



21-22 Safe Return to In Person Instruction & Continuity of Services Plan Martin County School District

Introduction

Martin County School District (MCSD) will provide students with the option of face-to-face instruction five days a week or a virtual learning option (Martin County Virtual Academy). Our academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of our students remain at the forefront of our response to reopening schools safely. Guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE), and other agencies in addition to input from our stakeholders are very important in planning for the reopening of our schools.

Our **Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan** further describes how MCSD will maintain the health and safety of students and staff as we return to five days of face-to-face instruction. **Please note this plan is subject to revision based on CDC and KDE recommendations.**

Part A:

Description of how MCSD will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff and the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of any such policies, on each of the following safety recommendations established by the CDC:

Universal and Correct Wearing of Masks

- The MCSD requires masks for unvaccinated and vaccinated students, staff, and visitors while indoors, unless otherwise exempted (e.g., cannot wear a mask due to disability).
- In accordance with President Biden's Executive Order and CDC's public health order, students and drivers shall wear a mask on the school bus (public transportation) to and from school. A driver does not need to wear a mask if they are the only person on the bus.
- Recommendations for wearing face masks correctly:
 - Wash your hands before putting on your face covering.
 - Put it over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin.
 - Try to fit it snugly against the sides of your face.
 - Make sure you can breathe easily.
 - Masks should be washed regularly, inspected for damage, and discarded and replaced when damaged.
 - Masks should be stored in a clean, dry location, and they should never be shared.
 - Do not touch the face covering, and if you do, wash your hands or use hand sanitizer to disinfect.

Physical Distancing

- Physical distancing of at least 3 feet is recommended between K-12 students in classrooms where not everyone is fully vaccinated. Schools in MCSD will allow for physical distancing within the classrooms, hallways, and other areas of the school to the maximum extent possible.
- All schools and offices have signage reminding students and staff about physical distancing in prominent locations throughout each school.
- We allow only necessary visitors in our schools and limit the number of students and staff who come into contact with them. Please note, CDC currently recommends that all visitors who have not been vaccinated wear a mask.

Handwashing & Respiratory Etiquette

- MCSD will teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for 20 seconds or use of hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol.
- MCSD will ensure adequate supplies are available to all students/staff and opportunities for hand hygiene are provided.
- MCSD will have Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as masks available and ensure they are worn by school nurses and other staff caring for sick individuals at school.
- Signage will be posted in high visibility areas to remind students and staff of proper techniques for handwashing and covering coughs and sneezes and other prevention measures.
- Sharing of supplies and equipment among staff and students will be minimized to the extent feasible. Items that must be shared, will be cleaned and disinfected between uses.
- Grade appropriate education and modeling will be provided for respiratory etiquette as per CDC guidelines.

Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities

- Custodians will engage in daily, continuous cleaning, including wiping down high touch points throughout the day to be followed by complete disinfecting of the building each evening.
- All staff members are responsible for helping maintain a clean environment, including their personal workspaces.
- Hand sanitizer stations are available in each classroom and in common areas throughout each building including entrances, exits, cafeterias, and bathrooms. All soap and hand sanitizer stations are checked and refilled throughout the day.

Improving Ventilation

- All the ventilation systems will be checked for proper operation.
- MCSD will improve facility ventilation to the greatest extent possible to increase circulation of outdoor air and increase delivery of clean air.
- MCSD will utilize outdoor spaces whenever possible.
- Windows may be opened to increase fresh air circulation.
- Increased frequency of filter changes.

Contact Tracing with Isolation/Quarantine

- Contact tracing, quarantine, and isolation guidelines will be followed based on the local health department and CDC recommendations.
- MCSD will ensure sick students, teachers, or staff stay home if they are having fever and/or symptoms of COVID-19, including:
 - Fever or feeling feverish (e.g., chills, sweating)
 - New cough
 - Difficulty breathing
 - Sore throat
 - Muscle aches or body aches
 - Vomiting or diarrhea
 - New loss of taste or smell
- Those who test positive for COVID-19 will follow the direction of their health care provider about when it is safe for them to be around others.
- MCSD will work with the local health department to facilitate case investigation and contact tracing to identify individuals who have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19.
- Fully-vaccinated* persons do not need to quarantine following an exposure to a person diagnosed with COVID-19 if he/she is not experiencing symptoms.
- Seating charts will be kept on file at all schools.

Diagnostic Screening

MCSD is not currently participating in school-based testing for COVID-19.

Vaccination Efforts

- MCSD partnered with Martin County Health Department to provide COVID-19 vaccination clinics in January and February 2021 for faculty/staff.
- Efforts will be made to educate, promote, and encourage our students and staff to get vaccinated.

Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities

MCSD will continue to provide appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities based upon individual IEP needs.

Part B:

Description of how the MCSD will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students' and staff's social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services:

Academic Needs

- Strong focus on quality Tier 1 instruction, specifically explicit instruction.
- Professional development for all staff on Tier 1 instruction and how to incorporate explicit instruction into the classroom.
- All classrooms will have a strong focus on high yield instructional strategies.
- Instruction will be planned from and instructed with district-approved and/or provided resources which are research based.
- All schools will establish a leadership team. These teams will analyze student data and classroom observations to evaluate progress towards increased student achievement.

- Spring and fall 2021 data will be used as baseline measures to determine academic gaps in reading and mathematics. This information will be used to identify learning loss and skill identification to employ additional interventions in reading and mathematics including, but not limited to, tutorials before and after school, as well as reading and mathematics interventions during the school day. Literacy and mathematics academic growth and progress for students in kindergarten through eighth grade will be assessed via NWEA MAP assessments in fall, winter, and spring.
- Structured data protocols as well as formats for PLCs to include uniform data collecting, analyzing, and progress monitoring system-wide will be implemented.
- Lesson plans will explicitly include PACE, I Do, We Do, and You Do.
- Teaching and learning must be tailored to student needs, age level, and ability.
- Social-emotional learning is embedded into lesson design and delivery – building a positive classroom culture, fostering relationships, accounting for the unique circumstances a student may be experiencing, etc.
- MCSD has a 1:1 ratio for students and chromebooks.
- Extended learning opportunities (summer school, before school tutoring, and after school tutoring) will be available to all students.
- Special education teachers and staff will:
 - provide specialized instruction as written in the students' IEPs and provide accommodations and modifications for students, as written in the IEP.
 - scaffold and/or modify assignments, as necessary, for students they are providing services and support to.
 - communicate regularly with students on their caseload and with their parents.
 - provide supplementary learning activities for students on their caseload who may benefit from additional practice to close academic and curricular gaps.
 - collect data and progress monitor student goals.

Social, emotional, and mental health

- School Counselors will:
 - host office hours for students and families.
 - serve as a liaison regarding communication with academic, behavior, and social-emotional learning expectations/concerns.
 - serve as liaison for communication with students/families in crisis and work with the school based mental health agencies.
 - schedule meetings to discuss social, emotional, behavioral, or mental health needs as needed.
 - provide social-emotional lessons as needed.
 - support teachers in incorporating social emotional character development standards into their lessons, activities, and plans.
 - support families in discussing and practicing social emotional skills in the home setting.
- All MCSD schools will support professional development in trauma and trauma sensitivity.
- MCSD will implement a multi-tiered system of supports to provide safe supportive environments for both students and staff in all schools.
- All schools have a Student Assistance Team (SAT). The SAT plans and implements positive interventions for at-risk students.

Health Services

All schools in the MCSD are serviced by a full-time school nurse, to ensure that student health needs are met. Our nurses will follow the local health department, KDE, and CDC Guidelines related to COVID-19 and will assist administrators and staff in understanding and implementing those guidelines. Our schools have a designated isolation area for students or staff that develop signs and symptoms of COVID-19 illness at school. Our nurses will continue to administer daily medications, if needed, and attend to injuries or illnesses that might occur at school.

Food Services

Breakfast and lunch meals will be provided to students in the cafeteria. Physical distancing will be maintained to the maximum extent possible. Hand sanitizing stations will be available before entering the serving area. Self-service will be limited to keep frequently touched surfaces to a minimum. All areas of the meal service line and cafeteria will be cleaned and disinfected frequently. Meal pickup will be available to students who choose the virtual learning option.

Process for Regular Review

MCSD will revise the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan at least every six months through September 30, 2023. MCSD will seek and take into account public input during the review process. Plan revisions will address updated CDC guidance on safely reopening schools.