

# **Telfair County Schools**

## **Reopening Plan**

**07/16/2020**

We pray that all of our Trojan families are having a safe and restful summer. We look forward to our students returning, as we have missed them greatly. We understand that we must be flexible this year as we work through the issues created by COVID-19 and also strive to give our students the best education we can. As our plans currently stand, Telfair County Schools will open to resume in-person learning as well as online learning on August 17, 2020. We moved the student start date to August 17 in order to give our teachers and staff additional time to prepare for the year. We thank you for your patience as we plan for this year, and we ask that you please understand that this plan can change as circumstances change. Medical and educational research has shown the importance of in-person instruction in the social and educational development and well-being of students. We also recognize the continued challenges caused by COVID-19. To provide flexibility given these considerations, we will offer both an in-person option with added safety measures and an online option for our students and families not comfortable with in-person instruction. As stated earlier, we will be flexible in our approach this year and will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates on any changes as the summer progresses. Please review the options discussed below in order to determine which option works best for your student(s). Thank you, and God bless.

### **Option 1:** In-Person Instruction (Beginning August 17, 2020)

This option allows students to return to in-person learning with the following health and safety measures:

1. New electric disinfecting mist units were purchased for each school and the bus shop. Custodial staff will disinfect classrooms, common areas, restrooms, and lunchrooms daily and will sanitize areas throughout the day.
2. In addition to hand sanitizer being available in classrooms, hand sanitizer will be available throughout every school building in the halls, common areas, and lunchrooms.
3. Every staff member, including bus drivers, will have a no-touch LED thermometer to check students' temperatures regularly. Staff members will also be required to check their temperatures regularly. Staff members or students who present an elevated temperature will be sent home.
4. Masks will be allowed for staff and students at all schools. Masks may be required for class changes and instances of close contact.
5. Reusable masks will be provided for all students and staff members.
6. Social distancing will be practiced as much as possible.

7. Several new protocols are being added to school nutrition:
  - a. Lunch serving lines will no longer be completely self-serve, going from “buffet-style” to “cafeteria-style,” with some items being pre-cupped and pre-packaged.
  - b. All condiments to be handled by students will be pre-packaged.
  - c. Students will have access to hand sanitizer throughout the lunchroom.
  - d. We are rescheduling lunches and/or adding lunch shifts in order to decrease the numbers in the lunchrooms.
8. School buses will be disinfected after each route.
9. School buses will have hand sanitizer available for students.
10. Masks will be required during bus routes.
11. Students will fill buses from back to front, students will have assigned seats, and siblings will sit together.
12. We ask that when possible, parents or a designated adult remain at the bus stop with their students. If a student presents an elevated temperature, the student will not be allowed to ride the bus that day. However, in the event we are unable to return the student to an adult safely, the student will be asked to wear a mask, sit in isolation, and report to the school nurse upon arrival at school. Parents will be notified at that time, and child must be picked up by parent or designee.
13. Signs reminding students to wash their hands and keep their hands from their faces are being placed in all schools.
14. Some water fountains are being retrofitted with bottle-filling fixtures, and students will not be allowed to use the others. Students are allowed to bring bottled water to school with them, and they can refill at the bottle-filling stations.
15. Breaks will be staggered/adjusted in order to reduce numbers at break.
16. Visitors (including parents) will be limited as much as possible—no one will be allowed beyond the office without administrative approval.
17. Attendance policies will be flexible due to COVID-related issues.
18. Students will be assigned one Chromebook for their use only at school every day.
19. The district will encourage self-monitoring and reporting of symptoms by all students or staff.
20. Any positive COVID case will be reported to the South Central Health District who will then guide the contact tracing efforts and parent notification efforts.
21. It is very important that parents keep schools updated with their current phone numbers.

**Option 2:** Online learning (Beginning August 17, 2020)

All students will have the opportunity to enroll in online learning if they select this option. All students in online learning will have teacher support and monitoring. The online learning option includes the following requirements/guidelines:

1. Chromebooks and hot spots will be available for those students who need them. Chromebooks and hot spots should be returned to the school at the end of the year or upon return to traditional instruction.
2. For families with students in online learning, more specific information about how to participate in this option will be sent prior to school beginning.
3. Students in grades 6 – 12 will be served through Odysseyware. The district currently uses this web-based curriculum for all students enrolled in our alternative school, and its content is aligned with the Georgia Standards of Excellence. These students will be assigned a teacher for support.
4. For grades Pre-K – 5, a combination of Google classroom or Odysseyware and other resources will be utilized for online learning.
5. For grades Pre-K – 5, students will be assigned to a teacher for support.
6. While a teacher will check in on these students regularly, online learning will require students to be self-motivated to complete work on time. Parents should help ensure students complete work on time.
7. Students will have teacher support available during hours determined by their assigned teachers.
8. Students may be assessed upon return to traditional instruction.
9. For increased flexibility, online students will be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities (with the exception of students assigned to the alternative school).
10. Students selecting the online option must remain in this option for the remainder of that semester. However, if the switch occurs within the last nine weeks of the first semester, then the student will be bound to that choice for the remainder of the school year. These restrictions are necessary to provide adequate scheduling of teachers and to ensure continuity of instruction.
11. Elective and connections courses could be limited.
12. It is very important that parents keep schools updated with their current phone numbers.
13. Students and parents will be promptly notified of any changes to online procedures throughout the year.

The district plans to allow flexibility during the first eight (8) days of school for parents to determine which choice is best for them: in-person instruction or online learning. **This choice must be made by August 26, 2020.**

In the event the governor issues an executive order to close schools at any time during the 2020-2021 school year, students already participating in the online learning option will continue with that option. All other students will then be taught using an online model guided by their teachers. In-person students will receive instructions on this model in the first days of school in order to prepare for any closures during the year. This protocol will remain in effect in the event of a short-term closure for any reason.

The district will continue to communicate through the district and school websites and social media pages. Parents of students who are interested in online learning can complete the online registration form or pick up a form at any school. A form must be completed for each student interested in online learning. A separate registration form is available for pre-k students who want to sign up for online learning.

Please keep in mind that as situations change, these plans may change. We have tremendous community and parental support, and we greatly appreciate those relationships. We encourage feedback, and we thank you for your support during the stressful time of this pandemic. We look forward to a great school year, and we will continue to do whatever it takes to help our students succeed.

We look forward to seeing you or hearing from you.

**CONTACT:**

Lenard F. Harrelson, Jr., Superintendent  
[lharrelson@telfairschools.org](mailto:lharrelson@telfairschools.org)  
229-868-5661, Ext. 1101

Cindy Marshall, Telfair Pre-K/Food Service Director  
[cmarshal@telfairschools.org](mailto:cmarshal@telfairschools.org)  
229-868-5415  
229-868-5661, Ext. 1105

Anthony McIver, TCES Principal  
[amciver@telfairschools.org](mailto:amciver@telfairschools.org)  
229-868-7467

Christopher Ellis, TCMS Principal  
[cellis@telfairschools.org](mailto:cellis@telfairschools.org)  
229-868-7465

Eric Cowart, TCHS Principal  
[ecowart@telfairschools.org](mailto:ecowart@telfairschools.org)  
229-868-6096

Lisa Jarrard, Special Education Director  
[ljarrard@telfairschools.org](mailto:ljarrard@telfairschools.org)  
229-868-5661, Ext. 1109

Benny Livingston, Transportation Director  
[blivingston@telfairschools.org](mailto:blivingston@telfairschools.org)  
229-868-2807