



McAlester Public Schools will follow the Pittsburg County Health Department and Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) Guidelines and Return to Learn Oklahoma Framework provided by the Oklahoma State Department of Education in planning for reopening school. **The MPS Return to Learn Plan will be reviewed monthly during the MPS Board of Education meeting.**

Our goal will be to open as normal but in the event of COVID or other health concerns, MPS will provide the safest possible experience which will include a rich educational experience, with opportunities for social interaction and extracurricular activities while adhering to guidelines provided by the CDC, Oklahoma State Department of Health and the Pittsburg County Health Department.

PARENTS - YOU MAKE THE DIFFERENCE.

We are asking for your help. Please check your child at home.

OSDH has developed a symptom assessment tool to help determine when someone should be kept home or sent home from school and/or tested for COVID-19:

PLEASE STAY HOME WHEN:
 1 SYMPTOM FROM COLUMN A
 3 SYMPTOMS FROM COLUMN B

| "A" Symptoms | "B" Symptoms |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Fever ≥ 100.4 F | Nasal Congestion/Stuffy Nose |
| Sore Throat | Runny Nose |
| Cough | Muscle/Body Aches |
| Difficulty Breathing | Fatigue |
| Diarrhea or Vomiting | Chills |
| New Loss of Taste or Smell | Nausea |
| | Loss of Appetite |
| | New Onset of Severe Headache |

Recommend testing when:
 Person has 1 "A" Symptom OR
 Person has at least 3 "B" Symptoms

If your child has any of these symptoms, please keep them home for the day and consult your healthcare provider for further directions.

Fever in children is a common symptom, however, many students may not have a fever. Other symptoms that may develop initially include the following: chills, cough, headache, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion, runny nose, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. Any of these are cause for keeping a child home.

If your child has any of the above symptoms and has been around anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19, please seek medical advice.

MPS will implement one or all of the following safety measures to help ensure the safety of our students and staff when there is an executive order, pandemic declared, or a directive from the CDC, OSDH and/or the Pittsburg County Health Department.

McAlester Public Schools will follow the advice and direction given by these health officials. We do recognize everyone's right to have an opinion but the safety of our students and staff will be our top priority and MPS will continue to follow the guidelines set forth by these health agencies. (#9 - Federal guidelines)

SAFE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT:

1. Teachers will have disinfectant wipes or spray in their classroom. Teachers can wipe down the desk in between classes or periodically during the day.
2. The district will sanitize the schools on a regular basis with disinfectant at the end of the day.
3. The district has also purchased and installed new HVAC units with ionizing, air scrubber, capabilities. This would provide clean air to our classrooms.
4. McAlester Public Schools use industrial misting and fogging equipment to sanitize classrooms, buses, and outdoor seating.

SOCIAL DISTANCING:

1. MPS will work with the Pittsburg County Health Department, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments to determine the social distancing guidelines.
2. Facilities are marked to show the recommended 3-6 feet of distance in seating and standing areas wherever possible throughout the McAlester Public School District. In classrooms, students are seated in pod areas to minimize exposure, and the pod cohorts travel the hallways in their groups.
3. Each site will be devising plans to provide for this precaution in the common areas, such as hallways, classrooms, cafeterias, and gyms.
4. Voluntary Distance Learning, A & B schedules and alternate classroom sites may be implemented to help with social distancing.

HYGIENE:

1. Handwashing is one of the best means of protection against infection. Students will be reminded to wash their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing their noses, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating. . Signage is posted throughout all facilities with these reminders.
2. Students will be taught how to cough or sneeze into their elbow to aid in decreasing the spread of germs.
3. Hand sanitizer - Students will have access to an alcohol-based hand sanitizer throughout the school building when hand-washing opportunities are not readily available.
4. Water bottle refill stations are at every school. Parents are encouraged to send a water bottle with their students. Water bottle filling stations will be sanitized frequently.

FACE COVERINGS: Face coverings are effective and are strongly encouraged to be worn. ***FACE COVERINGS CAN BE MANDATED BY AN EXECUTIVE ORDER BY THE GOVERNOR DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR OUR AREA, or by the local school board. The board gave the authority to the Superintendent on August 31, 2021 to make any/all necessary adjustments (if/as needed) to any aspect of the 2021 -2022 school year in response to the constantly changing variables of the COVID-19 Global pandemic, to protect the best interests of the students and staff.***

1. Appropriate face coverings to work effectively must fit securely over the nose and mouth.
2. All students and staff are required to wear face coverings, unless a parent or guardian has completed, signed and returned the MPS Mask Opt Out form.
3. The Mask Opt Out form can be found on our District's Website at www.mcalester.k12.ok.us under the COVID-19 information page.

POSITIVE CASES:

What will happen if an individual(s) on campus tests positive for COVID-19?

1. We will ask for documentation to verify the report. We will be in direct contact with the Pittsburg County Health Department and our school nurse.
2. According to HIPAA, which mandates the confidentiality of all people, we will be able to release a general statement letting parents and staff know that a student or staff member has tested positive at a particular campus. No names or anything that can be used to identify a specific student or staff member will ever be made available.
3. Trained individuals will start the process of contact tracing any individuals in close contact with the positive case.
4. A positive student will be required to participate in distance learning.
5. Close contacts identified in the classroom setting where both the positive and the close contact are wearing masks will not have to quarantine from the classroom, but will be excluded from extracurricular activities (i.e. P.E., Band, Choir, Athletics) for 7 - 10 days.
6. Close contacts identified in the extracurricular activities setting will need to be on Distance Learning for 7 - 10 days.

7. Any student or staff who develops symptoms consistent with COVID-19 while at school should be excluded from the setting immediately, regardless of whether they have been allowed to remain at school post-exposure in a classroom.
8. Social distancing of 3ft will be implemented if there is a single case. If multiple cases are identified then social distancing will increase to 6ft.
9. If multiple cases are identified at a single campus then student movement will be limited throughout the building.
10. Limiting the number of students on campus or distance learning may be implemented with multiple positive cases on a single campus.

CONTACT TRACING:

1. MPS will work with the Pittsburg County Health Department, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments to follow these latest guidelines.

Closing a Campus: A school campus would be closed for the following:

1. 35% of students are positive or quarantined
2. 50% of staff are positive or quarantined, or the district is unable to acquire enough substitutes to cover classes.
3. In the case of campus closure:
 - a. Distance Learning will be required for all students
 - b. The building will be deep cleaned
 - c. A meal delivery schedule will be available at various points throughout the community

Closing the District - The district would close for the following:

1. 35% of the total students in the district are positive or quarantined
2. The district is unable to find enough substitutes to cover classes
3. In the case of District closure:
 - a. Distance Learning will be required for all students
 - b. All buildings will be deep cleaned
 - c. A meal delivery schedule will be available at various points throughout the community.

TESTING:

1. The MPS school nurse will work with the Pittsburg County Health Department, in collaboration with the State, Local, Territorial, or Tribal Health Departments to determine the need and procedure to provide testing for COVID.
2. Our staff will work with the principal to establish time and procedure to be tested.
3. Confidentiality - Names of those who are being tested or tested positive will only be made available to the school nurse and the principal of the building. According to HIPAA which mandates the confidentiality of all people. We will be able to release a general statement letting

parents and staff know that a student or staff member has tested positive. No names or anything that can be used to identify a specific student will ever be made available.

VACCINATIONS:

1. MPS will work with the Pittsburg County Health Department to vaccinate any student or staff interested in being vaccinated.
2. We have on-going collaboration with both the County Health Department and the Choctaw Nation for COVID support.
3. MPS Schools remain in close collaboration with the Pittsburg County Health Department and the Choctaw Nation who also offer COVID support to our employees for screening and for vaccinations.

ATTENDANCE:

If I keep my child home when they have symptoms, are they going to be Chronically Absent and have a truancy fine?

1. Make sure that you contact your building principal every day to let them know what is going on.
2. Positive cases or quarantining will come from the Pittsburg County Health Department. We will confirm with them.
3. Students who are in the traditional setting are required by law to be at school. Communication with the site principal is required. The principal will work with you to find a solution but a student cannot miss more than 8 days a semester.
4. Only the principal can place someone on Distance Learning for someone who is ill.

Special Education

At times when school is moved to remote learning due to COVID, students with disabilities are offered the option to learn in person in classrooms that have been deep cleaned and sanitized. ESSER COVID Relief funds have been used to purchase adaptive technology for students with disabilities to use when they are required to engage in remote learning due to positive for Covid, deep cleaning, or inclement weather.

Transportation

Students will also be required to have assigned seats on the bus. The seating chart is mandatory for student contact tracing in the event of a positive COVID-19 test.

CLASSES

MPS believes that every student can learn. However, not all students learn at the same rate. Classes will be offered that will allow students to stay on their current path, accelerate or catch up. MPS - will offer Traditional Learning, Blended Learning (which is Distance Learning along with traditional learning), Distance Learning and Virtual (Alternative Ed) Learning. Traditional Learning. Students will come to school and meet face to face with the instructor.

Distance Learning: Teacher driven online instruction.

1. Pre K - 12th grade students.
2. Distance Learning is a teacher driven curriculum while a student is at home for extended periods of time.
3. Principal directed and approved. A student or parent CANNOT choose to be distance learning today and back into traditional tomorrow. Every day that is counted distance MUST have prior principal approval.
4. Students are required to have daily virtual communication with the teacher or course and keep pace with all work. Student attendance will be calculated everyday and is NOT only on an assignment completion basis.
5. Extended Distance Learning request - must have principal approval and meet criteria prior to days absent. Students who do not meet the criteria will be counted absent.
6. Students will be required at times to report to the building for scheduled assessments.

Virtual Learning (Edgenuity): Computer based program.

(Grades 9 through 12) Virtual Learning is going to be associated with Alternative Education and Edgenuity. Alternative Education is a computer-based program that the student must follow. A student who is enrolled in the virtual program will have a teacher / contact from MPS who will provide assistance when needed. A student receives credit for the class upon completion of all of the requirements assigned by the program. We will be using Edgenuity for our virtual alternative program.

Blended Learning: Students who have some traditional classes and Distance Learning. All options must be discussed and approved with the building principal, prior to the student utilizing this option.

What are my options, if I do not want my child to return to the traditional classroom?

A student can do blended learning, distance learning or virtual learning at the high school level. A student can go distance learning at the Pre-K through 8th grade level.

Can a student choose to go Distance Learning at any time?

No. Distance learning is not something that is a day to day decision. If a student wishes to go Distance Learning, a meeting will need to be scheduled with the building principal. Reasons for the student not being able to attend will be discussed. Students who choose to go Distance Learning may be required to come back to full time in person learning if classwork begins to suffer.

Can a student choose to go virtual at any time?

Students who wish to go to a computer based (virtual) program, will need to enroll into this virtual Alternative Ed program during the first two weeks of the semester.

Can a student switch from virtual to traditional class?

Yes, but there will only be 1 switch allowed per semester. Due to the nature of curriculum planning, switches into virtual can only be made at the beginning of a grading period. A student can switch to traditional class at any time up to the last 4 weeks of the semester.

Student chromebooks for every student:

McAlester Public Schools has a 1 to 1 initiative so every enrolled student will be issued a chromebook. Chromebooks are issued at the campus once a student is enrolled.

Locations for connection to Wi-Fi:

McAlester Public Schools has school wifi in towers throughout the city of McAlester, as well as, wifi at every campus location. All towers may be found on the following map:

<https://sites.google.com/mcalester.k12.ok.us/resourcesforparentsandstudents/wifi-spots>

Technology Support:

Most technology issues may be alleviated by contacting the campus librarian. The campus librarian is designated and trained to support simple technology issues. For larger technology issues a parent may call district technology support at (918) 423-4771 x1150.

If students choose to do full-time alternative or distance learning, will they be able to participate in extracurricular activities?

Yes, students participating in full-time virtual learning will be able to participate in extracurricular activities but will have to adhere to OSSAA guidelines.

It is mandatory that a student have to attend a minimum of 1 hour a day on-campus to participate in an extracurricular activity. If a student is wanting to participate in a competitive activity such as athletics or band, they will be required to attend the practices associated with these activities.

Meet eligibility requirements - Students in virtual learning will need to be self-motivated and driven to keep up. The students in extracurricular activities will have to be “on pace” every week according to the program pacing guide. Any student who is NOT on pace will be considered ineligible.

My child is in Special Education, will they be allowed to do virtual learning? (#8 - Federal Guidelines) Yes. The Special Education Department along with the Special Education teacher and the IEP team will meet to design a plan for each individual student based on their needs.

How can I enroll my child?

In person enrollment for grades K-12 is scheduled for July 27th and 28th in the Lucy Smith Center located on the campus of McAlester High School. This will be for new people to the district, as well as those who struggle with the online enrollment. Parents are encouraged to go online to enroll their child at <https://www.mcalester.k12.ok.us>. On our website under the Families/Students tab, we have provided video tutorials showing you how to enroll online. You will need a PowerSchool username and password.

How do I enroll into Virtual Classes?

Please go to our website at <https://www.mcalester.k12.ok.us>. Hover over the Campuses tab on the top of the page. Scroll down and click on the “Virtual” campus page.

Attendance, I will keep my child home when they have symptoms or they are quarantined. Are they going to be Chronically Absent and have a truancy fine?

1. Contact the building principal to discuss the options with them. Please contact the principal before or during the fact and not wait until after the student is back in school.
2. Students who are in the traditional setting will be counted Present Distance (PD) if:
3. A student logs into the Google Classroom for EACH teacher.
4. Watch the video or Google meet assignment.
5. Complete assigned work.
6. Assignments and school work must be done on EACH day of the students absence.
7. Students are making progress.

Will my student be drinking from water fountains?

We have water bottle refill stations at every school. Parents are encouraged to send a water bottle with their students as water fountains will not be available. Additionally, water bottle filling stations will be available and sanitized frequently.

What will happen if a student comes to school sick?

If a student comes to school sick, the office will screen the student and check their temperature. If their temperature is over the OSDH guidance of 100.4 or they show other symptoms such as coughing or difficulty breathing, the student will be sent home and will need to be fever free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication before returning to school. The student will be isolated in a designated area until the parent or guardian gets there to pick them up. When the child returns to school, they will check in with the school office/monitor and be screened for a temperature before attending class or going in any public areas. The student will be given a note stating that they are no longer sick or showing symptoms associated with the COVID-19.

What happens if we have school closures again?

If schools close for any reason we will automatically go into Distance Learning. Students and teachers are familiar with the format. Teachers and students will utilize Google Classroom, Google Meet, and Seesaw to deliver virtual and online lessons. MPS will provide meals in the event of a school closure.

Can my child use their cell phone to complete assignments?

Although we recommend using your district issued device, it is possible to complete assignments on a cellular device. In order to do so, your child will need to download the following apps to the device: Google Classroom (Grades 2-12), Google Docs, Google Sheets, and/or Seesaw (Pre-K and K).

In the event of a temporary school closure, how will the district serve special needs students (Special Education, 504, etc)? (#8 - Federal Guidelines)

That the IEP team will be meeting to develop a plan for each student based on their needs that will be part of the IEP. The students will have access to the same material and the general education peers with modifications, accommodations, and additional instruction as needed.