

DODGE COUNTY SCHOOLS



Vision

EDUCATING TODAY'S STUDENTS TO SUCCEED IN TOMORROW'S WORLD.



Mission

MAKING A DIFFERENCE: EVERY STUDENT. EVERY DAY.

Dodge County Schools

720 College Street
Eastman, Ga 31023
478-374-3783

Superintendent: Dr. Susan W. Long

Dodge Pre-K

1118 McRae Hwy
Eastman, Ga 31023
478-374-6691

Director: Mrs. Darla Faulk

Dodge County Elementary

167 Orphans Cemetery Rd
Eastman, Ga 31023
478-374-6690

Principal: Dr. Sheila Honeycutt
Asst Principal: Mrs. Dana Lowery

Dodge County Primary

1118 McRae Hwy
Eastman, Ga 31023
478-374-6691

Principal: Mr. Russell Bazemore
Asst Principal: Ms. Dana Brown

Dodge County Middle

5911 Oak St
Eastman, Ga
478-374-6492

Principal: Mrs. Marcie Jones
Asst Principal: Dr. Jennifer Bellflower
Asst Principal: Ms. Juaquita Williams

Dodge County High

350 Pearl Bates Rd
Eastman, Ga 31023
478-374-7711

Principal: Dr. Steve Greer
Asst Principal: Ms. Brande Vaughn
Asst Principal: Mr. Wayne Cadwell
Asst Principal/CTAE Director:
Mr. Richard Gay

Dodge Achievement Center

1400 Dr.Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr
Eastman, Ga 31023
478-374-4756

Director: Mrs. Kati Mincey

As part of the ESSER III/ARP requirements, school systems are to update Plans for Returning to Instruction every six months through 2024. This plan is to inform all stakeholders of instructional plans, while incorporating resources and support from the ESSER III grant. While doing these activities and strategies, Dodge County Schools request your help in ensuring that any student that is sick remains at home until the student meets the return-to-school guidance for any illness. Our goal is to operate the school safely with in-person instruction, and we have been making every effort to keep our students, faculty, and staff healthy.

Please review the following information to know for 2023-2024:

Based on the Governor's decision through Executive Order to end the Public Health State of Emergency on June 30, 2021, we are continuing pre pandemic instruction and scheduling for 2023-2024.

1. **Everyone is encouraged to practice proper hygiene.** Students and staff should self-monitor for Covid-19, Influenza, and other illness symptoms daily.
2. **Visitors are welcome back into the schools.** Visitors should self-monitor for sick symptoms prior to entering the facilities and attending any extra-curricular events. Please contact the principal or director of your student's school if you have questions.
3. **Exposed staff or students who have been vaccinated will NOT be required to quarantine, if the person has no symptoms or no positive test. Exposed staff or students wearing a mask will NOT be required to quarantine IF the person who is positive was also wearing a mask when the exposure occurred, and have no symptoms.** If a child is running a fever or exhibiting other symptoms of infection or illness at school, a parent will be contacted to pick up the child after assessment from the school nurse. This is the same State-mandated practice DCSS follows for other serious communicable diseases.
4. **Students or staff who test positive for COVID-19** will continue to follow Department of Public Health guidelines. See CDC/DPH guidelines <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/index.html>
5. **COVID-19 and Flu vaccinations are not required for employees or students, but are encouraged and recommended.** The Dodge County Health Department and many local healthcare providers have COVID-19 and Flu vaccines readily available.

School Closure

DCSS will determine partial or total closures under direction and guidance of the Department of

Revised 1/18/2024

Public Health and the local Health Department. In the event the Governor issues an executive order to close schools at any time during the 2023-2024 school year, or if schools close due to the spread of COVID-19 or any other illness, the system-wide eLearning model will be utilized for all students in grades K-12. Dodge Pre-K has specific procedures set forth by Bright from the Start that will be shared with parents if a closure occurs. This protocol will remain in effect in the event of a short term closure for any reason, **including weather days**.

Communication

Back-to-school communication will be shared through, but not limited to, the DCSS Facebook page and each School's Facebook Page, district and school websites, DCSS app, and the *Dodge County News*.

Attendance

All perfect attendance awards, school monthly attendance awards, exam exemption based on attendance, and all other attendance incentives will continue for the 2023-2024 school year.

Dodge County Schools will enforce the attendance procedures and policies required by the Georgia Department of Education. Information can be found at the following link:

<https://www.gadoe.org/wholechild/Pages/Student-Attendance-Guidance.aspx>

Extracurricular Activities (Including Athletics)

According to recommendations from the Georgia High School Association (GHSA) and guidance from the Department of Health, extracurricular activities will continue as regularly scheduled for the 2023-2024 school year. DCS encourages all participants and spectators to follow Georgia Department of Public Health guidance during each event.

<https://www.ghsa.net/>

<https://dph.georgia.gov/>

Safety Protocols

To help prevent the spread of infection and viruses, the following measures will be put in place:

- A nurse is available at each school.
- Staff and students are agreeing that by virtue of coming to school, they do not have a temperature of 100.3 degrees or higher and do not have any symptoms of illness.
- Parents should pre-screen students before sending them to school or bus stops. Any student with a measured temperature of 100.3 degrees or higher should not be sent to school.
- Schools and all facilities, buses, and gyms will be sprayed and cleaned and disinfected frequently.
- Schools will be cleaned daily using safe and approved viracides and techniques.
- Heating and AC units will be continuously maintained to ensure safe ventilation of spaces.
- If staff or students are sick, they must stay home. If students or staff come to work sick, they will be immediately sent home. Sick students will be quarantined in an isolation room until parent pick up.
- Ample hand sanitizer and hand soap will be available throughout the schools for proper hand hygiene.
- Frequent hand washing will be encouraged for students.
- Social distancing will occur when possible.
- Every classroom will have hand sanitizer. Hand sanitizer stations will also be available throughout the schools.

Transportation

To help prevent the spread of infection and viruses, the following measures will continue on buses:

- Bus drivers and monitors will self-evaluate health each day prior to reporting to work.
- Buses will be sprayed with disinfecting spray each day prior to each route.
- Bus drivers will let down every other window on the bus before each route (weather permitting) for ventilation on the buses.
- Students will have assigned seats, and siblings will sit together.

- All students will be offered hand sanitizer as soon as they step on the bus.
- Students are required to wear masks while on the bus.
- Students will be asked to socially distance as much as possible.
- All students will be asked to sit facing the front of the bus.
- If parents are uncomfortable with any of the above information, they should consider driving their students to and from school.

Please stay up-to-date with procedures and recommendations from the CDC and the Georgia Department of Public Health at the following sites: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/index.html>

Funding from Stakeholder Data Collection

| Grant | Awarded | Primary Areas |
|----------------------------------|----------------|--|
| Cares 1 (Completed 9/30/2022) | \$992,560.00 | Upgrades in Connectivity Student Devices Chromebook Carts Nursing Supplies/PPE Cleaning Supplies Bus Monitor Salaries |
| Cares 2 (Completed 9/30/2023) | \$4,011,170.00 | Hazard Pay/FICA Chromebooks, Carts, and Covers GAA Classroom equipment and supplies School Supplies for Students Smart Panels for classrooms Nursing Supplies/PPE Serving Lines (DCMS, DCHS) Professional learning Tables Certified Staff Computers |
| Cares 3 (Ending 9/30/2024) | \$9,015,588.00 | Summer School(Staff compensation, material, and transportation) Academic Interventionists Behavior Interventionists ESOL Contractor District Inclusion Coach Autism Specialist Contracts (Emory) Instructional Software Assessments (NWEA) Academic/Behavior Screener (K-8th) Student Supplies (Pre K-12th) Workbooks, novels, magazines (K-12th) Outdoor Seating (all schools) Smart Panels Mental Health Specialist(s) Hazard Pay/FICA (all DCSS staff) Bus Driver/Monitor training stipends Finalsite Notification Antivirus/Spyware Sanitation and Cleaning Materials GAA Class/Sensory Area |

STAY HEALTHY THIS FLU SEASON!

Fight the flu by following these simple steps to protect yourself and others from the spread of germs.



Get vaccinated against the flu—it's your best protection from flu and its complications.



Wash your hands often with soap and warm water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.



Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve—never use your hand.



Don't touch your face—keep your hands away from your mouth, nose and eyes.



Clean surfaces like phones, doorknobs, light switches, remotes and countertops often.



Stay home from work or school if you get sick to prevent spreading the flu to others.

DO NOT FORGET, BE FEVER FREE WITHOUT USE OF MEDICATION FOR 24 HOURS BEFORE RETURNING TO SCHOOL OR WORK.

