



Richmond County Schools Re-Entry FAQs

The NC Public School Toolkit informs schools and communities how to implement structures and protocols to ensure a safe return for all students and staff. In this link, you will find the DHHS and CDC requirements and recommendations all school districts must follow.

<https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/guidance/Strong-Schools-NC-Public-Health-Toolkit.pdf>

1. In what plan will Richmond County Schools begin on August 17th? (August 10th for REaCH students)

*Students and staff will begin school in **Plan B**. Please revisit the RCS Re-Entry plan located on our district website for specific details regarding this plan.*

In summary:

All prek-5th grade students will attend face-to-face instruction Monday through Friday from 8:00-3:00pm. Classrooms will arrange student desks so that they are 6' apart for social distancing requirements. All students will receive direct instruction from the classroom teacher as well as access math, reading and other supportive software to support individualized instruction. Attendance and grading will be recorded in Power School so that parents may access this information at any time.

All Self-Contained EC classrooms will be provided face-to-face instruction at the regular school attended.

Students in 6th-12th grade will begin the school year remotely. Students will receive live instruction through our learning management system, Canvas, and engage in whole group instruction as well as small group support from their teacher. Families may reach out to teachers to schedule contact hours to support any student that becomes at-risk academically or socially/emotionally. Attendance and grading will be recorded in Power School so that parents may access this information at any time.

2. What are the structures and expectations for prek-5th grade students with Plan B?

Students will be engaged in learning all throughout the day, much like a regular school day, through direct instruction with the teacher, programs for reading and math targeted support, and other social and emotional supports. However, RCS will have a much stronger focus on educating our students daily on the health and safety measures we will implement (i.e. videos supporting proper handwashing techniques and the importance of social distancing).

3. Why are middle and high school students not returning to school with Plan B?

Due to the limitations with transportation (the state will only allow 1 student per seat), RCS cannot transport all students daily. Additionally, all school districts are required to ensure 6 feet of spacing is marked between desks in the classroom and in hallways. This creates a spacing and capacity limitation. Due to these two state requirements, RCS must prioritize daily instruction needs.

RCS will provide daily instruction to our most academically vulnerable students, those students in Pre-k through 5th grade, on a daily basis to lessen the academic achievement gap that will occur from distant, intermittent instruction with this population of students if they were remote for long periods of time.

Middle school and high school students will receive live, direct instruction through remote instruction on a daily basis through whole group and small group support with the teacher. Teachers may reach out to students and schedule face-to-face instruction times as needed for any student. Families are encouraged to reach out to teachers to schedule these times as well.

**Please note: RCS is offering a virtual option for those pre-k through 5th grade students that do not feel comfortable returning to the classroom. If the district can accommodate transporting other grade levels to school, the RCS Plan B can be adjusted to transition more students to receive face-to-face instruction.*

4. Will my prek-5th grade child have recess?

Yes. We encourage all schools to schedule multiple breaks throughout the day to support opportunities for outside recess and activities (i.e walking, jump roping, and other means of exercising) all while enforcing social distancing guidelines for safety. Under guidance from the teacher, students may remove their mask while maintaining proper social distancing measures. Students will not access playground equipment.

5. How will lunch be served for pre-k-5th grade and delivered for 6-12 remote?

Lunch will be brought to the classroom in an effort to support social distancing. Schools will be encouraged to utilize outside areas for eating lunch as well.

For those students in remote learning, the district will continue with feeding sites and delivery. More information will be posted at a later date.

6. Will my child be provided a mask?

Yes. All RCS students and staff will be provided 5 cloth masks. Students may also purchase their own masks as long as they are adhering to the following uniform policy code 4317:

“Any item that is worn to school must not undermine the integrity of the Uniform Policy, serve as a disruption to the educational process or present a health hazard to an individual or their peers.”

7. Is my child required to wear a uniform?

All pre-k - 5th grade students attending school must wear a school approved uniform while attending face-to-face instruction. If a 6th -12th grade student is attending school for scheduled contact hours that involve face-to-face instruction, they are expected to wear a school approved uniform.

8. What should I do if I need assistance in finding uniforms for my child?

Families are encouraged to reach out to the school social worker and school guidance counselor if assistance is needed to secure uniforms.

9. Will my prek-5th grade student or my EC Self-Contained classroom student be allowed to choose virtual instruction instead of face-to-face instruction?

Yes. On the RCS district website as well as social media outlets (Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter), there is information regarding the virtual application for families to complete by July 26th if they wish to opt out of face-to-face instruction. Once the application is submitted, the school will follow up for families to sign an agreement.

10. When is “Open House” and what can I expect?

All schools will schedule an Orientation Back to School time for parents, staff, and students to give and receive pertinent information regarding re-entry.

Families and students will have the opportunity to meet teachers, receive information for school expectations, and check out a device for learning.

This orientation is for all k-12 students receiving face-to-face instruction as well as those students signed up for virtual instruction.

This orientation will be scheduled during the week of August 10th - 14th for all RCS k-12 schools. REaCH orientation will be scheduled for the week of August 3rd - 7th.

Schools will reach out via social media, phone calls, and other outlets to inform parents of specific dates and times.

11. What do I do if I need a hot spot for connectivity to the internet for remote learning?

RCS will provide a hot spot for families that need internet access. Please contact your child's school if you are in need of a hot spot for remote learning.

12. To reduce the risk of spread during face-to-face instruction in Plan B, what NC DHHS required safety measures will be in place for students and staff?

- ★ *Masks are required for all students and staff in the school settings.*
- ★ *Schools will conduct symptom screenings each day including temperature checks for all students and staff. School nurses will follow protocols for presumptive or confirmed Covid cases. Please refer to the NC Public Schools Reference Guide for information:*

https://files.nc.gov/covid/PHT-ScreeningReferenceGuide_6.30.pdf

- ★ Teachers will schedule frequent hand-washing opportunities for students. Frequent breaks for students outside of their classrooms will also be scheduled throughout the day.
- ★ Regular sanitation of classrooms, bathrooms, and other high-touch areas will occur throughout the day.
- ★ Water fountains will not be accessible, but water will be provided. Students are permitted to bring their own water bottle.
- ★ Each school will have hallway and classroom markings to ensure social distancing (decals/signs/marked tape).
- ★ Students will eat breakfast and lunch in the classroom.
- ★ Visitors will be limited in school buildings.
- ★ Schools will suspend assemblies and other mass gatherings.

****This FAQ document will be updated weekly to include the most updated information.

Last updated: 7/20/20