

## Dawson County School System's Return to School Plan 2023-2024

Dawson County Schools plan to return to school for the 2023-2024 school year on August 4, 2023, for in-person instruction unless directed otherwise by the Governor, Department of Public Health, or Georgia Department of Education. The following enhanced safety protocols will be implemented. These protocols are flexible and will be reviewed and revised as needed based on community-spread health data.

### ENHANCED SAFETY PROTOCOLS

<b>Practicing Prevention</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Encourage social distancing measures as much as possible.</li> <li>● Post signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread of COVID-19.</li> <li>● Hand sanitizer will be provided.</li> <li>● Masks optional.</li> <li>● Clean/disinfect frequently touched surfaces.</li> <li>● Impacted areas/classrooms will be isolated and deep cleaned.</li> <li>● A protocol for students/staff who feel ill/experience symptoms when at school will be implemented.</li> </ul>
<b>Transportation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Hand sanitizer will be provided on buses.</li> <li>● Frequently touched surfaces on buses will be cleaned after each route.</li> <li>● Field trips reviewed on an individual basis.</li> <li>● Buses will be sanitized after each route.</li> </ul>
<b>Entering School Buildings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Post signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread of COVID-19.</li> <li>● Encourage social distancing.</li> </ul>
<b>Serving Meals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Encourage hand washing before and after meals.</li> <li>● Hand sanitizer will be provided.</li> <li>● Students could be spread out during lunch, and lunch schedules staggered if needed.</li> <li>● Classes of students may eat lunch in classrooms when necessary at the principal's discretion.</li> <li>● High-touch surfaces will be cleaned thoroughly throughout the day.</li> </ul>
<b>Transitioning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Encourage social distancing.</li> </ul>
<b>Large Group Gatherings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Encourage social distancing.</li> <li>● Stagger the schedule for large group gatherings like recess and class changes.</li> <li>● Utilize large spaces like gymnasiums, auditoriums, and outside spaces for social distancing.</li> </ul>
<b>Support for Teaching and Learning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Use online tools for collaboration.</li> <li>● Limit sharing of supplies.</li> <li>● Encourage social distancing.</li> <li>● Use of hand sanitizer in classrooms.</li> </ul>

## Dawson County School System's Reopening Plan 2023-2024

### Learning Options

Online Learning for K-5 Specifics	Online Learning for 6-12 Specifics
<p>There will be no online learning option for students in grades K-5 for the 2023-2024 school year. Please contact your child's school if you have questions/concerns.</p>	<p>An Online Learning Option is available through an application process for grades 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>. Click <a href="#">HERE</a> for more information or to apply.</p> <p>For 6-12, the school system plans to utilize its virtual academy through the Edgenuity platform. Parents/guardians selecting this option must apply before the start of each semester and commit to a full semester. Doing so allows the district to plan the allocation of staff and teaching assignments accordingly. Edgenuity is a program that the school's online advisor facilitates. Core on-level academic courses (social studies, science, math, and language arts/reading) will be available for all grade levels. Middle, junior, and high school students can access limited connections, electives, Advanced Placement, and CTAE courses. Students will maintain enrollment at their zoned school and will be able to participate in after-school activities/athletics. Guidance from the Georgia High School Association (GHSA) will be followed for school athletics.</p>

For more information or questions about enhanced safety protocols or learning options, refer to the FAQ below.

Please contact your child's school if you don't find the answer. We will contact you as soon as possible.

**Dawson County School System's Reopening Plan 2023-2024**  
**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION**

QUESTIONS	RESPONSES
<b>Will Dawson County Schools start in August?</b>	Dawson County Schools plan to reopen for the 2023-2024 school year on August 4, 2023, unless directed otherwise by the Governor, Department of Public Health, or Georgia Department of Education.
<b>What guidelines will be in place when schools reopen?</b>	Enhanced safety protocols are shared on the district's website.
<b>Will masks be required for staff and students?</b>	Masks are optional.
<b>Will social distancing be followed on buses?</b>	It will be difficult to social distance on the buses. Buses will have hand sanitizer available for students, and students may wear masks. Buses will be sanitized.
<b>Will my child eat in the cafeteria?</b>	Students will eat in school cafeterias. Principals have the discretions to stagger lunch times and spread out students if needed. Students may also eat in the classrooms if needed.
<b>What will happen if a student or a teacher is determined to be ill at school?</b>	Symptoms will be evaluated by the school nurse, and based on this evaluation, staff members may be sent home, and students may remain in isolation, with supervision, while parents are contacted to pick them up.
<b>Will parents be notified if their student was exposed to COVID-19 at school?</b>	In the event of a positive COVID-19 test result in any school/facility, the Director of Youth Health Service will reach out to the Department of Public Health for guidance and next steps.
<b>What if my child has a fever above 100.0?</b>	Parents should keep their child(ren) at home if they are ill. Any student and staff member with a fever of 100.0 degrees or greater or symptoms of possible COVID-19 virus infection should not be present at school.
<b>If I select online learning options for my child, will the district provide a device?</b>	All 6-12 students will have an opportunity to check out a school-issued iPad. Insurance on these devices will be recommended and can be purchased upon receipt.
<b>Will after-school be available for elementary?</b>	Yes, YMCA is the district after-school provider. The school will provide details.
<b>If my child does online learning in grades 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, will they be allowed to participate in after-school extracurricular activities?</b>	The system plans to allow those students who select online learning access to extracurricular activities. However, the details are school specific and will be shared by each school. Athletic programs will follow the Georgia High School Association (GHSA) guidance.

<p><b>What happens if my child attends school face-to-face, gets sick, and has to stay home for an extended time?</b></p>	<p>The student will be allowed to complete his/her lessons through Schoology.</p>
<p><b>Can I walk my student into the building on the first day of school?</b></p>	<p>Please follow the school's first-day expectations.</p>
<p><b>What about Open House?</b></p>	<p>The district plans to hold traditional in-person Open Houses. An online option will be made available as well.</p>
<p><b>Will my child have recess?</b></p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p><b>If my child has an IEP, can I select the online learning option?</b></p>	<p>The district remains committed to providing students eligible for special education services with an individualized education program (IEP) that opts for remote/virtual learning. Because online learning may affect how special education and related services are provided, each student's IEP team will work to ensure that the student receives services to the most possible extent.</p>
<p><b>If the number of COVID-19 cases continues to rise, could the district return to 100% online learning?</b></p>	<p>Yes, if the Governor or public health officials call for school closures, the district could move all students to an online format. The district will adjust the enhanced safety protocols as needed in response to COVID-19 community spread data.</p>
<p><b>Will the school system require all students and staff to be tested for COVID-19 before schools reopen?</b></p>	<p>No</p>