



ALBERTVILLE

CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM

Back to School Recovery Plan 2021-2022

Responding to the Effects of COVID-19

Dr. Boyd K. English, Superintendent

107 W. Main Street
Albertville, AL 35950

Table of Contents

Academic Interventions	Page 2
• Increased Literacy Intervention	
• Summer/Fall/Spring Literacy & Academic Camps	
• Remediation Opportunities	
Additional Resources	Page 3
• Audio Enhancement	
• Class Size Reduction for Special Populations	
• Social/Emotional Support	
Prevention of Sickness/Cleaning Protocols	Page 4

Disclaimer

The information provided in this document does not, and is not intended to, constitute legal advice. Instead, all information, content, and materials available in this document are for general informational purposes only. Information in this document may not constitute the most current legal regulations. This document may contain links to other third party websites. Such links are only for the convenience of the user. Albertville City Schools does not recommend or endorse the contents of third party sites. All liability with respect to action taken or not taken based on the contents of this document are hereby expressly disclaimed. The content in this document is provided “as is.” No representations are made that the content is error-free. The document is not an exhaustive list of every action that Albertville City Schools will need to return to school or remain in school. Guidance by the Alabama State Department of Education is not mandated. Albertville City Schools has the authority and flexibility to meet their individual needs and be responsive to the community.

Academic Interventions

Taken from ALSDE Guidance:

Existing data on learning loss during long school closures shows that COVID-19 could result in students achieving only 70% of the learning gains in reading and 50% of the learning gains in mathematics (up to a full year behind in some grades) compared to a normal year. Younger grades are likely to suffer even greater losses. Even in cases where students have been able to access remote learning options (which is not universal across or within school systems), there will likely still be significant learning loss to address.

COVID-19 will exacerbate existing learning gaps both between students and between schools:

- Gaps **between students**: students who face challenges will fall further behind, especially for students whose families have faced additional challenges
- Gaps **between schools**: teachers in systems with very large class sizes will face challenges following up with students, and schools with weak IT systems may lose time setting up platforms. In addition, gaps may widen between schools due to uneven patterns of school closures (e.g., between public and private schools or across regions in a given system).

COVID-19 will also create new gaps. Given that access to and ability to partake in remote learning depends heavily on both connectivity and a child's home environment, some children will fall further behind.

Albertville City Schools will address this learning loss through implementation of these additional learning opportunities:

Increased Literacy Intervention

Using early literacy assessment data, ACS recognized the need for additional literacy intervention for students in grades K-3 who are not proficient in reading. Beginning in the 2021-2022 school year, Tier 3 pullout intervention will be provided for all students who have not achieved reading proficiency. This necessitated the hiring of additional teachers, as intervention teacher positions were posted in Spring 2021. Intervention teachers are trained in specific reading intervention strategies such as the Orton-Gillingham multi-sensory approach, LETRS (science of reading) training, and the district's state-approved intervention program (SPIRE/Sounds Sensible). Intervention will be structured, systematic, and consistent; data will be analyzed and monitored to assure that growth toward proficiency is being achieved.

Summer/Fall/Spring Literacy & Academic Camps

Summer Literacy Camps are in place in Albertville City Schools to address the Alabama Literacy Act (ALA), as well as other targeted academic summer programs to address learning deficits and special population (EL) learning needs. In addition, ACS modified the 2021-2022 academic calendar to allow time for both a fall and spring literacy/academic camp to continue to address specific literacy and academic goals.

Additional Remediation Opportunities

ACS will offer additional remediation opportunities throughout the school year, such as before and after school tutoring, to address learning deficits.

Additional Resources

Audio Enhancement

According to a longitudinal study by Gertel, McCarty & Schoff (2004), "Students in amplified classrooms scored 10% higher on a standardized achievement test than students in unamplified classrooms." Audio enhancement solutions have been purchased by Albertville City Schools. These enhancements include **classroom audio** to provide clear instruction for all students no matter where a child is seated in the classroom; **classroom video** which enhances digital content to facilitate effective remote/blended learning and can be used for safety situations; **schoolwide communication** which allows for instant communication with all staff; and **school safety features** which provide quick communication with office staff to communicate urgent situations.

Class Size Reduction for Special Populations

Additional teacher units are being filled in Albertville City Schools to reduce class size and/or caseloads for special populations of students such as Special Education or English Learners. This class size reduction will allow for more specialized instruction for subpopulations of students to meet their particular needs.

Social/Emotional Support

Albertville City Schools has established a new student advocacy/social services program, The Aggie Advocacy Center, to meet the social-emotional needs of students throughout the school system. This program will provide student advocates/social workers to support students and ensure that their needs are met and appropriate services are provided.

Prevention of Sickness/Cleaning Protocols

Albertville City Schools is following the guidance provided by the Alabama State Department of Education and the Alabama Department of Public Health to open schools. As guidance from these organizations is given, our protocols for schools may change. No plan, however carefully thought out, can completely protect all students and staff from risk of infection. Nevertheless, Albertville City Schools is committed to providing an environment for learning that lessens that risk as much as possible.

- **Communication with Home** - The first line of defense for preventing the spread of infection in our schools is the home defense. Parents and families should be familiar with the symptoms associated with infection and keep students at home if any of these symptoms are evident. These symptoms include:
 - Fever of 100.4, especially first thing in the morning
 - Cough, runny nose, or sinus congestion
 - Trouble breathing or persistent pain/pressure in the chest
 - Abdominal pain or stomach ache
 - Diarrhea or vomiting
 - Loss of taste or smell

Parents are encouraged to assess their child's health status before school each day.

- **Procedures for Symptomatic Students at School**
 - Teachers should inform the nurse and send the student to the isolation room per specific school plans.
 - Parents will be notified per the specific school plan so the student can be picked up promptly. Parents will stay in contact with the school to communicate the status of their child's health. School staff will be mindful of student privacy and only share information with "Need to Know" personnel.
- **Attendance Policy**

In order to minimize exposure to COVID-19, students should by no means be sent to school if they are sick. It is important that students with any symptoms of illness stay home until the symptoms resolve. Absence codes have been added to reflect student absences due to COVID-related reasons. Please notify your child's school when any absence is related to COVID-19.
- **Cleaning Protocols**

Albertville City Schools will continue to provide a safe and sanitized learning environment for our faculty/staff/students within all school system buildings. System wide cleaning protocols will ensure that the school environment is clean. In addition, all buildings have Nu-Calgon Air Purifiers installed in all HVAC units within the system, purchased with 2020 Cares Act Funding.