2020-2021

Return to School Plan

Superintendent’s Recommendation
Roanoke County Public Schools
Superintendent’s Commitments & Considerations

- Safety and security for students and staff are our priority.
- In-person instruction is most effective for most students.
- We want all students to be in school as soon as possible.
- Development of reading skills is crucial for the primary grades.
- Non-traditional scheduling is a challenge for schools.
- Most students are better served with staggered scheduling vs. not attending in person at all.
Superintendent’s Commitments & Considerations

• Any remote instruction must be structured and include mandatory assignments and grades
• Social and emotional learning as well as physical and mental health are still important
• We must meet needs of vulnerable students
• Child care is a real concern for all parents, including staff
• Since we are not public health experts, we must rely on those who are for guidance
Cautions & Constraints

• Virginia Phase III plan allows for all students to be in school as long as public health recommendations are followed

• VDOE: school divisions may notify the state of plans to significantly vary from state guidelines

• VDOE: school divisions assume the risk of significant variances and are cautioned to only do so in coordination with local health department

• CDC provides guidance for K-12 schools and includes recommendation of physical distancing to the extent possible
Cautions & Constraints

• CDC recommends face coverings when physical distancing cannot be done
• Local health department: not adhering to physical distancing is ill advised and would likely lead to more frequent outbreaks and temporary closing of schools
• RCPS School Health Advisory Board: staggered scheduling during Phase III is the right decision due to risk involved
• Physical distancing: most significant constraint on capacity
Development of Plan

- In response to governor’s re-open schools announcement, RCPS sent message to parents stating we would continue to follow VDH and VDOE guidance in decision making (June 9)
- June 9 message notified parents that we would operate on hybrid schedule and recommended physical distancing would be observed
- Open-ended surveys conducted to gather comments from parents, students, and employees
- Conference call meetings held with parent, employee, safety, and student advisory councils, as well as School Health Advisory Board
- Planning meetings with principals and communication with regional superintendents
Phase 3 Scheduling Highlights

- **GRADES PK-2**: goal is to attend in person every day
  - will need parents’ help with transportation
  - critical for reading development
  - helps families with youngest students with childcare

- **GRADES 3-12**: goal is to attend at 50% capacity
  - will need parents’ help with transportation
  - Group 1: in school Mon & Thu; remote learning Tue, Wed, Fri
  - Group 2: in school Tue & Fri; remote learning Mon, Wed, Thu
  - Teacher planning and remote learning on Wednesdays
### Other Ideas Considered

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IDEA</th>
<th>NEGATIVE OUTCOMES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Use churches and other spaces to conduct classes</td>
<td>• Lack of safety and security&lt;br&gt;• Not enough staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Have all students attend everyday in school without physical distancing</td>
<td>• Disregard recommendations from public health experts&lt;br&gt;• Health department says likely would lead to more frequent outbreaks and starting/stopping of school year at individual schools</td>
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<td>Have all students do remote learning until a vaccine is developed</td>
<td>• Not necessary under CDC guidelines&lt;br&gt;• Not worth the trade off negative impact on learning</td>
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<td>Half-day schedules</td>
<td>• More frequent bus runs&lt;br&gt;• More difficult for families to navigate&lt;br&gt;• More difficult to transition to normal schedules</td>
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Tenets of Instruction for 2020-2021

• Provide new instruction to ensure new content covered over the course of the year
• Content will be delivered in a hybrid fashion which includes both face-to-face and remote instruction
• All students will have the option to do 100% remote learning
• Students in need of specialized instruction, whether English learners, special education, gifted will be identified early and accommodated appropriately
• All students will receive new instruction and ongoing feedback about their progress, including grades
• Students with disabilities will be served and their IEP’s will be fulfilled
• Students with health complications will be offered robust remote learning opportunities at all times
Tenets of Instruction 2020-2021 continued:

- Remediation will be provided for students who need the support
- Instruction/curriculum and pacing are being reviewed and revised this summer to include a thoughtful response to recovery of learning loss
- K-5 families will receive a laptop
- Families surveyed in spring of 2020 to determine connectivity needs and plans will be developed to determine the best mode of communication
- Grades 3-12 Schedules will be arranged to keep families on the same schedule
- First week of school: teach all student appropriate protocols around physical distancing, movement in the hallways, and hand-washing
Recommended PK-2

- Goal is for students to attend school daily: Monday-Friday
- Classes arranged to provide physical distancing
- Hours: will have to dismiss an hour early for teacher plan time
- Encore classes included daily
- Physical activity/Recess- 40 minutes per day
- Breakfast: Grab and Go
- Lunch: 30 minutes; lunches brought to classrooms
- Instruction: Language Arts/Reading/Math- with Social Studies/Science embedded
Recommended Schedule for Grades 3-5

- Goal is for 50% of the students to attend school in either Group 1 or Group 2
- Group 1 attends Monday and Thursday; remote Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday
- Group 2 attends Tuesday and Friday; remote Monday, Wednesday and Thursday
- Wednesday: used for lesson planning and remote instruction
- Classes arranged to provide physical distancing
- Hours: may have to dismiss an hour early depending on transportation
- Encore classes included daily
- Physical activity/Recess- 40 minutes per day
- Breakfast: Grab and Go
- Lunch: 30 minutes; lunches brought to classrooms
- Instruction: Language Arts/Reading/Math- with Social Studies/Science embedded
Recommended Schedule for Grades 6-12

• Goal is 50% of the students to attend school in either Group 1 or Group 2
• Group 1 attends Monday and Thursday; remote Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday
• Group 2 attends Tuesday and Friday; remote Monday, Wednesday and Thursday
• Wednesday: used for lesson planning and remote instruction
• Classes arranged to provide physical distancing
• Hours: may have to dismiss an hour early due to transportation
• Breakfast: Grab and Go
• Lunch: 30 minutes; lunches eaten in the classrooms
• Monday and Tuesday: A Days
• Thursday and Friday: B Days
RCPS Health Plans

• RCPS Phase II Health Plan has been submitted to the VDOE and is posted on the RCPS website - Summer Programs

• RCPS Phase II & III Health Plans are based on the following detailed guidance documents:

  • Virginia Phase Guidance for Schools
  • May 2020 CDC Guidance for Schools
  • Recover, Redesign, Restart released by the VDOE
Promoting Behaviors that Reduce the Spread

- Educate and train staff and students on healthy hygiene behaviors
  - Stop the spread
  - Handwashing
  - What to do when you feel sick
  - Face coverings
RCPS Phase III Health Plan continued:

Maintaining Healthy Environments

- Detailed cleaning and disinfecting plan
- Student desks 6 feet apart, to the extent possible
- Regular handwashing built into the day
- Use of shared items will be limited or cleaned between use
- Physical markings such as tape will encourage 6 feet distancing
- Ventilation systems will increase outdoor airflow
Maintaining Healthy Operations

- School nurse designated as the COVID-19 contact for parents
- Daily health screening for all staff and students that include:
  - Symptoms checklist conducted daily at home
  - Questions regarding COVID-19 contact conducted daily at home
- Individual health and education plans for vulnerable students
- Nonessential visitors not allowed, no lunch deliveries or lunch visits
- No field-trips
- Classroom seating charts assigned to help with COVID-19 tracing as needed
- Staff and student absenteeism monitored at each school
RCPS Phase III Health Plan continued:

School Nurse Protocol

- Plan in place for when students need to see the nurse to prevent gathering around the office
- CDC/VDH guidelines will be followed in determining who should go home, be quarantined, how long, and when they can return
- School nurse will work directly with parents of students with healthcare concerns or COVID-19 related illness or exposure
- Positive COVID-19 cases will be tracked by the school nurse and timelines and protocol for returning to school will be monitored
- School nurse will report all COVID-19 related concerns to the health department and the principal
- In the event of an outbreak in a school the health department will likely recommend a 2-5 day closure for COVID-19 tracing. Once the extent of the outbreak is determined, additional days of closure may be recommended up to 14 days
Special Education

• Proactive measures to prioritize the needs of vulnerable learners, which includes students with disabilities

• Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) will outline each student’s unique needs. Any changes proposed in an IEP require parental consent

• Each student will receive a free appropriate public education while considering the student’s safety, health, welfare
School Counseling Plan

During all phases, School and LIFE Counselors:

• Are available for students and their families through phone conferencing, virtual meetings, and face to face meetings by appointment adhering to social distancing requirements.

• Will provide programming to meet counseling standards by addressing topics such as social and emotional learning, including trauma training, Expect Respect bullying prevention, and career education.

• Will provide individual and group counseling for students.
• LIFE Counselors at the secondary level will be available to parents and students to address any mental health need and provide assistance with resources

• An on-line form will be available for secondary students to request counseling support. In addition, hotline numbers will be provided for 24-hour support during emergencies

• Resources will also be available on our RCPS School Counseling web page
• If a student is absent, without an excuse, on a day they are scheduled to report to school they will be marked absent

• Parent notification of illness will excuse a student absence, parents are required to keep students at home who are exhibiting symptoms associated with COVID-19

• Students who are participating in remote learning will be marked present each day. If a student is not responsive to the remote learning, the teacher will contact the parent. If the parent is not responsive, the school social worker will make contact with the family to offer any needed resources to support the remote learning

• Recognition for outstanding or perfect attendance will not be recognized this year
Digital Learning

**Devices**
- Laptops for all students (6-12)
- Laptop for all elementary families
- Includes all district software
- Hotline number available for tech support

**Internet Access**
- Providing hotspot for families in need (based on May survey)
- Wireless for community centers
- Wireless in all school parking lots
- All Internet access is filtered
Digital Learning continued:

**RCPS at Home**

- Website for easy navigation of learning tools
- Digital content created by Roanoke County teachers
- Video tutorials for district tools
- FAQs section

**Remote Learning**

- Classlink Portal
- Blackboard for all students
- Video tools for synchronous and asynchronous learning
- ActivPanel tools for on and off campus
Nutrition Plan - Elementary

**Meals**
- Breakfast - 1 entrée option offered
- Lunch - 1 hot & 1 cold entrée option offered
- No a la carte items
- Served in disposable containers

**Serving Logistics**
- Preorder meals - rosters will be used to charge student accounts
- New rolling racks will be used to deliver meals to the classrooms
Nutrition Plan - Secondary

**Meals**
- Breakfast - 1 entrée option offered
- Lunch - 1 hot & 1 cold entrée option offered
- Beverage a la carte items only
- Served in disposable containers

**Serving Logistics**
- Grab-and-Go Breakfast will be served in a hallway or the cafeteria
- Service lines will have hand sanitizer and floor markings for social distancing
- Students will verbally tell their lunch code
- Electronic payments encouraged
Custodial Services

- Hand Sanitizing stations throughout schools
- Staggered start times for custodial staff
- All cleaning products have been replaced with Viruscides
- Electrostatic Sprayers
- Increased & Detailed cleaning procedures
- Disinfecting schedules for all school locations
Transportation Plan

• Scheduling bus routes - limited occupancy on buses, more details to be determined after parent survey
• Face coverings required for middle and high school students
• Employee, driver and aide safety protocol training
• Designated windows will be slightly lowered to increase air flow
• Routine and increased disinfecting processes, after each run
• Standardizing disinfectant cleaning products
Maintenance Plan

• Cleaning ALL HVAC unit coils
• Replacement of all HVAC Filters
• Inspection and Change out of Filters on 3 month rotation
• Double Outside Air Settings on all HVAC units (this will result in increased utility costs)
• Negative Pressure room - isolation room in each school
• Employees will be expected to come to work on their assigned days

• Roanoke County Public Schools adheres to applicable federal laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations to afford equal employment opportunity to qualified individuals with disabilities
Human Resources continued:

• Select employees may be eligible for up to two weeks paid sick leave due to COVID-19 through the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act

• The Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act allows leave for up to 12 weeks specifically due to a need to care for a minor child where the child’s school or provider of childcare has been closed or is unavailable because of the COVID-19

• Employees should contact the Human Resources department immediately if they feel they meet criteria for the above or require additional accommodations when returning to work
Next Steps

• Communicate recommended plan to families and staff
• Survey individual families to determine:
  o students who will need or want 100% remote learning
  o families who can provide transportation for PK-2
  o families who can provide transportation for 3-12 if 2 days
  o families who can provide transportation for 3-12 if 1 day
  o students who will definitely need bus transportation
• Determine and announce additional details