



Augusta County Public Schools COVID-19 Reopening Plan Fall 2020

Augusta County Public Schools (ACPS) are committed to providing a high-quality educational experience and a safe learning environment for our students and staff. After reviewing the Virginia Department of Education’s guidelines for reopening schools and collaborating with the Virginia Department of Health, the following are key components of our ACPS Fall 2020 reopening plan. These plans are subject to change based on state guidelines and changing conditions:

- ACPS will open for students for the 2020-2021 school year on August 18, 2020. The delayed start will ensure that Virginia is in Phase III and allow teachers, administrators, and support staff to prepare to safely welcome students and provide effective learning opportunities.
- Schools are expected to comply with physical distancing requirements (6 feet) in school buildings.
- The number of students allowed on the bus and in classrooms while maintaining physical distancing will be the main factors that impact the number of students who can attend school each day.
- Due to attendance limitations, ACPS will provide a blended (or hybrid) instruction model that combines in-school and at-home (distance) learning.
- Families with significant concerns about returning their students to school during Phase III will have the option to choose 100% at-home (distance) learning.
- The information below provides key considerations ACPS must address to reopen.

Phase III	
Options for Instruction	<p>Elementary Schools, Middle Schools, High Schools, Valley Academy Parents will choose one option:</p> <p>Option 1: Distance Learning Students will be instructed in a totally remote learning environment at home through online, virtual, and/or packet instruction.</p> <p>Option 2: Blended/Hybrid Instruction Students will attend school for in-classroom instruction at least two days per week. Half of the students will attend on Tuesdays and Thursdays and the other half will attend on Wednesdays and Fridays. The student lists will be created using student schedules, bus routing and classroom capacity while maintaining students attending on the same days as the siblings in their household. Students will also have virtual, online, or hard copies of instruction to be completed during at-home days. On Mondays, ACPS staff will be at their school preparing for in-person and distance learning instruction, participating in professional development, cleaning/sanitizing our buildings. Principals will communicate with families to provide details about students’ assigned schedules.</p> <p>“Exceptional populations” of students will be scheduled on an individualized basis and will likely attend school more frequently than the general student population. This could include students with disabilities who require intensive services & supports, students who are English Language Learners, students receiving intensive intervention, etc.</p> <p>As classroom space allows, students’ schedules may be adjusted to allow for more days of</p>

	in-classroom instruction. These decisions will be made on a school-by-school basis.
Specific Schools	<p>STEP Learning Lab: The instructional staff will contact families directly about the individualized daily schedule for each child. Due to physical distancing requirements, students will not be able to attend the program each day.</p> <p>Valley Career and Technical Center: To be determined.</p> <p>Shenandoah Valley Governor’s School: To be determined.</p> <p>Special Education Private Day Schools: The Office of Student Services will be in contact with enrolled students to discuss the specific plans for transportation and the details relevant for each location.</p>
Gathering Limits	Due to physical distancing requirements, group sizes are limited to a maximum of 50% occupancy or 250 participants, whichever is less, in common areas like cafeterias, gyms, and auditoriums. Meals will be served in a manner which limits the mixing of student groups and complies with physical distancing requirements.
Social Distancing	Our staff and students should maintain 6-foot physical distancing to the greatest extent possible. Student work stations will be separated by 6-feet which will lower the number of students in each classroom space at any one time.
Bus Capacity	Capacity on school buses will be limited due to the required social distancing measures. Siblings are permitted to sit on the same bus seat to increase the capacity of our buses. Face coverings will be required. Students will be assigned seats that will be socially distanced as practical.
Recess/Physical Education	Groups of 50 or fewer, socially distanced, and with minimal mixing of groups will participate in recess and physical education. Playground surfaces and equipment will be sanitized to the extent possible.
Health Screening and Temperature Checks	<p>ACPS will conduct health screenings upon arrival at school, which may include temperature checks and family pre-screenings. Our school nurses have developed a protocol to limit exposure to students who are sick. Additionally, our school division will increase the disinfection of surfaces, teach hand-washing protocol, and increase the use of hand sanitizer.</p> <p>Families should notify the school nurse if their child is exposed to COVID-19 and self-quarantine for 14 days. During the quarantine, students will be counted present if the online curriculum is accessed. If the online curriculum is not accessed, the absences will be excused.</p>
Face Coverings	Face coverings should be worn by staff at times when at least 6-feet physical distancing cannot be maintained. Our schools will encourage the use of face coverings for students as developmentally appropriate in settings when physical distancing cannot be maintained. If families need the school division to provide a face covering, please contact your child’s school office personnel.
Athletics, Extracurriculars, and Field Trips	<p>Athletics: Guidelines to be determined by the Virginia High School League.</p> <p>Extracurriculars/Clubs/Activities: Once VA is in Phase III, Middle and High School students and sponsors may meet in accordance with guidelines established for in-person instruction.</p>
Childcare Options for Families	Please click here for a listing of current open child care providers in our area.



2020 - 2021 SCHOOL CALENDAR

AUGUSTA COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

18 Government Center Lane, PO Box 960, Verona, VA 24482
 Phone: 245-5100 / FAX: 540-245-5115

Updated 06/26/20

JULY 2020						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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AUGUST 2020						
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30	31					

SEPTEMBER 2020						
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OCTOBER 2020						
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NOVEMBER 2020						
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29	30					

DECEMBER 2020						
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27	28	29	30	31		

First Day of School For Students
No School for Students:

Last Day of School For Students
Report Cards Distributed

End of Grading Period

JANUARY 2021						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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31						

FEBRUARY 2021						
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28						

MARCH 2021						
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28	29	30	31			

APRIL 2021						
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MAY 2021						
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30	31					

JUNE 2021						
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

STUDENT / PARENT CALENDAR

August 18: **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**

September 7: Labor Day: No School for Students

October 16: End of First 1st Grading Period

October 27: Report Cards Distributed to Students

November 3: Election Day: No School for Students

November 25-27: Thanksgiving: No School for Students

December 18: End of 2nd Grading Period

December 21-31: Winter Break: No School for Students

January 1: New Year's Day: No School for Students

January 4: No School for Students

January 12: Report Cards Distributed to Students

January 18: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: No School for Students

March 10: End of 3rd Grading Period

March 19: Report Cards Distributed to Students

April 2-5: Spring Break: No School for Students

May 25: **LAST DAY OF SCHOOL: End of 4th Grading Period**

Note:

For VHSL purposes:
 First Semester will end on January 4
 Second Semester will begin on January 5