



Updated July 20, 2020

JP Schools Family,

In Jefferson Parish Schools, we exist to provide the education our students deserve to succeed in life and make our world a better place. While student learning is our top priority, our top responsibility is the safety of our students and employees. We provide students with social and emotional support, nutritious meals, safety, and opportunities to connect with educators who care. One lesson we have all learned during this public health crisis is that our schools - and our educators - play a critical role in the success and well-being of our community.

When our school buildings closed March 13, we worked together to support our students, families, educators, and community. We served over a million Grab and Go meals. We distributed over 71,000 printed learning packets and loaned over 5,200 Chromebooks. We trained over 3,000 educators on Google Classroom and created a bank of online learning resources. We launched an Academic Call Center and an Emotional Support Line.

Now our focus is on ensuring a safe and successful start to the school year. Our *Start Strong Jefferson* plan was developed after months of collaboration and thoughtful planning. We utilized guidance from the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE), the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and Jefferson Parish Government. We considered the diversity of our students. We tried to be responsible stewards of our resources. We used input from our families, educators, and community members [via multiple surveys](#). We prepared for multiple methods of teaching and learning.

During the development of *Start Strong Jefferson*, there were several critical priorities we used in order to build a strong foundation for returning to school. Our *Start Strong Jefferson* priorities are:

1. Ensure a safe teaching and learning environment for our students and employees.
2. Provide all students a high-quality education five days a week.
3. Prioritize safe, in-person learning environments with a focus on our PK-5 students.
4. Be prepared to transition to 100% virtual instruction if needed.
5. Give families a choice about the best school instructional model for their children.
6. Provide our families and employees with the necessary training and support.
7. Communicate proactively and clearly with students, families, employees and community.

We know the 2020-2021 school year will be different. We will have successes and challenges. Given the fluid nature of this public health crisis, we will adjust our plan as we get new information. Our *Start Strong Jefferson* plan and details are available at ww.jpschools.org/startstrong. We will continue to utilize our website, school websites, mobile app, and social media to [stay connected](#) with our families, employees, and community.

As we state in our [2024 plan](#), we are committed to creating the best future for our students, our educators, and our community. This requires unwavering commitment to strong teaching and learning practices, effective leadership teams, working alongside all our stakeholders, collaborative decision-making, and a genuine love for our students. We appreciate your trust, support, and patience as we work through these challenging times. Let's keep working together to be innovative, creative, and reflective. Together, we will be the champions our students deserve.

Dr. James Gray
Superintendent
Jefferson Parish Schools



TABLE OF CONTENTS

SUPERINTENDENT’S LETTER

FROM DR. JAMES GRAY 2

HEALTH AND SAFETY:

HOW ARE WE KEEPING STUDENTS AND EMPLOYEES SAFE?..... 4

TEACHING & LEARNING:

HOW ARE STUDENTS GOING BACK TO SCHOOL?.....7

SCHOOL PROCEDURES:

WHAT OTHER PROCEDURES WILL ENSURE A SAFE AND SUCCESSFUL
TEACHING & LEARNING ENVIRONMENT? 9

TRANSPORTATION:

HOW WILL WE SAFELY TRANSPORT OUR STUDENTS? 10

MEALS:

HOW WILL WE PROVIDE NUTRITIOUS MEALS FOR OUR STUDENTS?..... 11

EXTRA-CURRICULARS:

WHAT ACTIVITIES WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS
OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM? 11

HEALTH AND SAFETY:

HOW ARE WE KEEPING STUDENTS AND EMPLOYEES SAFE?

The safety of our students and employees is our top responsibility. The State of Louisiana is following guidance from public health experts when making decisions regarding reopening schools, which includes phases that are initiated once certain public health criteria are met. Should the public health situation improve, restrictions may gradually loosen, allowing for more flexibility and more opportunities for in-person teaching and learning. Should the public health situation worsen, restrictions may gradually tighten, allowing for less flexibility and fewer opportunities for in-person teaching and learning.

The *Start Strong Jefferson* plan will follow the guidelines from Louisiana's reopening phases. In Phases 2 and 3, schools may open to students for in-person teaching and learning with additional safety measures and certain restrictions in place. No matter the reopening phase, Jefferson Parish Schools is prepared.

For information regarding Coronavirus Disease 2019/COVID-19, please visit the LDH website and CDC website: <https://www.ldh.la.gov/coronavirus> and <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>, and follow these general guidelines.



Based on the [LDOE's guidance](#), we will follow all required minimum safety and health standards for reopening schools. In addition to the minimum guidance, we may take extra precautions to increase the safety of our students, employees, and community. We're implementing the following additional safety protocols next year:

Conduct Daily Temperature Checks for Everyone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All employees, students, and visitors must have a daily initial temperature check upon arrival.
--	---

Require Face Coverings for Everyone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All employees, students in grades PK through 12, and visitors must wear a face covering. Face coverings should be worn in all areas of the school, including buses, arrival, classrooms, hallways, common areas, restrooms, dismissal, and any other transitions within the school building. For individuals with health or other concerns that make wearing a face covering difficult, exceptions will be considered on an individual basis.
--	---

Maintain Social Distancing and Static Grouping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools will maintain static groups and physical distance to the maximum extent possible.
---	---

Clean Hands Frequently	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will wash or sanitize hands upon arrival at school, at least every two hours, before and after eating, before and after using outdoor play equipment, and before exiting school. Hand sanitizer may be used in place of handwashing in some instances.
-------------------------------	--

Clean and Disinfect More	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools will have increased cleaning and disinfecting. High-touch surfaces will be cleaned multiple times per day using commercially available cleaning solutions, including EPA-approved disinfectants Schools and educators will be provided adequate access to hygienic supplies. Students are encouraged to minimize sharing of materials. Playground equipment and athletic equipment will be cleaned daily or as necessary, depending on frequency of use. Students and staff are encouraged to limit personal items taken to and from school.
---------------------------------	---

Max Group Sizes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School spaces will be limited to maximum group sizes, using the LDOE's guidelines:
------------------------	--

Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
10, including adults	25, including adults	50, including adults

- If a group convenes indoors, it will convene in a room enclosed by a wall or partition. This includes large rooms, such as a gymnasium or auditorium, which may include more than one group if each group is separated by a wall or partition.
- If groups convene outdoors, a physical barrier is not required, but each group will remain separated.

Monitor for COVID-19 Symptoms

- Students and employees who are sick should stay home.
- Upon arriving at school, every student, employee, and visitor will have a daily initial temperature check.
- Schools will establish an area used to isolate anyone showing signs of illness.
- Students may be located to an isolation area if they have a fever of 100.4°F or above or exhibit other signs of illness.
- Parents will be responsible for picking their child up from school if determined to have any signs of illness.
- Students in the isolation area will be monitored.
- The isolation area will be cleaned and disinfected after it is occupied.

Restrict Visitors

- School campuses will be restricted for non-essential visitors, volunteers, and other groups.
- Essential visitors will be allowed to access a school campus in order to conduct visits in accordance with Louisiana law or policy. Essential visitors include, but are not limited to, individuals who:
 - conduct CLASS® observations
 - observe teacher candidates as part of the teacher preparation quality rating system
 - provide essential supports and services including, but not limited to, early intervention services, special education services, or mental health consultation
- All visitors must wear a face covering, complete a COVID-19 Risk Assessment Survey, and sanitize their hands upon arrival.

Have a Plan for Confirmed COVID-19 Cases

- Given levels of COVID-19 in our communities, we expect that some students and employees will get COVID-19 throughout the school year.
- Students, families, and employees should notify the school or their immediate supervisor if they test positive for COVID-19.
- Students or employees who have COVID-19 should stay home and remain isolated until they have recovered and are determined to no longer be infectious by their doctor.
- We will communicate with employees and parents of students who were in close contact with the affected COVID-19 individual.
- Schools will ensure continuity of education for students who are quarantined.
- Rolling closures of individual classes and/or school closures may be necessary based on clusters of positive COVID-19 cases.

Ensure Other Safety Measures

- Schools will display COVID-19 informational signs in highly visible locations.
- Schools will assure ventilation systems operate properly.
- Schools will ensure all water systems and features are safe to use. Students will be permitted to bring their own water bottles to school.
- All employees will be required to participate in health and safety training throughout the school year.





TEACHING & LEARNING:

HOW ARE STUDENTS GOING BACK TO SCHOOL?

Student learning is our top priority. When planning for next year, we considered three possible school instructional models:

1. Traditional (students learn in-person on campus every day)
2. Hybrid (combination of in-person learning on campus and virtual learning at home)
3. Virtual (students learn virtually at home every day)

Next year, our schools will offer a combination of in-person and virtual teaching and learning, following guidelines from Louisiana's reopening phases and the Jefferson Parish School Board's [approved 2020-2021 School Calendar](#). We are prioritizing safe, in-person learning when we can, particularly for our prekindergarten through fifth grade students. However, we know some families may not feel comfortable sending their children to school in-person. All families will have the choice for their children to receive virtual at-home teaching and learning using [Virtual Jefferson](#).

PHASE 1	PHASE 2		PHASE 3
PK-12	PK	K-5	6-12
			
VIRTUAL	TRADITIONAL	TRADITIONAL OR VIRTUAL	HYBRID OR VIRTUAL
TRADITIONAL, HYBRID, AND VIRTUAL			
All students learn virtually at home five days a week (<i>Virtual Jefferson</i>)	All students learn in-person on campus five days a week	All students learn in-person on campus five days a week OR Students learn virtually at home five days a week (<i>Virtual Jefferson</i>)	Students learn in-person on campus two days a week (using an A/B schedule of M&W or T&Th) and learn virtually at home three days a week OR Students learn virtually at home five days a week (<i>Virtual Jefferson</i>)
			As many students as possible learn daily in-person on-campus OR Students learn virtually at home five days a week (<i>Virtual Jefferson</i>)

- Based on the public health situation, schools may shift to a 100% virtual school instructional model, either on a school-by-school basis or district-wide.
- The hybrid model is not available for grades PK-5 during Phase 2.
- Families have the choice to enroll in [Virtual Jefferson](#), our at-home virtual learning option that will support K-12th grade students throughout the 2020-2021 school year. Enrollment will be in nine-week increments.
- All staff will report to work five days a week, regardless of in-person or virtual teaching and learning.

[Learn more at jpschools.org/startstrong](https://www.jpschools.org/startstrong)

Virtual Jefferson

- Families have the choice to enroll their children in *Virtual Jefferson*, our at-home virtual learning option that will support K-12th grade students throughout the 2020-2021 school year.
- Enrollment will be in nine-week increments.
- Any student who participates will remain a student at his/her 2020-2021 approved school.
- Based on the number of families who register, we will determine staffing, support, and additional logistics.
- Students who receive accommodations and additional services will continue to receive those services.
- Students will be eligible to participate in any extracurricular activities offered by the school.

Communication

- Educators will make contact with students daily, regardless of school instructional model or reopening phase.
- If students are in school, educators will engage students in daily learning.
- If students are at home, educators will engage students in daily virtual learning, email, phone call, etc.
- Educators will provide feedback on student work at least once a week.

Technology

- The district will support families to meet their technology needs.
- The district has ordered computers in order to achieve 1:1 device capacity for K-12 grades.
- We partnered with Cox Communications so qualified families can easily access discounted, low-cost home internet. More information is available at jpschools.org/internetoffer.

Students with Exceptionalities

- Students with exceptionalities will continue to receive special education and related services in the least restrictive environment.
- Schools will factor in any additional service providers who may need to enter the classroom, students who receive services outside the classroom (e.g., resource, APE, speech therapy), and/or students who receive services through alternate instructional methods.
- Student placement determinations will be made in consultation with the parent or caregiver and take into consideration a student's unique academic, social, emotional, familial, and medical needs.

Mental Health Supports

- Schools will screen all students to determine if there are any social and/or emotional supports needed for the student.
- We will continue to provide families and employees access to the Emotional Support Line, staffed by experienced mental health professionals.

SCHOOL PROCEDURES:

WHAT OTHER PROCEDURES WILL ENSURE A SAFE AND SUCCESSFUL TEACHING & LEARNING ENVIRONMENT?

Arrival and Dismissal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Employees and students must use designated point(s) of entry/exit.• Schools may provide additional points to enter/exit buildings/campus.• Schools may stagger arrival and drop-off times and/or locations, or initiate other protocols to limit close contact with parents or caregivers.• Schools will limit crowding at entry/exit points by maintaining maximum group sizes and physical distancing recommendations to the maximum extent possible.
Facility Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Schools will maintain static groups and physical distance to the maximum extent possible.• Schools may remove unused desks and furniture in classrooms to maximize physical distance and minimize objects that must be cleaned.• Schools may provide additional time for transitions.• Schools may designate areas of the hallway (i.e., lanes) as flow paths to keep students separated and to minimize congregation of students.• Schools may plan staggered class changes (e.g., by hall, odd/even room numbers, grade/discipline) to decrease the number of students in hallways at one time.• Students will be discouraged from sharing electronic devices, toys, books, and other games or learning aids.• Schools may assign restrooms to be accessed by specific classrooms, and restroom capacity will be limited.
Before & After-Care Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Upon arriving at the before-care program, every employee and student will have an initial temperature check.• Schools will adhere to maximum group sizes and physical distance protocols to the maximum extent possible during before and after-care programs.

TRANSPORTATION:

HOW WILL WE SAFELY TRANSPORT OUR STUDENTS?

We encourage our families to transport their children if possible. However, we know that many of our students will require bus transportation to get to and from school. We will provide additional safety measures to ensure a safe transport for our students.

- School buses must not exceed the following maximum capacity requirements:

Maximum Bus Capacity		
Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
25 percent, including adults, of the school bus manufacturer capacity	50 percent, including adults, of the school bus manufacturer capacity	75 percent, including adults, of the school bus manufacturer capacity

Passengers on a school bus must be spaced to the greatest extent possible as follows

- Passengers must ride one per seat.
- Every other seat must remain empty.
- Members of the same household may sit in the same seat or adjacent seats.
- Passengers must be dispersed throughout the bus to the greatest extent possible.

- Parents are responsible for ensuring that their children report to the bus stop without fever and COVID-19 symptoms.
- Students will sanitize hands at boarding time and wear face coverings at all times when on board the bus.
- Students will maintain social distancing on the school bus. Children from the same household will be able to sit together.
- There will be limited capacity on the bus, which may require multiple trips and fewer stops for each bus route.
- Weather permitting, windows will be lowered to increase ventilation on the bus.
- Bus personnel will wear face coverings when transporting students.
- Buses will be cleaned and disinfected.

MEALS:

HOW WILL WE PROVIDE NUTRITIOUS MEALS FOR OUR STUDENTS?

Regardless of what phase we're in or what school instructional model we're using, we will continue to provide nutritious meals for our students. Food will be served with additional safety and sanitation procedures in place.

School Instructional Model	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
Traditional	-	Breakfast and Lunch	Breakfast and Lunch
Hybrid	-	Breakfast and Lunch / Grab and Go Meals	Breakfast and Lunch / Grab and Go Meals
Virtual	Grab and Go Meals	Grab and Go Meals	Grab and Go Meals

For in-person on-campus meals, students will pick-up meals in the school cafeteria or designated location. Students will eat in their classrooms or outside when weather permits

EXTRA-CURRICULARS:

WHAT ACTIVITIES WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM?

Assemblies and Field Trips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assemblies are limited to maximum group sizes and with appropriate physical distancing in place. Schools will discontinue field trips at this time.
Athletics and Physical Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Athletic decisions will be made in compliance with the Louisiana High School Athletic Association's guidance. Physical education teachers will adhere to all health and safety precautions and guidelines. Playground equipment and athletic equipment will be cleaned daily or as necessary,
Band and Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Band and vocal music may resume in Phase 3, with physical distance recommendations in effect.



Dr. James Gray
Superintendent

JEFFERSON PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

Tiffany Kuhn, President	District 3
Chad Nugent, Vice-President	District 8
Mark C. Morgan.....	District 1
Ricky Johnson, Sr.....	District 2
Clay Moise II.....	District 4
Simeon Dickerson.....	District 5
Larry N. Dale.....	District 6
Billy North.....	District 7
Sandy Denapolis-Bosarge	District 9