

Overview of Plan B for Families Franklin County Schools

At the October 8th meeting of the Franklin County Schools Board of Education, the Board adopted the following Phased-in B approach beginning with the second nine weeks of school:

Phased-in Plan B

Group:	Week of:											
	Oct 26	Nov 2	Nov 9	Nov 16	Nov 23	Nov 30	Dec 7	Dec 14	Dec 21	Dec 28	Jan 4	Jan 11
Pre K,K,1	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
2-5	C	C	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
6-8	C	C	C	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
9-12	C	C	C	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B

Under a **Phased-in Plan B**, students will be divided into two groups- Group A and Group B. Each group will attend face-to-face two days a week, and receive instruction remotely 3 days a week. Virtual Academy students will receive instruction remotely 5 days a week, with Wednesday being an offline day for students to work independently on assignments.

Weekly Schedule				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Group A on campus	Group A on campus	Asynchronous Learning Day/Planning Day	Group B on campus	Group B on campus
Group B remote learning	Group B remote learning		Group A remote learning	Group A remote learning
Virtual Academy Remote learning	Virtual Academy Remote learning		Virtual Academy Remote learning	Virtual Academy Remote learning

Students who are on their “at home” learning days or are engaged in Virtual Academy will continue to be counted “in attendance” by either participating in the online class or completing an assignment.

FCS Virtual Academy

- Families received a survey on **Monday October 12th** to determine whether they would prefer to stay with remote learning (Virtual Academy) or attend face-to-face. These are due by **Friday October 16th** for planning purposes.
- Students electing to participate in Virtual Academy will participate in instruction synchronously 4 days a week, and on Wednesdays would be provided with asynchronous instruction.
- Families electing to switch from Virtual Academy to face-to-face or face-to-face to Virtual Academy in the future are asked to give a week's notice so that the school can plan for this transition.

Grading in Plan B

Under Plan B, all procedures and policies related to grading will remain the same. Students in grades 6-12 will continue to receive numeric grades as reflected in PowerSchool. Students in grades K-5 will continue to receive standards-based grades. Teachers are encouraged to regularly update student grades in PowerSchool so that families may access current information on student progress.

Attendance in Plan B

While on Plan B, students will attend school through both synchronous and asynchronous instruction four days per week. This schedule will likely remain similar to what students experienced while under Plan C. On Wednesdays, students will only engage in asynchronous activities. Teachers must monitor student engagement on relevant assignments in order to properly code students for attendance purposes.

Once students re-enter under Plan B, they will have two ways to demonstrate daily attendance while working remotely during "at home" days.

1. Submission of assignments through Canvas or Google Classroom
2. Participation in a Google Hangout facilitated by the classroom teacher

If a student is registered to attend school under Plan B, and elects to participate in school remotely on a given day, they can also be counted present by participating in one of the two ways noted above. If this remote participation occurs frequently, or if the student is struggling with either face-to-face or in-person instruction, the school is encouraged to reach out to the family to provide support in determining the best option for the student's learning.

Exceptional Children (EC) and Plan B

- Under Plan B, Exceptional Children will phase back into school with their non-disabled peers.
- All Exceptional Children have been assigned an A and a B day. Exceptions to this schedule will be made individually by the student's IEP team.
- Masks are required by all students. If a student is unable to wear a mask at school, the IEP team will meet to discuss accommodations. Ultimately, if the student is unable to wear a mask, the student is unable to safely attend school. The IEP team will meet and discuss how the educational needs of the student will be met under these circumstances.
- Social Distancing is required by all students. If students are unable to properly social

distance, the IEP team will meet and discuss how the educational needs will be met.

Pre-K and Plan B

The Pre-K program operates in a public school environment, therefore must adhere to all Pre-K & K-12 Health and Safety protocols established by NCDHHS and approved by the FCS Board of Education.

- Transportation:
 - To follow all NCDHHS guidance and FCS Protocols (Only 15% expected transportation need for Pre-K)
- Instruction:
 - Sensory stations removed
 - Center resources sanitized between rotations
 - Social distancing as feasible (circle times, free play, & lunch)
 - Remote instruction as currently designed will continue with core content being taught during live synchronous instruction (30-60 minutes)
- Health and Safety Protocols:
 - Pre-K students will be required to wear masks
 - Daily health screenings will be conducted at 9:30am & 12:30pm
 - All screenings will be recorded in daily classroom health logs
 - Additional disposable masks will supplied to each classroom to meet the special needs of Pre-K students

Vine Academy (Alternative Program)

- We will continue to have the alternative program provided as a virtual option through the remainder of the 2020-21 school year.
- Students will be provided with instruction virtually through their base school.

School Schedules

Weekly Bell Schedule

<u>Level</u>	<u>Start Time</u>	<u>End Time</u>
Elementary	7:45 AM	2:00 PM
Middle	8:45 AM	3:00 PM
High	8:45 AM	3:00 PM

Health and Safety Guidelines

- Daily health screenings (temperature checks, health questions) are required each morning and throughout the day for all students, staff, parents and other visitors to campus.
- Masks are required at all times for all students, staff and parents, except during mask breaks when students are at least six feet apart, and with no longer than 15 minutes without the mask.
- If students refuse to wear masks, this will be considered insubordination and will be dealt with as a disciplinary issue. Students who continue to refuse to wear a mask will be provided with a remote learning option.

Cleanliness and Hygiene

- Soap, hand sanitizer, and tissues readily available and utilized
- Reinforcement of handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and/or the safe use of hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol by staff and older children.
- Increased monitoring to ensure adherence among students and staff
 - Supervise use of hand sanitizer by students
 - Ensure that children with skin reactions and contraindications to hand sanitizer use soap and water
 - Reinforce handwashing during key times such as: Before, during and after preparing food; Before eating food; After using the toilet; After blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing; After touching objects with bare hands which have been handled by other individuals.
- Provide hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol) at every building entrance and exit, in the cafeteria and in every classroom for safe use by staff and older students.
- Systematically and frequently check and refill hand sanitizers.
- Encourage staff and students to cough and sneeze into their elbows, or to cover with a tissue. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash and hands washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Incorporate frequent handwashing and sanitation breaks into classroom activity.
- Allow time between activities for proper cleaning and disinfection of high-touch surfaces.
- Establish a schedule for and perform ongoing and routine environmental [cleaning and disinfection](#) of high-touch areas.
- Paper-based materials, such as books and loose-leaf paper, are not considered high-risk for COVID-19 transmission, and do not need additional cleaning or disinfection procedures.
- Limit sharing of personal items and supplies such as writing utensils.
- Keep students' personal items separate and in individually labeled cubbies, containers or lockers.
- Limit use of classroom materials to small groups and disinfect between uses or provide adequate supplies to assign for individual student use.

Visitors to Campus

Visitors will not be allowed to enter the building without an appointment. Parents bringing students to school after the beginning of the day, or those picking students up early will need to press the buzzer at the entrance to the school to communicate with office staff.

All visitors will be required to wear a mask when entering the building. They will need to complete a health screening (answer a series of questions) and will have their temperature checked prior to entry into the building.

Masks are required to be worn properly (covering nose and mouth) at all times while in buildings.

Riding the Bus

- Each bus rider and parent will sign a bus contract that includes specifics on new bus rider protocols.
- Students will be screened before loading the bus in the morning (questions and temperature checks)
- Questions address potential exposure to COVID-19 and screening on common COVID-19 symptoms.
- “Yes” to any of the exposure or symptoms questions, and/or a temperature of 100.4 or higher will result in the student being unable to ride the bus.
- Touchless thermometers are provided to check temperatures before getting on the bus.
- Parents, or older siblings must be at stop for Pre-K, EC and K-5 students in the event that students are ineligible to ride the bus
- All students should have a face covering on to board the bus
 - Any student who does not have a face covering will be given one by the driver
 - Any student who refuses to wear the face covering will not be allowed to board the bus

Dropping Off/Picking Up in Car Line

- Each building will have designated screening points and screening personnel
- Students and staff will be notified of their assigned entrance and screening point
- Car riders should be screened before exiting the vehicle (parent answers questions, temperature screening through the open window)
- An answer of “Yes” to any of the COVID-19 exposure questions, and/or a temperature of 100.4 or higher will result in the student, siblings and other students in the car being unable to attend school.

Handling Potential COVID-19 Cases and Exposure

- Students who are not feeling well should remain at home and seek medical care.
- Siblings of students who are not feeling well should also remain at home pending documentation of negative COVID-19 PCR test or alternate diagnosis.
- Adhere to the following process for allowing a student or staff member to return to school after being absent due to illness.
 - If a person has had a negative COVID-19 PCR test, they can return to school once there is no fever without the use of fever-reducing medicines and they have felt well for 24 hours. Documentation of test results will be required to be submitted to the school prior

to return.

- If a person is diagnosed with COVID-19 by a medical professional based on a PCR test or their symptoms, or does not get a COVID-19 PCR test but has symptoms, they should not be at school and should stay at home until they can answer YES to the following three questions:
 1. Has it been at least 10 days since the individual first had symptoms?
 2. Has it been at least 24 hours since the individual had a fever (without using fever reducing medicine)?
 3. Has there been symptom improvement, including cough and shortness of breath?
- A person can return to school, following normal school policies, if they receive confirmation of an alternative diagnosis from a health care provider that would explain the COVID-19-like symptom(s), once there is no fever without the use of fever-reducing medicines and they have felt well for 24 hours.
- Notify local health authorities of confirmed COVID-19 cases among students and staff (as required by NCGS § 130A-136.)
- Ensure that if a person with COVID-19 was in the school setting while infectious, school administrators coordinate with local health officials to notify staff and families while maintaining confidentiality in accordance with FERPA, NCGS § 130A-143, and all other state and federal laws.
- If a student/employee has been diagnosed with COVID-19 but does not have symptoms, they must remain out of school until 10 days have passed since the date of their first positive COVID-19 PCR test, assuming they have not subsequently developed symptoms since their positive test.
- If a student/employee has been diagnosed by a medical professional due to symptoms, they are not required to have documentation of a negative test in order to return to school.
- If a student/employee has been determined to have been in close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19, they must remain out of school for 14 days since the last date of exposure unless they test positive. In which case, exclusion criteria above would apply. They must complete the full 14 days of quarantine, even if they test negative.

Potential Student COVID-19 Case on Campus

- Any student identified to have any of the symptoms on the screening checklist or a temperature of 100.4 or above will be escorted to the designated isolation room within the school building (if parent/guardian is not present)
 - Any student who is identified with symptoms that is not already wearing an appropriate face covering will be given a mask
- Any student who reports any of the symptoms of COVID-19 during the school day will be isolated in the following manner
 - Teacher will ensure that the student is wearing an appropriate face covering and is escorted to the designated isolation room per individual school procedure
- Staff member designated to supervise the isolation room will notify the parent that the student must be picked up immediately
 - Students will NOT be allowed to return home on the bus.
 - Parent will be directed to remain in their car, park at entrance and call the front office upon arrival

- Parents will also need to pick up siblings of students who become ill during the school day
- Students must be seen by a healthcare provider and provide documentation that they sought medical attention and either tested negative for COVID-19 using a PCR test, or received an alternate diagnosis.

Movement Around School

- Provide social distancing floor/seating markings in waiting and reception areas
- Mark 6 feet of spacing to remind students and staff to always stay 6 feet apart in lines and at other times when they may congregate
- Provide marks on the floors of restrooms and locker rooms to indicate proper social distancing
- Limit nonessential visitors and activities involving external groups or organizations
- Have staff monitor arrival and dismissal to discourage congregating and ensure students go straight from a vehicle to their classrooms and vice-versa
- Discontinue the use of any self-service food or beverage distribution in the cafeteria (e.g. meals and/or snacks served at school should be individually packaged and served directly to students; milk or juice may be available separately and should also be served directly to students)
- Eliminate assemblies, field trips, registrations, orientations, round-ups, and other large gatherings until further notice
- Alternate recess to minimize the number of students on the playground, encourage social distancing, and allow time to disinfect equipment between uses
- Move classes outdoors whenever possible
- Rearrange desks to increase space between students
- Face desks in the same direction
- Require students to remain seated in the classroom and assign seats
- Eliminate activities that combine classes or grade levels
- Eliminate or minimize whole staff gatherings/meetings
- Eliminate or minimize students traveling to different buildings/rooms to receive services
- Eliminate or minimize employees traveling between buildings
- Limit or eliminate classroom visitors
- Ensure adequate supplies to minimize sharing of high touch materials to the extent possible (art supplies, equipment, etc. assigned to a single child) or limit use of supplies and equipment by one group of children at a time and clean and disinfect between uses
- Avoid or minimize the sharing of electronic devices, toys, books, art supplies, and other games or learning aids when possible
- Discourage the use of attendance awards or perfect attendance incentives for students
- Develop a restroom procedure that allows for social distancing and sanitization

Breakfast and Lunch

As part of an extension of the “Summer Feeding” program administered by the state, **all students will receive both breakfast and lunch free of charge for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year.** This service will be available for students who are in school face-to-face as well as those on their “at home” learning days. Virtual Academy students can also access meal service each day.

In order to be in compliance with social distancing guidelines of limited indoor mask removal, students will be socially distanced (at least 6 feet apart) and masks can be removed for up to 15 minutes to eat.

Students are encouraged to bring water bottles for use throughout the day. We have established filling stations at our schools, and have closed water fountains during this time.

Athletics

The proposed schedule for athletics at the high school level is subject to change. Middle schools are working on a plan to allow for play within the county.

Based on NCHSAA guidelines, practices will include regular sanitization, masking when not engaged in strenuous activities, and social distancing. Guidance regarding logistics of play with specific sports, as well as updated guidance for visitors to athletic events during Phase 3 is available at the NCHSAA website, <https://www.nchsaa.org/>

FCS High School Athletics Calendar Proposal

Date of Return (Max. of 2 optional workout days a week)	Sports	Live Period Start (Max. of 5 optional workout days a week)	Season Start (official tryouts/practices start as determined by the NCHSAA)
Oct. 12	Cross Country & Volleyball	October 19 Tentative	November 4
November 2	Swimming	November 9 (dry land) Tentative	November 23
November 16	Basketball & Cheer	November 23 Tentative	December 7
November 23	M. Soccer, M/W Lacrosse	December 7 Tentative	January 11
November 30	Football	January 4 Tentative	February 8
January 4	Golf, M. Tennis, W. Soccer, Softball	February 1 Tentative	March 1
January 20	Baseball, W. Tennis, Track and Field, Wrestling	March 15 Tentative	April 12

Before and After School Care

FCS will provide a modified Before and After Care Program (BAC) while operating under Plan B. Students enrolled in Before and/or After Care would be offered supervision on days they were physically present for face-to-face instruction.

- Before and After School Programming will follow the same NCDHHS guidance as the regular instructional day
- Pick-up and Drop-off procedures specific to each site to foster safe entry and departure procedures for families and staff
- Sub pool facilitated to support program sustainability
- **A maximum ratio of 1:12** will be followed to ensure social distancing and other health protocols. (The student number must remain low enough to support social distancing in the assigned room or rooms for BAC)
- Applications for enrollment to open Oct. 12th and due by Oct. 16th
- **Programming to be offered at all 8 Elementary Schools**
- **Staff children will be offered the service without charge on days their children attend face-to-face instruction.**
- The Boys & Girls Club will offer daily supervision (M,T & Th,F) to support students during remote learning days (8am-6pm) (All district health and safety protocols will be followed)

Plan A and Elementary Schools

- On Thursday September 17th, Governor Cooper announced that elementary schools could reopen under Plan A if districts choose to do so.
- Plan A includes all safety measures of Plan B, with the exception being that social distancing is recommended but not required.
- Plan A would not allow for social distancing of 6 feet or more, which would mean that if there were a case with a student or staff member, we would increase student and staff risk of exposure, and we would have a potential large-scale quarantine situation for those who were closer than 6 feet in proximity for more than 15 minutes.
- It is our recommendation that Plan A not be considered until we successfully implement Plan B for a reasonable period of time.
- The district will continue to monitor implementation, COVID-19 metrics, and space feasibility to socially distance on Plan A and will keep the Board informed so that future decisions can be made regarding safe “next steps.”

Once Plan B is implemented, there still may be a need to revisit a “Plan C” environment on either a small or large scale.

- At any point, if there is a case of COVID-19 in either the classroom or the bus, or involving either a staff member or a student, we must examine the extent of potential exposure and notify those who may need to be quarantined for 14 days. This could be small-scale or large-scale. This is where the social distancing and masks requirements are so critical.
- If there is a dramatic increase in cases in our community, we may have to revisit Plan C
- If staffing becomes unsustainable, we may have to revisit Plan C
- If transportation becomes unsustainable, we may have to revisit Plan C

Timeline for Plan B Implementation

- **Week of October 12th:**
 - Parent surveys administered October 12th to gather information on who will return for face-to-face and who will remain on Virtual Academy (remote learning) and for those returning face-to-face, whether they will be a car or bus rider so that we can finalize bus routes
 - Applications for before/after school care distributed electronically
 - District begins “Remote Learning” Wednesdays (asynchronous days for students to work offline and teachers to plan, follow up with families, etc.)
 - Detailed video and Plan B guidance will be provided to families this week
- **Week of October 19th**
 - Families will be notified of whether they will be on the Group A or Group B schedule upon return, and when they will return on face-to-face schedule based upon Board-approved plan
- **Week of October 26th:**
 - Begin return for Pre K, K,1 on Plan B
- **Week of November 9th:**
 - Begin return for 2-5 on Plan B
- **Week of November 16th:**
 - Begin return for grades 6-12 on Plan B