



2023-2024 Return to Learn Plan

McAlester Public Schools is committed to the safety and well-being of its students and staff. The district is proactively monitoring the COVID-19 infection rate and will act in accordance with the Governor's executive orders as well as state and local health mandates.

The procedures and protocols contained in this plan support continued in-person learning while mitigating the transmission of COVID-19 in our schools and community.

Below you will find important safety protocols that will be in place to limit exposure and transmission of COVID-19. All plans and procedures are subject to change as new information is available or if positive cases become more prevalent within our district.

All protocols and procedures are reviewed and updated on a regular basis. If any updates or transitions occur throughout the school year, communication via all regular channels will be shared with parents/guardians and students. We will follow State Law Title 70 1210.189 and protocols will reflect the state language.

LEARNING OPTIONS

McAlester Public Schools is offering in-person learning for grades Pre-K through 12. Should the district transition to distance learning, parents will be notified of any changes for special education students.

SLOWING THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

Continue practicing healthy behaviors. Frequent hand washing and staying home when you feel sick should still be practiced, no matter the time of year. The Oklahoma Health Department encourages those who are eligible to obtain their vaccination.

MPS will continue using the same cleaning practices that were utilized in the 2022-23 school year to mitigate spread.

Oklahoma Senate Bill 658, effective July 1, 2021, restricts the mandatory enforcement of masks in schools unless a State of Emergency is declared by the Governor, consultation with local and state health officials, and school board consideration.

Masks will be optional for students, employees and visitors, and any person who wishes to mask indoors or outdoors may freely do so.

MONITOR FOR SYMPTOMS

Parents/guardians are encouraged to screen their child for COVID-19 if they are exhibiting symptoms.

Students and staff should stay home if experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or any other illness.

If a student begins displaying COVID-19 symptoms at school, he/she should report to the office immediately.

POSITIVE CASES: STUDENTS

Any student who tests positive for COVID case may return to school after:

No fever (100°) or vomiting for 24 hours AND

Respiratory symptoms have improved AND

5 days have passed since the first symptoms appeared, with the first day of symptoms being day zero.

Any student who tested positive for COVID-19 but had no symptoms can return to school after: 5 days have passed since the test.

Students who have been exposed to a positive case in the home or community are encouraged to wear a mask (if possible) for 10 days in the event symptoms appear.

Students who have a confirmed positive case of COVID-19 will be accommodated by providing academic assistance via computer or email by the school site for the length of the quarantine period.

CONTACT TRACING

In accordance with the Oklahoma Health Department, McAlester Public Schools is no longer contact tracing effective March 21, 2022.

ATHLETICS, FINE ARTS & ACTIVITIES

All school-sponsored activities and athletic teams will continue to adhere to guidelines put in place by the district and recommendations from state and local health agencies. Please reach out to your child's coach or club sponsor with any questions or concerns.

TRANSPORTATION

Masks are optional on buses.

We may transition to distance learning by classroom, school site, or by district as needed to reduce COVID transmission or to maintain staffing numbers for a safe learning environment.

Our goal is to provide education in person whenever we can maintain in-person instruction safely and responsibly.

PARENTS & VISITORS

Parents and visitors are encouraged to screen for COVID-19 symptoms before visiting a school site or district office.

VACCINATIONS

In accordance with Oklahoma law, McAlester Public Schools is not requiring COVID-19 vaccines for faculty, staff or students.

ALL PLANS SUBJECT TO CHANGE