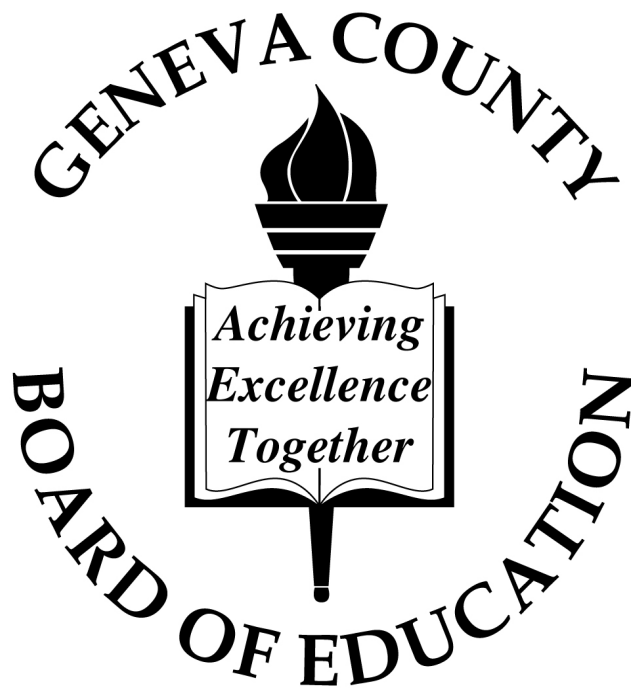


GENEVA COUNTY SCHOOLS REOPENING PLAN

2021-2022



THIS PLAN IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS PUBLIC HEALTH GUIDELINES ARE UPDATED LAST UPDATED

JULY 15, 2021

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I. Message from Superintendent Becky Birdsong

We are all extremely excited, as we know you are, to get our students, teachers and support staff back together and return to learning! Over the summer, district office staff and our lead nurse have been working to develop a reopening model that will create a safe and productive learning environment for students and staff.

The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) and Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) will continue to notify school districts of any changes and guidance regarding COVID-19. We have developed a plan with enough flexibility to quickly adapt to current disease activity and still provide the absolute best educational opportunities for our students. The unpredictability of this virus requires us to remain flexible and ready to make changes in our plans. We ask for your continued patience, support, and understanding through this process.

Continue to stay safe, and we look forward to a great, more traditional school year!

Sincerely,

Becky Birdsong

II. Wellness

A. Geneva County Schools screening continuum

HOME is the first point on the screening continuum. Students and employees that exhibit the symptoms of COVID – 19 should stay at home. Families are encouraged to self-monitor symptoms of illness, which could include fever, dry cough, stomach ache in children, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, etc.

TRANSPORTATION is the second point on the screening continuum. Buses will have visible signage or other notice to communicate the symptoms students should not have if traveling on a school bus. Hand sanitizer will be available for students on the school buses. Bus drivers will place symptomatic students in an isolation seat and notify a school official upon arrival to school.

SCHOOL is the final point on the screening continuum. School staff will visually check for symptoms during the school day (which may include temperature checks) and/or confirm with families that students are COVID – 19 symptom free.

B. Healthy Habits

FACIAL COVERINGS have been described as one method to reduce the spread of coronavirus by both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH). Under Governor Ivey's current health order, May 31, 2021, at 5:00 P.M., Facial coverings in public areas and schools are encouraged but not required.

MAINTAINING PHYSICAL DISTANCE between persons is another method that may reduce the risk of spreading coronavirus according to both CDC and ADPH. Maintaining physical distance will not always be practical/possible inside school settings (including buses) and there should be no expectation to do so. However, Geneva County Schools will implement best practices when possible and practical. For instance, space may not allow placing six feet between student desks, but it might be practical to place a little more space between desks and to face them all in one direction. Assigned seating and seating charts will be required for all classrooms and buses.

PROPER CLEANING AND SANITATION are important tools to kill viruses and bacteria, and, thus, reduce the spread of infection. Geneva County Schools will implement best practices in proper sanitization. Care will be taken to make sure the appropriate sanitizers are purchased and that custodial staff understand the proper application as well as safety precautions. Proper hand washing and/or the use of hand sanitizers is also a tool to eliminate viruses and bacteria from the

environment, thus reducing the spread of infection. Teachers will instruct children to wash hands and to apply hand sanitizers in a safe and responsible

manner as we have done for decades. Geneva County Schools will have a heightened awareness of the importance of these practices.

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY is expected of all students and stakeholders. We all must take personal responsibility. This simply means to be responsible in your decisions – stay at home if you are sick, wash your hands often, don't touch your face, keep a distance from non-household members, wear facial coverings if you are at risk, sneeze and cough in a tissue or your elbow, check your temperature often, monitor members of your family/household for symptoms of COVID – 19. If you have a known exposure to COVID – 19 you are encouraged to self-isolate and contact your healthcare provider and the school nurse.

TEMPERATURE SCREENING for students and staff will take place at the discretion of school administration, based on the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the area. In the event of a COVID-19 outbreak, temperature screenings for staff and students will be conducted daily. Any student or staff member with a confirmed temperature of 100.4 or above will be sent home. Students and staff must be symptom and fever free for 24 hours with no medication before returning to school after an illness. This new procedure will supersede any prior guidance.

III. Curriculum

Geneva County Schools is excited to be returning back to our schools for traditional learning starting on August 6th.

Traditional School

Face to face instruction with best practices implemented in grades K–12. Students are expected to be physically at school for 180 days. Students will be taught and or tutored by a teacher. There will be scheduled days required for teacher professional development and planning, and all other days will be regular school days. Our plan is contingent on the continued track of the coronavirus, and also on complying with any executive or statewide orders that may occur.

Short-term virtual

This curriculum will be offered to students in the traditional school setting who receive a positive test for COVID – 19 and are required to stay at home for an extended period of time; this option could also be used for students in isolation for an extended period of time at the request of the ADPH.

IV. Day to Day Operations

A. School Calendar

- Teachers Begin - August 2, 2021
- Students Begin - August 6, 2021
- 180 Student days
- 187 Teacher days
- Last Day Students – May 26, 2022
- Last Day Teachers – May 27, 2022

B. Daily Schedule

- Students will report to their first class assignment upon arrival to school – no staging or congregating
- Breakfast will be delivered to and eaten in the classroom, as always
- It is not practical to social distance in a classroom; students will be arranged by the teacher to promote as much distance as possible; students will be allowed to wear a mask during class as desired; small group activities will be minimized, but not eliminated
- Recess/Break will be outside; classes will be grouped/separated or beginning and ending times will be staggered to eliminate cross exposure; on inclement weather days, recess/break will be held in the classroom
- Students/employees will be allowed to bring and have bottled water for use during the school day; water fountains will also be available
- School lunches will be pre-made plates or sack lunches and may be consumed inside the classroom or outside (weather permitting) depending on each school's situation; proper sanitation practices will be practiced in the serving areas and in the classrooms
- Parents are encouraged to pay for meals using our online payment system [My School Bucks](#), which can be located on the Geneva County Schools' webpage
- Physical Education, Career Tech, and other close contact classes will social distance as much as possible without disrupting the integrity of the lesson/activity
- Lunchrooms, weight rooms, and other common areas will be sanitized after each use; each classroom will be sanitized after each transition; local school administrators will create a schedule for disinfecting all school properties during the day
- Hand sanitizer will be readily available in classrooms, common areas, and hallways as long as supplies last

- When checking students out of school – only one person should enter the school and report directly to the office; the visitor should respect social distancing
- The afternoon bus lines and car lines will require more time as we accomplish this task social distancing as possible/practical; please use patience and please remember to stay in your vehicle – no early check outs unless it is for health reasons or healthcare appointments

C. Symptomatic Students/Employees

- Temperature screening will take place at the discretion of school administration, according to the level of COVID-19 transmission in the area. In the event of a COVID-19 outbreak, temperature screenings for students and staff will be conducted daily. A student with a temperature of 100.4 or above will be sent to the nurse to have his/her temperature confirmed. A student or staff member with a confirmed temperature of 100.4 or above will be sent home. Students and staff must be symptom and fever free for 24 hours before returning to school after an illness. This new procedure will supersede any prior guidance.
- Students/employees will be sent to the nurse if they exhibit signs of illness. The nurse will triage the individual, and if the individual has symptoms of COVID-19, they will be taken to an isolation area immediately (students will remain under adult supervision). A mask will be provided to those exhibiting signs of contagious illness. Employees will be sent home immediately, and students will stage in the isolation area until they are picked up by a parent, guardian, or emergency contact person. **It is vital that contact information is current and on file with the local school.**
- Employees/students with a positive test MUST isolate for 10 days, and be symptom free for 24 hours before returning to school/work. Employees/students in close contact with someone testing positive for COVID-19 must isolate for 10 days after last contact with the positive person. Please contact your school nurse to confirm return dates.
- When an employee/student is symptomatic, the space occupied by that person will be vacated by others and disinfected before others are allowed to reenter
- When a positive cases occurs the school **will not necessarily close**; deep cleaning will take place and the schedule will continue. Every effort will be made to disinfect affected areas and keep schools open
 - Students who may experience complications due to COVID-19 may be placed on **Short-term Virtual**
 - Employees who test positive or experience complications due to COVID-19 will fall under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (during the effective time period of the Act) (**This expires September 30, 2021.)

- Employees/students should always follow the instructions, guidance and directions of the Alabama Department of Public Health and their individual healthcare provider
- If an employee or student is tested for COVID-19, it MUST be reported to the school nurse. As soon as the test results are received, a copy of the results MUST be provided to the school nurse.

D. Special Events

- Open house activities will be announced on each school's Facebook page and web page.
- Athletic and extracurricular events will be held on campuses as scheduled; AHSAA guidelines will be implemented for athletic events; local health ordinances will be observed; stakeholders that are symptomatic should not attend or participate
- AHSAA guidelines are subject to change; Geneva County Schools will enforce all current guidelines as member schools
 - Hand sanitizer will be readily available at all events, as supplies last

E. Visitors to Campus

- Parents may register their children prior to the first day of school by appointment. Call the school counselor's office to make an appointment. Parents who have not enrolled their children prior to the first day of school will need to call and make an appointment to do so.
 - Visits to campus during the school day will be limited; essential visits only
 - Parents/guardians will not be allowed to come on campus during the school day unless it is to pick up a sick child or special events.
- Every person not employed or enrolled must sign in and give the reason and phone number for contact in case the information is requested by the ADPH
 - Parent conferences are encouraged, but should be held virtually by phone when possible
 - Vendors making deliveries will have limited access
 - No solicitation from outside vendors during the first semester
- Parents/non enrolled guests who attend outside pep rallies will have a designated area to social distance from the student body

F. Attendance

- Geneva County Schools will continue to record/take attendance and enforce compulsory attendance laws
- Special absence codes associated with COVID-19 have been created and will be considered excused absences for students diagnosed or in quarantine, with proper documentation

G. Transportation

Social distancing on a school bus is not practical. Geneva County Schools will implement best practices to try and prevent the spread of COVID – 19. Best practices like assigned seats, loading back to front, unloading front to back, and safe bus behaviors will be implemented to promote health and safety.

- **Drivers** – school buses will be sanitized before each trip
- **Students** – students will be required to sit with family members; students who develop or exhibit symptoms will be asked to sit in an isolation seat; bus drivers will report students displaying symptoms to the appropriate school personnel upon arrival at school; hand sanitizer will be available on each bus as long as supplies are available; assigned seating will be required.

DISCLAIMER

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Contact Information

Geneva County Board of Education

Superintendent- Becky Birdsong 684-5690 birdsongb@genevacoboe.org

Assistant Superintendent- Ralph Riley 684-5690 rileyr@genevacoboe.org

Geneva Regional Career Technical Center (G-Tech)

Principal- B.T. Holmes 248-6354 bt.hinson@genevacoboe.org

Counselor- Ameer Fulford 248-6354 fulforda@genevacoboe.org

Geneva County Schools Opportunity Academy and Virtual School

Director- Rick Voss 588-2977 vossr@genevacoboe.org

Geneva County Elementary School (GCES)

Principal- Chancy Smith 588-2923 chancy.smith@genevacoboe.org

Counselor- Trish Jackson 588-2923 jacksont@genevacoboe.org

Lead County Nurse- Nancy Tindell, RN 588-2923

tindelln@genevacoboe.org

Geneva County Middle School (GCMS)

Principal- Leslie Hubbard 588-2943 habbardl@genevacoboe.org

Counselor- Casey Watters 588-2943 casey.watters@genevacoboe.org

Nurse- Holly Williams 588-2943 holly.williams1@genevacoboe.org

Geneva County High School (GCHS)

Principal- Ashley Sanders 588-2943 sandersa@genevacoboe.org

Counselor- Casey Watters 588-2943 casey.watters@genevacoboe.org

Nurse- Holly Williams 588-2943 holly.williams1@genevacoboe.org

Samson Elementary School (SAES)

Principal- Meme Stafford 898-7439 meme.stafford@genevacoboe.org

Counselor- Rene' Hammond 898-7439 michelle.revels@genevacoboe.org

Nurse- Christina Hughes 898-7439 christina.hughes@genevacoboe.org

Samson Middle School (SAMS)

Principal- Edie Hand 898-2371 hande@genevacoboe.org
Counselor- Sarah Allen 898-2371 sarah.allen@genevacoboe.org
Nurse- Jennie Crocker 898-2371 crockerj@genevacoboe.org

Samson High School (SAHS)

Principal- Lee Hicks 898-2371 lee.hicks@genevacoboe.org
Counselor- Sarah Allen 898-2371 sarah.allen@genevacoboe.org
Nurse- Jennie Crocker 898-2371 crockerj@genevacoboe.org

Slocomb Elementary School (SLES)

Principal- Henry Dawkins 886-2132 dawkinsh@genevacoboe.org
Assistant Principal- Heather Hatton 886-2132 hattonh@genevacoboe.org
Counselor- Angela Bryant 886-2132 bryanta@genevacoboe.org
Nurse- Katie Hobbs 886-2132 katie.hobbs@genevacoboe.org

Slocomb Middle School (SLMS)

Principal- Denise Whitfield 886-2008 denise.whitfield@genevacoboe.org
Assistant Principal- Amory Atwell 886-2008
amory.atwell@genevacoboe.org
Counselor- Kari Whitaker 886-2008 whitakerk@genevacoboe.org
Nurse- Cindy Williford 886-2008 willifordc@genevacoboe.org

Slocomb High School (SLHS)

Principal- David Tice 886-2008 david.tice@genevacoboe.org
Assistant Principal- Amory Atwell 886-2008
amory.atwell@genevacoboe.org
Counselor- Casie Marcus 886-2008 harcusc@genevacoboe.org
Nurse- Cindy Williford 886-2008 willifordc@genevacoboe.org