the global community by examining issues from multiple perspectives and demonstrate empathy, compassion, and respect for others.



**CRITICAL THINKER** I analyze and synthesize ideas. I make decisions by evaluating information and arguments, seeing patterns and connections, constructing meaningful knowledge, and applying it in the real world.



LEARN MORE AT [ACS-K12.ORG/PORTRAIT](https://acs-k12.org/portrait)



# TRADITIONAL

Students attend classes in a traditional, on-campus setting.

## TRADITIONAL INSTRUCTION OVERVIEW

- Students will attend school five days a week for daily, in-class instruction.
- School hours will remain the same as last year.
- Schools will continue to promote and advance innovative learning.
- Teachers will incorporate technology into daily learning activities.
- Social emotional learning activities will be connected to the ACS Portrait of a Graduate.
- Small group instruction and opportunities for students to collaborate will be provided with additional safety protocols.
- Electives and elementary special classes will continue to be offered but may look different.
- For example, an elementary art teacher may travel to the child's classroom as opposed to the child traveling to the art room.
- Physical Education classes and recess may occur with limited numbers and cleaning protocols in place.
- There will be no field trips until further notice.
- Students may participate in virtual field trips.
- Traditional Pre-K will be provided with the possibility of Blended/Remote if a period of quarantine is necessary.

## TRADITIONAL TOPICS INCLUDE

BLEND

ED

TECHNOLOGY

MEALS

TRANSPORTATION



Families choosing traditional learning should have a plan in place for the necessity to quickly transition to blended learning.



# TRADITIONAL

Students attend classes in a traditional, on-campus setting.

## BLENDED LEARNING AS PART OF THE TRADITIONAL OPTION

- In blended learning, students transition between traditional and remote and back again at the discretion of the school district.
- Families choosing traditional learning should have a plan in place for the necessity to quickly transition to blended learning.
- Traditional students will be equipped to go to blended learning as circumstances dictate.

### EXAMPLE

If we have to close a classroom for disinfecting, students would transition to remote and then back to traditional when the classroom reopens.

### EXAMPLE

A student in traditional school whose parent tests positive for COVID-19 would need to self-isolate. That student would transition to remote and would return to traditional when cleared by ADPH guidelines to return to school.



# TRADITIONAL

Students attend classes in a traditional, on-campus setting.

## TECHNOLOGY FOR TRADITIONAL STUDENTS



- iPads with keyboards/cases will be available to every student PK-12th grade.
- Students in PK-5th will have access to devices in every classroom.
- Each student will be assigned the same device daily to reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection and transmission.
- Students in grades 6th - 12th will have the opportunity to secure an iPad to utilize during school and take home daily.
- All parents and students must agree to the Technology Use Agreement prior to receiving the device for the 2020-2021 school year.

## FEES FOR USAGE FOR GRADES 6-12 TRADITIONAL:

Device Protection Plan Fee to be Paid by Student/Parent/Guardian\*

### NON-REFUNDABLE PER SCHOOL YEAR FEE



Regular Fee	\$25
Free/Reduced Lunch Fee	\$10 Applies to students currently qualified for free/reduced lunches
Multiple Child Fee	\$20 Applies to parents/guardians with multiple children enrolled in Athens Middle or Athens High who do not qualify for free/reduced lunches.

\*Payment plans may be established if needed prior to receipt of the device. Parents should contact the school office regarding this process. These fees are required per academic year.

## IPAD DISTRIBUTION



Distribution of iPads to students in grades 6-12 will occur at the beginning of the school year. Times and methods of distribution will be announced prior to students returning and will meet all safety protocols to minimize the risk of COVID-19 infection and transmission.



## WIFI

Since traditional students may need to transition to blended learning as circumstances dictate, it is necessary that students have a reliable, high-speed internet connection at home. Please let the librarian at your school know if WiFi is needed. ACS has Verizon MIFI Hotspots available for checkout for a fee of \$20 a month.



# TRADITIONAL

Students attend classes in a traditional, on-campus setting.

## MEALS FOR TRADITIONAL STUDENTS

- **Grades PK-6** will continue with breakfast in the classroom.
- **Grades 7-12** will have cafeteria grab and go breakfast to be taken to a designated area.
- **Grades PK-6** will have lunch in the classroom (or other designated area).
- **Grades 7-12** will be served lunch in the cafeteria in carryout containers to be taken to a designated area.



---

## TRANSPORTATION FOR TRADITIONAL STUDENTS



- Bus services will be provided.
- Parents are encouraged to transport students when possible.
  - Adults will need to stay in their vehicles and not enter the school buildings.
- Before utilizing bus services, parents should monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 and check student temperatures every morning.
  - Students with a fever of 100.4 or greater must not come to school, and students must be fever free for at least 72 hours without the use of fever reducing medications before returning to school.
- Hand sanitizer will be available on buses.
- Spaced seating will be utilized to the extent possible and practical.
- Facial coverings will be required when 6' physical distancing is not possible.
- Buses will load back to front (first on/last off) and seats will be assigned.
- Siblings/family members will be seated together when possible.



# REMOTE

Students attend classes “remotely” using a variety of virtual resources.

## REMOTE INSTRUCTION OVERVIEW



- Remote learning is an option for the entire year.
- Remote learning will be available for Kindergarten - Grade 12, utilizing teachers from each student’s current school.
- Students will attend classes “remotely” five days a week.
- A remote Pre-K option will not be available at this time.

## 9 WEEK MINIMUM COMMITMENT TO REMOTE LEARNING

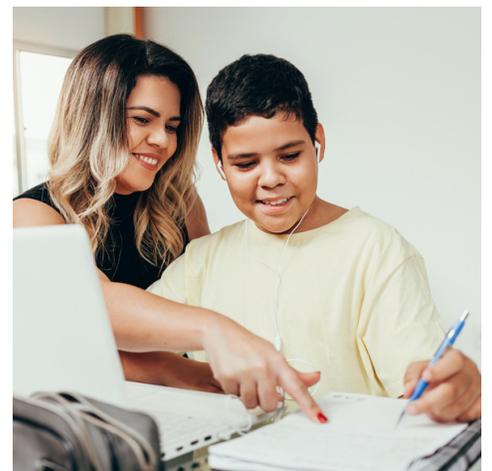


- For continuity purposes, Athens City Schools is asking for a commitment to remote learning for a full grading period of nine (9) weeks.
- Students may return to traditional learning at 9 week breaks or continue with remote learning for the remainder of the school year.
- Families of students wishing to return to traditional learning are asked, if possible, to make the building principal aware two weeks prior to the end of the 9 week grading period.

## THE CURRICULUM & PARENT SUPPORT



- Athens City Schools will primarily use an accredited, online program, SchoolsPLP, for remote learning.
- Instruction is provided within this program.
- The role of the parent is key to the success of remote learning.
- Students in grades K-5 will require a lot of support from caring adults at home and in the remote classroom.
- K-5 students will be expected to work between 2-3 hours a day and 6-12 students will be expected to work 3-4 hours a day on school assignments.





# REMOTE

Students attend classes “remotely” using a variety of virtual resources.

## ROLE OF THE REMOTE TEACHER



- Remote teachers will interact and engage with remote students on a regular basis through Google Meet or Zoom meetings to mentor and provide support.
- Social emotional learning activities will be connected to the ACS Portrait of a Graduate.
- Efforts will be made to keep remote students on pace with traditional students.
- Some electives available for traditional students may not be available for remote students.
- Parents should contact school principals with any questions.

## STUDENT PROGRESS, ASSESSMENTS & GRADES



- Student progress will be assessed through SchoolsPLP and the remote teacher.
- Grades will be assigned following normal school grading procedures.
- Remote students must take all state required assessments and are strongly encouraged to participate in Athens City formative assessments.
- Any face-to-face testing for state required assessments will take place following recommended safety guidelines to the greatest extent possible.

## SPECIAL EDUCATION, CAREER TECH & EXTRACURRICULARS



- Career tech courses at the Limestone County Career Technical Center are available for remote students; however, they must be taken in-person.
- Students who choose remote learning will be able to participate in sports or other extracurricular activities.
- Students working remotely will continue to receive special education and related services as determined appropriate by the child’s IEP team.
- Students with a 504 plan will continue to receive appropriate accommodations per the student’s 504 plan.
- For students receiving direct Gifted services, remote learning activities will be facilitated by the Elementary Gifted Specialist, per the student’s GEP.



Training resources for parents of remote students will be provided.



# REMOTE

Students attend classes “remotely” using a variety of virtual resources.

## TECHNOLOGY FOR REMOTE STUDENTS



- iPads with keyboards/cases will be available to every student that does not have a device available at home to use with remote learning.
- Distribution of iPads for remote learning students will be announced at a later date and will meet all safety protocols to minimize the risk of COVID-19 infection and transmission.
- All parents and students must agree to the Technology Use Agreement prior to receiving an ACS device for remote learning.

## FEES FOR REMOTE STUDENTS

Students in grades K-12 will have the following fee for usage of an ACS device during remote learning. Fees will be as follows:

**Device Protection Plan Fee to be Paid by Student/Parent/Guardian\***

### NON-REFUNDABLE PER SCHOOL YEAR FEE

Regular Fee	\$25	
Free/Reduced Lunch Fee	\$10	Applies to students currently qualified for free/reduced lunches
Multiple Child Fee	\$20	Applies to parents/guardians with multiple children enrolled in Athens Middle or Athens High who do not qualify for free/reduced lunches.



**\*Payment plans may be established if needed prior to receipt of the device. Parents should contact the school office regarding this process. These fees are required per academic year.**

## TECH SUPPORT



Students needing technical support must email the librarian at their local school and we will address each student's situation for support. School librarian/media specialist contact info can be found on your school's website.

## WIFI



It is necessary that the students choosing the remote option have a reliable, high-speed internet connection at home. Please let your principal know if WiFi is needed. ACS has Verizon MIFI Hotspots available for checkout for a fee of \$20 a month.



# REMOTE

Students attend classes “remotely” using a variety of virtual resources.

## COMMUNITY HOTSPOTS FOR REMOTE STUDENTS

- A list of community hot spots will be provided and there will be areas in Athens where the internet will be available.



## SCHOOL WIFI IS AVAILABLE IN THE FOLLOWING PARKING LOT AREAS:

- AES - Clinton Street - Front parking lot. WIFI is available on the west face of the South building.
- AIS - WIFI is available on the North side of building facing Washington Street
- AMS - WIFI is available on the North West end of building
  - Baseball Stadium - facing the stadium
  - Football press box facing the field
- BES - WIFI is available on the West side facing upper parking lot
- CES - WIFI is available at the front door facing North
- JNES - WIFI is available at the front door facing West.
- AHS - WIFI is available in the student parking lot on the North side and in parking lot on the South Side
- ARS HS - WIFI is available via the City Free Wifi on the Square.



# REMOTE

Students attend classes “remotely” using a variety of virtual resources.

## MEALS FOR REMOTE STUDENTS

- Families choosing remote learning should pre-order and pre-pay (if applicable) the night before meals are desired.
- An order form is available online at [www.acs-k12.org/Page/2688](http://www.acs-k12.org/Page/2688)
- Pre-payment can be made at online via My School Bucks at [www.myschoolbucks.com](http://www.myschoolbucks.com)
- Meals are available for pickup daily between 10:00 am-12:00 pm at the school front office.
  - For families with multiple children at different schools: You can pick up meals at one location. You will select your desired pick up location when you pre-order online.
- The daily cost for breakfast and lunch (which will be distributed together) is based on each family’s eligibility status:
  - Free
  - Reduced (40 cents)
  - Paid (\$2.75)
- Menus are located on each school’s website.
- [www.acs-k12.org](http://www.acs-k12.org)





# REMOTE

Students attend classes “remotely” using a variety of virtual resources.

## ATTENDANCE POLICY FOR REMOTE STUDENTS



- Remote students must “attend” class daily in accordance with the Athens City School District’s calendar.
- Students fulfill attendance requirements when they log in to their classes daily, participate in required video conferencing sessions with teachers, and complete assignments.



# EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

---

**Athens City Schools is an equal opportunity provider.**

## ACS NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

Regarding educational opportunities: It is the policy of the Athens City Board of Education not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion, or marital status in the education programs, activities or employment, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person has been appointed to coordinate compliance efforts: Title IX/Section 504/ADA – Mrs. Dimika Cummings 256.233.6600.

## USDA NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov). This institution is an equal opportunity provider.