

**Re-Opening Plan for the
South Delta School District
2020 – 2021 School Year**



The Mississippi Department of Education outlined a three-month timeline of strategies to consider as district leaders plan for the start of the 2020-2021 school year. There were three types of school opening schedules suggested. Local Educational Agencies can choose the one that would be most efficient and effective for the students that they serve. The three plans for reopening are:

A. Traditional Schedule:

Requires students to be physically present in school with scheduling modifications to follow CDC and Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) recommendations.

B. Hybrid Schedule:

Combines online and face-to-face instruction for students. Schools must meet distance learning requirements.

C. Virtual Schedule:

Instruction provided through distance learning.

Hybrid Model:

The South Delta School District has chosen a Social Distancing/Hybrid Schedule for the 2020-2021 school year. This model will afford our faculty, staff and students the best opportunity for an effective educational experience while providing a safe school setting.

The written plan of action for implementing the Hybrid Model is a working document that will incorporate the strategies needed to open and conduct effective school activities while minimizing exposure to COVID-19 for faculty, staff and students.

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AGENDA:

I. District Wide Reopening Strategies to be implemented uniformly throughout the South Delta School District:

- a. Schedule – A/B Days*
- b. Transportation – Bus*
- c. Health and Safety*
- d. Effective Communication*
- e. Technology*
- f. Food Service*
- g. Special Services*

a. Schedule - A/B Days:

- The South Delta School District student population will be divided in half, with each half reporting to school on alternating days.
- Group A will report on Mondays/Wednesdays and Group B will report on Tuesdays/Thursdays.
- Students will be participating in distance learning during days scheduled off site.
- Fridays will be a 100% distance learning day for students and will be used for professional development, teacher preparation, and sanitizing the buildings.
- Tentative start and end dates in the South Delta School District:
 - Start date for the fall semester – September 3, 2020
 - End date for the fall semester – December 23, 2020
 - Start date for spring semester – January 4, 2021
 - End date for spring semester – June 15, 2021
- Tentative start and end times for each school:
 - South Delta Elementary – 7:30 am through 2:30 pm
 - South Delta Middle School – 7:40 am through 3:12 pm
 - South Delta High School – 7:27 am through 3:20 pm
- Attendance for students will be monitored in the following manner(s):
 - Learning Management System;

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- Via one-on-one teacher-student contact;
- Via student progress on daily assignment/established learning goals/assignment completion.
- Grading:
 - The current South Delta School District grading policy will be implemented as outlined in the Parent/Student handbook.
- Assignments:
 - Students are required to complete assignments as determined by the teacher and as outlined in Google Classroom and the blended learning environment.

b. Transportation:

- The Transportation Director along with the principals developed a plan that grouped students for transportation. This plan is based on the region in which the student lives, family structure and principal recommendation.
- All staff and students are required to wear masks while being transported on buses. Parents are responsible for providing masks for their child.
 - The South Delta School District will temporarily provide disposable masks for those students who do not have them until one can be provided by the parent.
- Bus drivers and monitors are required to wear protective gear such as masks, sanitizers and gloves while transporting students.
- South Delta School District has purchased Non-Contact Infrared Thermometers to check and document students, drivers, monitors and transportation staff temperatures for daily clearance.
- The Transportation Department will work with each school's principal to train students on how to properly load and unload buses.
- Students will not be transported to or from any other address not listed on the child's registration packet.
- The South Delta School District will adhere to the recommended social distance guidelines for the number of students allowed to ride the buses. (max capacity 12-15 per transport for a 71-passenger bus).
- School bus monitors will take student temperatures and log them daily. If a student has a temperature of 100.4 degrees or above, the parents are contacted.

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- South Delta School District bus drivers will/may assume double routes due to social distancing guidelines.
- All buses will be sanitized with cleaning products that are CDC approved before and between routes.

c. Health and Safety:

- The South Delta School District will purchase adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors in faculty, staff and students.
- Each school has developed a plan for social distancing in all areas of the facility.
- Each school has incorporated the district-wide meal plan and has tailored it to meet the needs of its individual student population.
- Each school will perform a deep and thorough cleaning for the reopening and has establish a process for cleaning throughout the school day.
- Air filters on the heating and cooling units in the district will be changed before the beginning of school and every month thereafter.
- The school district has designated an administrator to serve as the point of contact for Mississippi State Department of Health.
 - LaDonna Sias
106 Athletic Drive
Rolling Fork, Mississippi 39159
lsias@southdelta.k12.ms.us
- COVID-19 signage that promotes everyday protective measures and describes how to stop the spread of communicable germs/viruses will be posted in all areas of the school district.
- Each school’s leadership team has developed a daily screening process for all who enter, which will include the following:
 - Assigned staff member(s) will take and document the temperatures of faculty, staff and students entering the building. (If a recorded temperature is 100.4 degrees or above, the school will follow the Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines for “Quarantine and Isolation”).

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- All visitors entering the front office will have their temperatures checked and documented; must wear masks (facial covering), and must sanitized their hands. (If abnormal temperatures are recorded, visitors will be asked to follow the CDC guidelines for “Quarantine and Isolation” and may not be allowed to tour the classroom and/or building for at least 14-days from initial temperature check.)
- The South Delta School District has development of a standardized process for immediately notifying local health officials, staff, and families of a possible COVID-19 case.
- School personnel will lock and monitor all school building doors.
- The South Delta School District has developed and will communicate arrival times relative to the following:
 - Bus schedule
 - Car-riders schedule
 - Student Walkers
- South Delta School District staff will teach, reinforce, and increase the monitoring of handwashing and the frequent use of hand sanitizer.
- South Delta School District staff will teach students proper protocol for coughs and sneezes with the use tissue.
- Staff and students will wear face coverings at all times while in the South Delta School District.
- All schools will ensure that ventilation systems operate properly and will increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible.
- South Delta School District will post signs in highly visible locations (e.g., school entrances, restrooms) that promote everyday protective measures and describe how to stop the spread of germs.
- Students and staff will be required to watch a short video that defines the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and behaviors that prevent the spread.
 - South Delta School District may require staff and parents to sign a verification form affirming they have watched the video.
- Identifying and addressing students and staff with underlying health conditions:
 - Parents of students with underlying health conditions will report that to the principal of the school and that information will be placed in the students’ file.

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- Faculty and staff members with underlying health conditions will report that information to their immediate supervisor and that information will be placed in their personnel file.
- Faculty, staff, and students are to follow the Center for Disease control guidelines for health and safety:
 - Maintain social distancing at all times;
 - Wear cloth face coverings at all time;
 - Wash hands often;
 - Limit contact with commonly touched surfaces;
 - Do not share items;
 - Continue your medicines and/or health regiment as prescribed by your physician.

d. Effective Communication:

- The South Delta School District will provide consistent communications and messaging to internal and external constituents:
 - Point(s) of Contact:
 - James Johnson-Waldington Superintendent – South Delta School District
 - (662) 873-6114
 - jwaldington@southdelta.k12.ms.us
 - www.southdelta.k12.ms.us
 - Dr. Michael Johnson – Principal – South Delta Elementary School
 - (662) 873-4849
 - mjohnson@southdelta.k12.ms.us
 - www.southdelta.k12.ms.us
 - Deloris Williams – Principal – South Delta Middle School
 - (662) 873-6535

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- dwilliams@southdelta.k12.ms.us
- www.southdelta.k12.ms.us

- Edwin Smith – Principal – South Delta High School
 - (662) 873-4308
 - esmith@southdelta.k12.ms.us
 - www.southdelta.k12.ms.us

- Adrian Dorsey – CTE Director - Carson T. Seale Vocational School
 - (662) 873-2029
 - adorsey@southdelta.k12.ms.us
 - www.southdelta.k12.ms.us

- A section on the district webpage has been dedicated to school district’s reopening plan.
- Pending school board approval, school district social media page(s) will be created in order to provide more communication platforms to the district’s stakeholders.
- All South Delta School District leaders and front office staff on will be trained on communication protocols.
- A collaborative environment will be developed with PTO leaders for assistance on the communication protocols.
- Schools will provide regular announcements to faculty, staff and students on reducing the spread of COVID-19.
- Orientation will be conducted by the district and school leadership:
 - Invitations will be sent to stakeholders to schedule virtual meetings.
- Should an outbreak necessitate an immediate closure:
 - Parents will be notified using contact information in the district’s student information system and;
 - Local newspaper and;
 - Local television media and;
 - School district website and;
 - Printed material will be mailed.

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e. Technology:

- The South Delta School District will complete the following tasks:
 - Ensure sufficient bandwidth for the South Delta School District;
 - Update technology infrastructure;
 - Prepare the South Delta School District for the 1:1 initiative;
 - Purchase of devices for students to be used for online instruction;
 - Professional development for staff on the Learning Management System;
 - Create section on the district's webpage that will give continuous updates on the school Reopening process.
 - Pending school board approval, school district social media page(s) will be created in order to provide more communication platforms to the district's stakeholders.

f. Food Service:

- The South Delta School District cafeteria staff will take the responsibility of feeding all registered students within the district.
- Cafeteria staff members will be required to wear masks and gloves at all times. Staff temperatures will be checked daily, recorded and placed in their personnel file. These records will be kept by the manager and will be turned in weekly to the SFA.
- Cafeteria staff members will perform the following tasks:
 - Passing out breakfast to the students as they exit home for the day;
 - Sanitizing carts for the next day counting weekly inventory and stocking grocery;
 - All managers will be responsible for monitoring workers;
 - Entering the student count for five days.
- Student Plan:
 - All students will be prepared brown bag lunches for breakfast on the first day of school. Each day afterwards students will be given a brown bag breakfast for the next day.
 - Hot meals will be prepared for students and will be served in the classrooms.
 - Carts and serving utensils will be sanitized several times daily.
 - Brown bag breakfast and lunch will be prepared Monday-Thursday for students to be eaten on their days not on campus. A hand out will be given to students to be taken home to their parents with instructions on keeping the breakfast/lunch safe to eat.

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g. Special Services:

- From the opening of school through midterm of first 9-weeks (with data collection), students with disabilities will remain in the general education classroom for the entire day.
 - This concept will begin to foster the practice and implementation of “inclusion” through Least Restrictive Environment (LRE).
 - The South Delta School District will decide on how non-academics are scheduled, i.e., in classroom vs. out of classroom (e.g., library with materials on a rolling cart), music or alternatives to PE activities in consultation with the instructor, etc.

- Special educators and general educators will work collaboratively using the general education curriculum and implementation of the Individualized Education Program (IEP) in an inclusive setting.
 - Due to the current situation, other precautionary measures are in place that does not allow community or parent volunteers, high school students assisting in various capacities, parents dropping off lunches to students, etc.
 - Only individuals as visitors will be allowed on campus if determined to be “essential” with a needed purpose and approved by district personnel.

- IEPs will be revised to reflect “new” scheduling and placement options:
 - Parent conferences are scheduled (preferably) by ‘virtual’ means; however, if unable to do so, ‘in-person’ meetings will be held with ALL safety measures in place including facial covering.
 - Students will report for “in-person” instruction two (2) days per week utilizing the social distancing/hybrid schedule model.
 - Daily temperature checks will occur before entering the classroom and every 2-hours thereafter.
 - Routine disinfection of surfaces / objects following the 2-hour temperatures checks.

- Speech and/or Language Therapy:
 - The speech language pathologists (SLPs 215/216) will revise schedules to include individual sessions as well as group sessions with no more than 3-students in a group with social distancing (6ft apart).

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- The SLP will wear a face shield, mask and gloves to prevent respiratory droplets if phonemic placement (physically manipulating the child’s mouth... jaw, lips, using a tongue depressor, etc.) is needed to assist a student during articulation therapy.
- The students receiving language /speech services will not engage in activities requiring the sharing of materials.
- The SLP will use a combination of scheduling that includes “in-person” and “virtual (online) therapy”.
- Scheduling of (2) days per week will be devoted to “virtual (online) learning and /or learning packs” for students with disabilities.
 - Special educators are responsible for designing the academic learning packets for students, and providing them in advance for online Zoom communication if and when needed, and monitoring results is a part of the process.
 - (Where applicable) Parents will be given academic learning packets for students (e.g., with poor organizational skills) to assist with the online learning, and communication strategies/techniques are available to assist parents – facial covering is required.
- Students enrolled in self-contained settings / placements will remain with the teacher and assistant(s) during the school day when the hybrid schedule model is in place.
 - The classroom (where applicable) will be redesigned to ensure as much social distancing as possible with a minimal of 6 feet, and other health and safety features will occur with creativity.
 - NOTE: Each campus may look different, but the same concept will be applied as much as possible.
- Face Coverings for students “severe disabilities”:
 - Medical recommendation(s), consulting with a doctor and/or school nurse and obtaining in writing regarding facial coverings for any student with a disability, who may have breathing concerns or who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the facial covering without assistance. The medical professionals will provide guidance on facial coverings and/or an alternative protection if a mask is not recommended.