



Hinds County School District COVID-19 Parent Letter

July 10, 2020

Superintendent
Dr. Delesicia M. Martin, Ed.D.

Hinds County School District
Timothy Burnett – District 1
Robbie Anderson – District 2
Dr. Linda Laws, President – District 3
Kayla Banger – District 4
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To the Parents of HCSD High School Students:

The leadership of the Hinds County School District is working daily to develop re-entry scenarios, establish a baseline level of safety, and plan a responsive strategy that prioritizes the health and safety of our community while leveraging our schools' agility. We are planning to start classes on Monday, August 10, with the schedules outlined in this letter.

We are preparing for both in-person and distance learning. However, it is important to understand these plans are subject to change in response to public health conditions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. With these realities in mind, we are building a comprehensive approach that will ensure instructional continuity for all students during the 2020-2021 school year.

We understand families have many questions about sending their students to school. Therefore, we have included responses to key questions regarding the return to school in this letter. You can find our complete school reopening plan on our website at www.hinds.k12.ms.

What health and safety measures will be implemented in our schools?

- Jackson Hinds Comprehensive Health Center clinics on each campus – COVID-19 testing is available for staff and students
- Temperature screening for staff AND students daily
- Requirement for staff AND students to wear a mask/face-covering
- Hand sanitizer will be provided and frequently used in each classroom and throughout the buildings
- Regularly scheduled handwashing for all students and staff
- Staff members will be trained on CDC guidance to reduce likelihood of COVID-19 transmission
- Students will stay in the same classroom and teachers will rotate to classes as much as possible
- Strict social distancing in hallways and common areas
- Meals served in the classrooms or outside when weather permits – no large groups in a cafeteria setting
- Buses will run at reduced capacity – maximum of 30 students per bus
- Enhanced nightly cleaning in all schools
- Bipolar Ionization will be mounted inside the HVAC systems. This technology has been proven 99.4% effective against SARS-CoV2 which is the virus that causes COVID-19. This technology cleans the air and surfaces without the use of chemicals, heavy metals or mercury, and produces no harmful by-products such as ozone or ultra-violet light.

Will buses be available to transport students?

Yes. Your children will be able to ride buses, and those buses will operate at a reduced capacity. Each bus will transport 30 or fewer students in order to maintain a level of safe distance between students. Much planning must go into making this happen, and full cooperation from parents is required. *Please be sure to complete the section regarding transportation on the enclosed ***Schedule Selection*** form and submit it no later than July 17.

What time will school begin and end each day?

In order to coordinate safe transportation, both high schools will begin classes at 8:45 a.m. and dismiss at 1:50 p.m. Be sure to watch for further details regarding car drop-off and pick-up instructions from your specific school.

How can I learn more about the technology tools the teachers will use with my child?

The HCSD Technology Team is offering *Parent Technology Academies* on Tuesday, July 21, Thursday, July 23, Thursday, July 30, and Friday, July 31. Please see the enclosed flyer for information about registration for one of these sessions.

Will a computer be provided for my child?

Yes. All high school students will be provided a computer and *must pay* a \$50 technology fee. Please see the enclosed technology flyer for more information.

What will high school student schedules look like during the 2020-2021 school year?

- **HYBRID MODEL FOR 9th – 12th GRADES ONLY** (**Schedule of choice for high school students**)
 - Students attending in-person on alternating days in order to reduce class sizes
 - Electives delivered primarily through distance learning
 - Extracurricular activities will take place after school hours

- **FULL DISTANCE LEARNING / VIRTUAL**
 - Available for those students deemed as “medically fragile” with a physician’s order
 - Available upon parent request provided they are able to meet the provisions outlined by the HCSD
 - Strict adherence to the traditional schedule would be followed by students 5 days per week virtually
 - Students will “log into” their classrooms which would be broadcast via internet through Google Meet or Zoom. Attendance will be taken for each period, and students would be required to be fully present and engaged at all times.
 - Parents will transport virtual students to the school for proctored assessments two times each month.
 - Students who select this option must complete a 9-week session before choosing to change to the traditional in-person schedule.
 - Distance learning/virtual students will be held to the same expectations for work submission and grading guidelines as traditional in-person students.
 - If at any point a distance learning/virtual student is deemed as being unsuccessful in this platform, a conference will be held with the school principal to determine a change of status.

What are my next steps as a parent?

Please feel free to call your child’s school if you need assistance with any of these steps.

1. **REGISTER** – If you have not already completed the online registration process, please do so no later than Friday, July 17. If you are unable to complete the registration process online, please call your child’s school, and they will assist you.
2. **SUBMIT A SCHEDULE SELECTION FORM FOR YOUR CHILD** – You will find this form enclosed with this letter. This form should be submitted to your child’s school no later than Friday, July 17. You may mail it or simply drop it off in the “drop box” outside the school office.
3. **SUBMIT AN UPDATED CONTACT SHEET FOR YOUR CHILD** – You will find this form on the back of the ***Schedule Selection*** form. This should be submitted to your child’s school no later than Friday, July 17. You may mail it or simply drop it off in the “drop box” outside the school office.

When will I have an opportunity to visit the school and have a conference with my child’s teacher?

After you complete the three steps outlined above, your child’s school will contact you to confirm a time to meet with your child’s first period teacher in a small group setting. During this time, you will receive hands-on training on accessing the digital platform and tools we will use this year. You will also receive information specific to your child’s classes and school. These meetings will be held during assigned appointments only on Tuesday, August 4, or Wednesday, August 5.

Thank you for your continued support as we reimagine teaching and learning in the ever-changing landscape of COVID-19.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Delesicia Martin
Superintendent of Education