



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Surry County Schools Announces Return to Learn Plan B Effective September 21st

Yesterday, during its regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting, the Surry County Board of Education voted to begin face-to-face instruction for students under the Surry County Schools Plan B effective Monday, September 21, 2020. Plan B is a return to learn in a blended/hybrid model with a combination of some face-to-face instruction with limited density in school buildings with enhanced health and safety protocols and some remote instruction.

STAGGERED PLAN B SCHEDULE
All Grades
 For **TWO WEEKS**
 September 21 through
 October 2, 2020

	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI
STUDENT GROUP A1					
STUDENT GROUP A2					
STUDENT GROUP B1					
STUDENT GROUP B2					

PLAN B SCHEDULE
BEGINNING
 Week of
 October 5, 2020

	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI
GRADES K - 3					
GRADES 4 - 12 STUDENT GROUPS A1 + A2 Combined					
GRADES 4 - 12 STUDENT GROUPS B1 + B2 Combined					

“My team and I have taken time for extensive and essential planning for a safe and healthy Return to Learn Plan B Blended/Hybrid instructional model. As we prepare for students to return to campuses on September 21st, health and safety for our students and staff remain our top priority,” stated Superintendent, Dr. Travis L. Reeves. “Enhanced health and safety protocols will be implemented on all school campuses to provide safe spaces and safe schools. Cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting protocols will be followed per the NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) safety guidelines. These guidelines include detailed cleaning protocols and additional custodial staff to conduct daily cleaning and additional cleaning nightly and weekly.”

“Classrooms are capped to ensure adherence to social distancing guidelines established by the local Surry County Health and Nutrition Center and NCDHHS. All students in grades K-12 will be divided into four cohort groups, A1, A2, B1, and B2. The school will notify parents of which cohort their child is assigned to. We have made the decision to stagger students as they return to school buildings over two weeks, from September 21st through October 2nd. Teachers and administrators will use this time to personalize interactions with all students and to teach small groups of students the expectations for keeping themselves and others safe,” shared Superintendent Reeves. “Health screenings including parent attestation forms and temperature checks will be conducted before any person enters a school building or boards a school bus. Students and staff are required to follow the 3 Ws: wear a face-covering/mask, wait six feet apart to practice social distancing, and wash hands frequently. Additionally, hand sanitizer will be provided for students and staff to use while on campus.”

The Surry County School System’s Plan B was vetted and endorsed by local health experts. Moreover, the SCS plan was vetted by Superintendent Reeves’ Teacher Advisory and Parent Advisory Councils. School Board Members and Dr. Reeves visited all nineteen school campuses to evaluate health and safety protocols and to talk with teachers and administrators. During the evaluation phase of the plan, SCS utilized the expertise of many community partners for input and feedback. Those community agencies partnering with the district include but are not limited to the Surry County Department of Social Services, NC Department of Juvenile Justice, Partners Behavioral Health Management, Northern Regional Hospital, and the local Surry County Health and Nutrition Center.

SCS will continue working with the local Surry County Health and Nutrition Center to contain the spread of COVID-19 in our community. These efforts may include moving classrooms for cleaning, sanitizing, or disinfecting, and/or recommendations to students and staff to self-isolate and contact tracing. Timely and accurate information to parents and staff is crucial. However, such notifications must balance the privacy rights and interests of students and staff under state and federal laws. The district cannot discuss the health status of any specific students or staff with others, but families will be alerted if a student has had prolonged contact with a positive case.

There is no single response to all cases that occur in school settings. Thus, every response will be based on the unique circumstances of the occurrence of the virus. Everyone is asked to do their part at school and at home to maintain social distance from others outside of their household, wear face coverings/masks, and wash/sanitize hands often to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Additionally, it is imperative that everyone exercises individual responsibility to stay at home if experiencing symptoms of COVID-19.

Flexibility continues to be our mantra as we navigate these uncharted waters together. As local, state, and national health guidance evolves, Surry County Schools reserves the right to make changes to our plan in the best interest of the health and safety of our students and staff. Everyone’s partnership is greatly appreciated as we work together to provide the best educational experience possible for all of our students. The overall success of the 2020-2021 school year will involve all of us working closely together, and doing our part to contribute to a supportive, positive, safe, and healthy partnership as we strive to do what is best for ALL of our students and staff during these challenging times. Together WE are stronger!