

# Proposed Final HCS Re-Opening Plan

*Presented to the Horry  
County Board of  
Education*

*Tuesday, August 4, 2020*

# Chronology of Planning Process

- S.C. Department of Education finalizes AccelerateED Task Force Guidance and Recommendations for 2020-21 School Year (**June 2020**)
- HCS Task Force Committee appointed by the Superintendent with representatives from multiple stakeholder groups. Conducted virtual meetings. (**June-July 2020**)
- Parents and employees surveyed for input concerning preparations for upcoming school year. (**June 2020**)
- DRAFT HCS Re-Opening Plan presented to the Board of Education and the public. (**July 13, 2020**)
- Parents surveyed to ascertain interest in K-12 HCS Virtual Program. (**July 31, 2020**)
- FINAL HCS Re-Opening Plan presented to the Board of Education and the public (**August 4, 2020**)

# **HCS Re-Opening Task Force: Areas of Concern**

**Public Health & Safety**

**School Operations & Logistics**

**Teaching & Learning**

**Equity & Family Needs**

**Social-Emotional Health**

# Resources



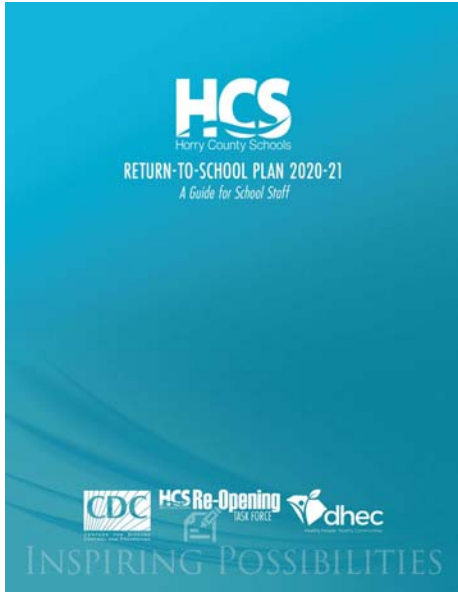
- [AccelerateED Task Force Guidance and Recommendations for 2020–21 School Year \(June 22, 2020\)](#)



- [COVID-19 Interim Guidance for School Operations \(May 18, 2020\)](#)
- [Recent Disease Activity, by County For SC Department of Education \(July 5, 2020\)](#)



- [K-12 Schools and Child Care Programs: FAQs for Administrators, Teachers, and Parents \(June 3, 2020\)](#)



# Re-Opening Plan Development

District Creates Draft Re-Opening Plan



Board Reviews/Provides Feedback on DRAFT Re-Opening Plan



District Submits Proposed FINAL Re-Opening Plan for Board's Consideration



District Submits Board-Approved FINAL Re-Opening Plan  
to S.C. Department of Education  
for Approval



\*District Publishes Approved Plan to Public

**\*ALL LEVELS OF APPROVAL MUST OCCUR BEFORE THE PLAN IS CONSIDERED FINAL.**

**Instructional Option One (Brick and Mortar School)**  
***Determined by SCDHEC Assessment of Disease Activity Spread***

- The school year begins on **September 8, 2020**.
- The type of instruction on the first day of school will be determined by the SCDHEC Disease Activity Report issued on August 31, 2020. The possibilities are as follows:
  - *LOW SPREAD* - Traditional (Full-time, Face-to-Face, 5 days per week)
  - *MEDIUM SPREAD* - Hybrid (Combination of Face-to-Face and Distance Learning: 2 Days Face-to-Face + 3 Days Distance Learning per week)
  - *HIGH SPREAD* - Full-time Distance Learning (5 Days Distance Learning per week)
- During first semester, all three disease spread conditions may occur. Therefore, students may receive instruction first semester through Traditional, Hybrid, and Distance Learning methods. However, parents do not choose one of the three.
- SCDHEC publishes the [Disease Activity Report](#) each Monday on the SCDHEC website. (Click on the county-level data link to access the report.) The prior week's report will guide the type of instruction utilized by HCS for the next week.



**Instructional Option Two (Virtual)**  
***K-12 HCS Virtual Program***

- The school year begins on **September 8, 2020**.
- The type of instruction on the first day of school will be through digital delivery to students at their homes. Students do not physically attend classes in a school building.
- The type of instruction on the remaining days of the semester will be through digital delivery to students at their homes. Students do not physically attend classes in a school building.
- Should they choose to do so, students may participate in extracurricular activities/sports at the brick-and-mortar school they normally would attend.
- Students will be in virtual classes with students from all over the county, but they will not be in classes with students whose parents chose Option One.
- Students will be taught by HCS teachers.





## LEAP DAYS: Learn, Evaluate, Analyze, Prepare

- Five LEAP (Learn, Evaluate, Analyze, Prepare) days prior to the first day of school for the 2020-21 school year have been added for K-8 select students: August 20, 21, 24, 25, 26.
- The LEAP days will be used for face-to-face assessment activities and instruction.
- The following criteria will be used to identify students who will be invited to participate:
  - Students who experienced low engagement during the spring closure
  - Students who have demonstrated learning gaps
  - Students in the process of evaluation for EL and/or special education
  - Students who are homeless or migrant
- Once students are identified, an invitation for students to participate in LEAP days will be sent to parents.
- Student participation is voluntary and cannot count as an absence on the student's attendance record.
- Bus transportation and lunch will be provided.

## STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

- Instruction and related services will be provided for all models of instruction.
- Students will be provided with accommodations and modifications as needed.
- Meetings, including IEP, 504, annual review, and eligibility, will continue.

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

- Instruction and related services will be provided for all models of instruction.
- Students will be provided with accommodations and modifications as needed.
- Individual learning plans (ILP's) will continue to be developed and implemented.

## GIFTED AND TALENTED

- G/T services will continue.
- G/T screening/identification will continue.

## CHILD DEVELOPMENT, CHILD FIND, AND OTHER EVALUATIONS

- Screening for pre-school and school-age students will resume, and any pending evaluations will be expedited.
- Social distancing and PPE guidelines per SCDHEC and CDC will be followed.

## STUDENT ASSESSMENT

- HCS will administer the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment to all students in grades K-9 within the first ten instructional days of the 2020-21 school year.
- This assessment is intended to provide information to educators regarding the present levels of performance of students and to identify any gaps in learning.
- Assessment data resulting from this administration of MAP will inform instructional decisions made in the first semester of the 2020-21 school year.

## SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL & MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS

- Meeting the social-emotional and mental health needs of students, families, and staff upon our return to school will be critical to re-engaging students, supporting adults, building relationships, and creating a foundation for academic learning.
- Training will be provided for school crisis response teams and staff.
- Early reconnections with staff, students, and families will be paramount in responding to questions about our return to school and informally assessing social-emotional and mental health needs.
- All CD -12 students will be provided with daily social-emotional learning opportunities.

## VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

- Instruction in the visual and performing arts focuses on core standards of creation, connection, presentation/performance, and response. The health and safety protocols in schools may present challenges for instruction focused on the domain of presentation/performance; however, visual and performing arts teachers have the capacity to shift instructional focus to the other domains in ways that are consistent with health requirements.
- For the safety and well-being of students and teachers, the health and safety guidelines outlined by various state and national arts organizations will be taken into consideration. These guidelines provide specific safety information for a variety of teaching scenarios in band, choir, orchestra, general music, dance, drama, and visual art.

## EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- Schools will follow health and safety guidelines as established for classrooms and entire schools.
- All summer extracurricular activities have been discontinued.
- Schools will evaluate and/or adjust future extracurricular activities based on the level of infection in the county.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Specialized virtual professional development for teachers and administrators will be provided, but not limited to, the following:
  - Distance Learning and Instruction
  - Social and Emotional Learning
  - Trauma-Informed Practices
  - Health and Safety Guidelines

## DECIDING TYPE OF SCHOOL OPERATION (Traditional, Hybrid, or Distance Learning)

- HCS will utilize the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control's (SCDHEC) weekly Disease Activity Guidance Report to determine if schools are operating as normal (traditional face-to-face, five days per week) in a low spread condition, implementing a hybrid model (face-to-face and distancing learning) in a medium spread condition, or implementing a full-time distance learning model in a high spread condition. See the following link for the weekly SCDHEC report by county:  
<https://www.scdhec.gov/infectious-diseases/viruses/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/sc-cases-county-zip-code-covid-19>.
- HCS will make a decision to transition from one type of school operation to another based upon the prior week's SCDHEC Disease Activity Guidance Report. Parents should monitor the HCS website and HCS social media for updates regarding any transition decisions.

## TRANSPORTATION

- Buses will be cleaned and disinfected twice per day after the completion of morning and afternoon routes with an electrostatic handheld sprayer and EPA-approved disinfectant in compliance with the AccelerateED Task Force Guidance and Recommendations (<https://ed.sc.gov/newsroom/covid-19-coronavirus-and-south-carolina-schools/accelerateed-task-force/accelerateed-task-force-fall-recommendation-final/>) and CDC guidelines (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/bus-transit-operator.html>).
- Transportation staff and students will be required to maintain required social distancing between each other at all times on school transportation vehicles.
- Students and drivers will be required to wear face coverings.
- The number of students on the bus will be a maximum of 67% of standard capacity.
- Windows and roof vents will be opened to maximize ventilation.
- Three students on a seat should not occur.
- Students shall be loaded from back to front when possible.
- Students shall be unloaded from front to back.
- Household members will, if possible, be paired together on the seat.
- Each bus shall have a seating chart for tracking and to support contact tracing, if necessary.

## PHYSICAL ENTRY POINTS & SIGNAGE

- Entrance and exit doors will be designated at the front office to reduce the chance that people meet face-to-face.
- Social distancing signage will be posted in the front office and in hallways to serve as reminders for students and staff members.
- Signage and markings of 6 feet of spacing will be posted to remind students and staff to always stay 6 feet apart in lines such as in the cafeteria, bathroom entrances, locker room entrances, and bus waiting areas.
- Limited density of people in school facilities and transportation vehicles to no greater than 67% maximum occupancy will be enforced to ensure social distancing of at least 6 feet apart between people.
- Directional reminders will be posted on the walls and/or floor.
- Signage on the proper use of face coverings will be posted throughout the building.
- Middle and high school students will be asked to go through the search lines as they enter the campus. A “fast lane” will be available for students who do not bring a book bag or bring a clear one to expedite the process.
- After entering the school, students will be asked to report directly to their first classroom scheduled for the day.
- Visitors will be allowed in only the front office. Visitors are discouraged from coming to schools unless it is absolutely necessary.
- Schools will limit activities involving external groups in the schools.
- Deliveries must be coordinated through school principals.
- Parent-teacher conferences must be held in a virtual meeting or by telephone.

## PRE-SCREENING

- Employees, parents, and students will be given a pre-screening checklist to complete daily prior to attending school.
- Students should not attend school if they exhibit any symptoms on the checklist.

## PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

- Hand sanitizing stations will be provided throughout the buildings.
- Hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol) will be provided at every building entrance and exit, in the cafeteria, and in every classroom for safe use by staff and older students.
- Schools will require the use of face coverings for all students, staff, contracted vendors, and visitors.
- Schools will require all students wear face coverings unless the circumstances dictate otherwise, i.e., while eating lunch, during physical activities, etc.
- While all students are required to wear face coverings, 504 and IEP teams will determine if modifications and/or reasonable accommodations are needed for individual students with disability-related issues that prevent the student from wearing a face covering in order to allow the student to safely participate in educational activities.
- Students with medical issues that prevent them from wearing a mask should consult with the school nurse.
- CDC does not recommend use of face shields for normal everyday activities or as a substitute for cloth face coverings. If face shields are used without a mask, they should wrap around the sides of the wearer’s face and extend to below the chin. Disposable face shields should only be worn for a single use.

## HANDWASHING, HAND SANITIZERS, & DISINFECTANTS

- Hand sanitizing stations will be provided throughout the buildings.
- Hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol) will be provided at every building entrance and exit, in the cafeteria, and in every classroom for safe use by staff and older students. According to the FDA, methanol is not an acceptable ingredient for hand sanitizers and must not be used due to its toxic effects.

## FIELD TRIPS

- Schools will discontinue activities that involve bringing together large groups of people or activities that do not allow for social distancing (assemblies, in-person field trips, large groups using playground equipment simultaneously, etc.).
- Schools will incorporate virtual events such as field trips, parents/family meetings, assemblies, and performances where possible.

## NUTRITION SERVICES

- Students will be allowed adequate time to wash and sanitize hands before and after meals.
- Schools will extend and/or stagger meal times to promote social distancing, while ensuring adequate time for students to consume their meals.
- Cafeterias will discontinue the use of any self-service food or beverage distribution. For example, food should be individually wrapped or served/handed directly to students. This also applies for events outside the typical school day. As always, cafeterias should ensure the safety of children with food allergies.
- Cafeterias will prepare boxed or bagged meals as alternatives as needed for unique situations and for homebound students as needed or required in the IEP or 504 plan.
- The district office will develop written materials for families to help them understand new meal service models and to combat misinformation as required in the SCDHEC School Operations Guidance.
- Water fountain use will be suspended. Students are encouraged to bring bottled water from home.
- Staff will ensure that all non-disposable food service items are minimally handled and washed with hot water and soap or in a dishwasher, or disposable food service items such as plates and utensils should be used.
- Schools will ensure spaced seating in the cafeteria, and longer meal periods should be scheduled if other options such as pre-packaged meals are not served in the classroom.

## HEALTH ROOM & ISOLATION AREA

- Whenever symptoms of COVID-19 present at school, teachers will send students to the health room to be examined by the school nurse. If the school nurse believes the symptoms indicate the probability of COVID-19, a mask will be placed on the student, and parents will be notified immediately and asked to pick up the student from school.
- Each school will establish a dedicated space for symptomatic individuals. Until the arrival of the parent, the student will be isolated from other students in the dedicated space. The student will be required to wear a mask while in the isolation room and until he/she exits the school building.
- Parents should update health records and provide the school nurse with the latest health information on students. It is important that all students have updated immunization records.
- Parents should update contact and emergency phone numbers.
- Parents will be given guidelines for the student returning to school after exclusion.

## NOTIFICATION OF SYMPTOMS & CASES

- School nurses and district health services staff will communicate directly with the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) to determine the next steps in each situation.
- The SCDHEC exclusion and notification guidance will be followed.
- The SCDHEC re-entry guidance will be followed when a child is ready to re-enter school after being excluded for a case or symptoms of COVID-19.
- School nurses will comply with HIPPA regulations in the handling of COVID-19 cases.

## RESTROOMS & WATER FOUNTAINS

- Water fountain use will be suspended. Students are encouraged to bring bottled water from home.
- Schools will stagger normally assigned times for access to restroom facilities.
- Markings will be placed on the floor to designate physical distancing when using the restroom facilities, including access to stalls and sinks.

## RECESS & PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

- Schools should reduce the number of students on the playground at one time, provide time to disinfect equipment between uses, and if disinfecting equipment is not possible, restrict use of playground equipment.
- Students are not allowed to bring any equipment for recess from home.

## REGISTRATION – ONLINE & IN-PERSON

- Returning students may continue to register for school through InfoSnap. Questions should be directed to the school through the school's main switchboard or through the school's individual registration email listed on the HCS website.
- Students who are new to Horry County Schools should complete the preliminary registration form listed on the HCS website. Someone from the school will contact the parent after this information has been received. Click on the following link: <https://www.horrycountyschools.net/Page/10126>
- Questions about the registration process may be sent to [registration@horrycountyschools.net](mailto:registration@horrycountyschools.net) or to the individual school's registration email listed on the HCS website.
- Schools will make individual appointments for parents who need assistance with the online registration process.

## ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

- HCS will follow all directions and guidelines from the South Carolina High School League (SCHSL). Athletes should continue to monitor their respective school's website for updates.

# Essential Questions

**1. What is the first day of school?**

**September 8, 2020**



## **2. Will students go back to school face-to-face, five days per week beginning September 8, 2020?**

**Students' physical attendance at school will be determined by weekly SCDHEC reports which indicate low, medium, or high levels of disease activity.**

**As an example, the SCDHEC Disease Activity Report for August 3, 2020, indicates a high level of disease activity for Horry County. Given this high rating by SCDHEC, HCS students would not be allowed to return for face-to-face instruction. Instead, distance learning would be utilized.**

### 3. Will HCS employees be working from home or from their schools?

- *LOW SPREAD* - Traditional (Full-time, Face-to-Face, 5 days per week)
  - Teachers report daily to their respective classrooms, and all other school and district staff members report to their building assignments as well.
  
- *MEDIUM SPREAD* - Hybrid (Combination of Face-to-Face and Distance Learning: 2 Days Face-to-Face + 3 Days Distance Learning per week)
  - Teachers report daily to their respective classrooms, and all other school and district staff members report to their building assignments as well.
  
- *HIGH SPREAD* - Full-time Distance Learning (5 Days Distance Learning per week)
  - Teachers report daily to their respective classrooms, and all other school and district staff members report to their building assignments as well.

#### **4. When my child physically returns to school will he/she have to wear a mask while riding a bus or while at school?**

**Yes. Students and staff members will be required to wear masks on buses and in the schools. According to the SCDE, exceptions will be made for the following:**

- **Those who have trouble breathing**
- **Those unable to remove the covering without assistance**
- **Those with special healthcare or educational needs as determined by an Individualized Education Program (IEP), 504 Accommodations Plan, or an individual student healthcare plan, or by a medical doctor.**

**5. What if I do not feel comfortable sending my child back to his/her school at the present time? Do I have another option?**

**Yes. You have the option to enroll your child in the K-12 HCS Virtual Program. In order to ensure your child's enrollment, you must complete an online form for K-12 HCS Virtual Program prior to midnight, August 10, 2020. The form may be accessed at the following link:**  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSewXImid05prWLR6BETDiyY9zIbLtqVFYpVYgFPBmqS9rkeAw/viewform>.

**6. If I choose the K-12 HCS Virtual Program for my child, can he/she participate in extracurricular activities/sports at his/her brick-and-mortar school?**

**Yes. Any student enrolled in the K-12 HCS Virtual Program may participate in extracurricular activities/sports at the brick-and-mortar school that he/she would normally attend based on residential address.**

# What's the difference?



**eLearning**



**Distance Learning**



**K-12 HCS Virtual Program**