

Continuity of Learning 6.0: Fall Reopening Playbook

This *Continuity of Learning 6.0: Fall Reopening Playbook* contains key information for the reopening of Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) for the 2021-22 school year. It is a clear set of guidelines and strategies to ensure a smooth and consistent opening of the school division. This plan was developed with extensive input from internal and external stakeholders. Listed below are some of the key tenets of the Fall 2021 reopening plan.

- The basis of the plan is a mandate by the state of Virginia requiring that all school divisions develop and implement a reopening plan.
- On March 30, 2021, Virginia Governor Ralph Northam signed [SB 1303](#), which had been approved by the General Assembly of Virginia requiring all schools to offer in-person instruction. The bill also indicated that school divisions can offer a virtual option if requested by families.
- This plan communicates and emphasizes the division's approach to transitioning to full-time in-person learning for the coming school year; this applies to students whose families selected in May 2021 for their students to be part of in-person learning for the 2021-22 school year.
- In-person learning is five days a week and includes any form of instructional interaction between teachers and students that occurs in person and in real time.
- Virtual Virginia, an online (live instruction) instructional program endorsed by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), will be available five days a week for families who selected remote learning.
- Guiding principles have informed the work of ACPS since the beginning of the pandemic. We have focused on instruction, coordination, collaboration, trust, flexibility communication, and technology as well as social and emotional support for students and staff.
- The plan illustrates that ACPS has remained committed to adhering to all federal, state, and local guidance to ensure the safety and health of all members of the learning organization.
- At the core of the plan is a commitment to address the learning needs of all students while recognizing the impact on learning from the pandemic.
- Professional learning is integral for ensuring that all staff are prepared for the challenges and unique potential offered by in-person learning's return during the next academic year.
- The Playbook also emphasizes the importance of technology in students' daily learning experiences as well as its availability for all schools and staff members.
- A critical component of a successful school and school division is the assurance of smooth operations, including the budget, human resources (HR), procurement, transportation, and other offices that deliver services.
- The plan also supports a commitment to providing students and families with extended support services and ongoing communication.
- A Principals' Reopening Checklist has been developed and included to ensure a smooth and successful start to the school year.
- Expectations providing guidance for staff in the areas of the budget, collaboration, communication, facilities, HR, instruction, payroll, professional learning, and technology have been designed.
- The Playbook concludes with an Appendix containing fall reopening School Board presentations, reopening planning team meetings, Thought Partner meetings, and the ACPS website.

As we start the upcoming year, our commitment is to ensure the successful implementation of the reopening plans and to continue to ensure the well-being of all students and staff. The insights and lessons learned during the pandemic will continually inform our actions and outcomes. We remain committed to providing students access to various educational opportunities and involving our diverse stakeholders.

ACPS will continue to provide students and families access to technology, instructional learning materials, educational resources, meals, professional learning options, and support services. We started with *Continuity of Learning Plan 1.0* with the closure of schools in March 2020, and now offer our *Continuity of Learning 6.0: Fall Reopening Playbook* as we welcome the return of full-time, in-person learning.