



TROY
CITY SCHOOLS

**BACK TO SCHOOL
BLUEPRINT**

2020-2021

INTRODUCTION

1. Purpose

This blueprint will identify and explain how Troy City Schools will resume and refine learning as Miami County and Ohio reopen following the outbreak of the COVID-19 global pandemic. Our top priorities remain unchanged as we safeguard the health and safety of our students and staff while ensuring they are dreaming big and future ready.

2. Operating Assumptions

Troy City Schools have developed this plan in conjunction with Miami County Public Health, following guidance from the Ohio Department of Education (ODE), the Ohio Department of Health and the American Academy of Pediatrics. We have worked in close partnership with several professional associations and educational agencies to help ensure a smooth transition and high level of service to our families and staff members. We will continue to monitor and safeguard the health of students and staff by working closely with Miami County Public Health. This plan is subject to change based on additional guidance from expert authorities.

* [CLICK HERE](#) to see the *Ohio Department of Education Planning Guide*.

* [CLICK HERE](#) to see the *Ohio Department of Health Prevention Guidance*.

* [CLICK HERE](#) to see *Guidance from the American Academy of Pediatrics*.

3. Guiding Principles

These are unprecedented times that have caused us to create new systems and structures to educate our students. While we look forward to the return of students to a “normal” school day, we will also use this opportunity to make education better through personalization and renewed focus. Our strategic plan goals remain unchanged as Troy City Schools will:

- provide safe and healthy learning environments to meet student learning needs in the 21st century.
- ensure all students are future ready by:
 - providing rigorous and relevant instruction,
 - monitoring each student’s success and mastery of content standards and
 - developing their social-emotional skills.
- maintain high standards for fiscal responsibility and stewardship while developing a budget that meets the goals outlined in our strategic plan.
- recruit, develop and retain highly effective staff members who are dedicated to student growth and development.
- engage all stakeholders through a comprehensive communication plan.

4. Community Support

We are blessed to live in a highly connected and supportive community that places a high value on the success of our students and staff. Those partnerships are more important than ever and we will recommit ourselves to strengthening those bonds at every opportunity.

Parents are our closest partners and we remain committed to frequent and timely communication. We also continue to encourage parents to reach out with questions and concerns as we navigate our way through these challenging times.

RETURNING TO SCHOOL

1. Health and Safety Considerations

Ohio will recover from the pandemic with a phased-in approach, and this plan will include schools. New COVID-19 infections are expected and the goal is to keep the infection rate within the healthcare system's capacity to handle them. This means that there are inherent risks for students and staff as we return to school and because of that, our first priority at Troy City Schools is to limit the spread through precautionary measures. Each school district in Ohio is expected to utilize the guidance provided from the Ohio Department of Health through the Ohio Department of Education and to work in collaboration with their county health departments.

a. Daily precautions

i. Daily health assessments

Students and staff members are required to take their temperatures before leaving home each school day. Anyone experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or having a temperature above 100°F should stay home and contact a primary care physician. Students at school who show symptoms will be required to wear a face covering and remain in a separate holding area until they can be picked up by a parent or guardian.

ii. Student and staff illnesses

Any student or staff member with a fever over 100°F should stay home. Any student or staff member that has the following symptoms of COVID-19 should stay home from school and should see their primary care provider to be assessed for COVID-19:

- Any of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing,

OR

- Two of the following symptoms: fever, chills, rigors, myalgia, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, GI issues (nausea or vomiting or diarrhea),

OR

- Any of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, rigors, myalgia, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, GI issues (nausea and vomiting or diarrhea) AND an epidemiological link to a case of COVID-19.

iii. Returning to school after illness

If a student or staff member is diagnosed as having COVID-19, they must meet the following criteria to return to school:

- 3 days with no fever (without using fever reducing medication)
AND
- other symptoms improved
AND
- 10 days since symptoms first appeared

Students and staff that only have a fever and no other symptoms and have not had any contact with an individual that has COVID-19 may return to school after they are fever free for 24 hours without using any fever reducing medications.

To return to school, the student must be transported to school by the parent/guardian and must be checked by the school nurse.

Staff may be required to provide documentation from a physician to return to work or abide in accordance with updated guidance from the CDC or local Health Department.

Miami County Public Health will determine who needs to be quarantined and the appropriate duration of time.

iv. Physical/Social distancing

Keeping a distance of six feet or more between people has been exceptionally effective against the spread of COVID-19 by minimizing the chance of coming into contact with respiratory droplets. We will reconfigure our classrooms and other spaces to encourage social distancing as much as possible and will adjust procedures to limit crowding in areas such as lunchrooms, playgrounds and hallways. We will also instruct and encourage social distancing with our students, particularly our primary students.

v. Face coverings

Where social distancing is difficult, face coverings are even more essential. When six feet is not possible, three feet is considered an acceptable minimum by the American Academy of Pediatrics if face coverings are utilized and individuals are asymptomatic.

Per the Ohio Department of Education Guidelines, staff members are required to wear face coverings unless they are working alone in an isolated area or unless they have a documented reason not to do so. Face shields may be used in some settings, such as working with students with disabilities, where communication may be impacted.

We highly recommend that students in grades K-2 wear face coverings as much as possible in all school settings.

Students in grades 3-12 are required to wear face coverings in all common areas of the school and on school buses. They are also required to wear face coverings in classrooms and areas outside the building whenever 6ft of social distancing cannot be maintained.

Students who provide a note from a physician indicating that they cannot wear face coverings will be exempt.

vi. Hygiene practices

Students and staff should practice frequent handwashing for at least 20 seconds when hands are dirty, before and after eating, and after using the restroom. We will also provide opportunities throughout the day for hand washing. Hand sanitizer will be available for all students and staff members, particularly in high traffic areas, including school entrances and at all classrooms.

vii. Cleaning & sanitizing

School staff will clean surfaces multiple times throughout the day (including playgrounds and buses), paying close attention to high touch areas and shared materials, and make sanitation wipes or disinfectants labeled for use against SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) available in each room and common space. The sharing of supplies and materials will be minimized and if items must be shared, sanitized between each user.

viii. Student learning

Good hygiene practices will require new learned behaviors. We will provide age-appropriate learning about COVID-19 control strategies for students. This will include social distancing, hand washing, appropriate use of face masks and coughing and sneezing etiquette.

ix. Staff training

Training will be provided to all staff members. Training will include the proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE) and recognition of symptoms of COVID-19.

x. Other precautions

1. Field trips

To limit exposure and spread, no field trips will occur during the first semester of the 2020-2021 school year. This practice will be reassessed for the second semester.

2. Visitors

To limit the exposure and spread, school visitors will be extremely limited and all visitors will be expected to practice social distancing and wear face coverings. Any visitors who will be in the school setting for more than just a few moments will also need to check their temperature.

3. Additional precautions during flare up

In the event that there is a flare up at a particular school, buildings may be closed for cleaning and disinfecting while the rest of the district remains open. Other operational changes may occur in response to local changes in the infection rate.

b. Communication plan

Clear and consistent communication with parents will be a primary focus as we share information about health and safety concerns. We also pledge to increase and improve communication between parents and teachers regarding student learning.

2. Educating Students

Although COVID-19 has caused disruption and presents challenges for student learning, it does not divert us from our goal to help students learn at their highest levels. We are committed to providing a high quality education for our students through effective in person, blended or online learning until we can return to normal operations.

a. Assessment

We will utilize frequent and ongoing diagnostic assessments to create personalized learning plans for students based on their unique needs.

b. Curriculum

We will work with teachers to clearly identify and communicate learning objectives for parents and students to guide their learning. We will share guidelines and expectations for all learners, regardless of their learning environment.

c. Learning Options

i. Troy Online Academy

Until a vaccine is available, we understand that some parents have concerns about the inherent risks associated with a return to school. This is why we will have a full-time online option for any students who prefer that model of instruction. This will be open to all students, regardless of their special circumstances or needs.

*[*CLICK HERE](#) for more information about Troy Online Academy.*

ii. A-B-C Plan

We are prepared for three alternative learning models that will be dictated by local health conditions. We will monitor the Ohio Public Health Advisory System to determine our mode of operation. We will do this in consultation with Miami County Public Health to ensure level changes are not resulting from localized outbreaks in specific institutions. We will remain nimble and flexible to ensure the safety of all students and adults. We have the capacity to operate in any of these models at any given time with little advance notice. The learning models are as follows:

- **A - Level 1 (Yellow)** - All students in school daily following operational guidelines.
- **A - Level 2 (Orange)** - All students in school daily following increased operational guidelines.
- **B - Level 3 (Red)** - Blended model with students divided into Red Group and Gray Group, reporting on designated days of instruction with more strict operational guidelines, including required temperature checks as students enter the building.
- **C - Level 4 (Purple)** - Remote learning for all students.

iii. Blended Model of Instruction

To achieve more social distancing on school buses and in buildings, we may have to operate in a blended model of instruction. This means that not all students will be in school every day. Instead, approximately 50% of students will

be in school on a given day, while the other 50% are accessing online learning materials. This will also ensure all buildings will be cleaned thoroughly between student cohorts. Our schedule for a regular 5-day week is as follows. Four day weeks would see the elimination of the fully online day.

- Monday - Red Group in school, Gray Group online
- Tuesday - Red Group in school, Gray Group online
- Wednesday - Both groups online with live teacher support
- Thursday - Red Group online, Gray Group in school
- Friday - Red Group online, Gray Group in school

This model has been created to provide a consistent schedule for parents and it serves as the best instructional model for consistent student learning. Parents will be informed which group their children are in and which days they will attend in this model prior to the start of the school year. All children in a household would be in the same group.

d. Tools to support online & blended learning

To support learning outside of school, Troy City Schools is going to a 1:1 Chromebook program. This means that all students will be provided with a Chromebook that should be brought to school each morning and taken home every afternoon.

We will also be utilizing a learning management system called “Canvas” to provide a 1-stop shop for students, parents and teachers so they can more easily navigate lessons, assignments, and communication.

We will share iReady and common assessment data with students and parents so they have a clear understanding of what their child has learned and what interventions and supports they may need, if any.

e. Social Emotional Health

We know that COVID-19 and the ways that we’ve had to respond have presented social and emotional challenges for many of our students and their families. Because of this, it will be important for us to assess the individual needs of our students and provide them with the social and emotional support they need to get through these trying times.

f. Personalization

Now, more than ever, we will need to consider the individual needs of our students and develop the supports they need to be successful. We are committed to working closely with families to ensure we are meeting the learning needs of all of our students, regardless of their participation in fully online or blended learning environments. We will continue to work with families to develop these supports and services for our special needs students through their Individualized Education Plans (IEP’s) and through Written Education Plans (WEP’s) for our gifted students. We will also continue to work closely with our English Language Learners and their families to ensure their success.

g. School Calendar & Professional Development

Although we heard from many families that the spring went well with the shift to online learning, we know that we have work to do as we adapt once again to a new model of learning. To assist our teachers with making these necessary changes, we are modifying the school calendar to allow time for this training and to get through our warmest weather, which makes the use of face coverings uncomfortable. Our first day for students will now be Tuesday, September 8th.

To make up for some of this lost instructional time at the start of the year, any calamity days due to inclement weather later in the year will be online learning days and students will be expected to login for lessons and assignments.

**CLICK HERE for a link to our revised school calendar. (coming soon)*

3. Other Operational Considerations

a. Busing

Social distancing on school buses is difficult to achieve so we are asking parents to bring their children to school and/or pick them up as much as possible until we can return to regular operations. We will still provide busing as needed for those who need the service. Face coverings are required for students in grades 3-12 riding the bus. They are also highly recommended for students in grades K-2.

b. School breakfasts & lunches

School food services will follow the guidance from the Ohio Department of Health's Dine Safe Ohio order.

Free breakfasts and lunches will continue to be provided to those who qualify. We have yet to determine how those will be made available in a fully online or blended model but that will be communicated to families once it is known.