



Haywood County Schools Press Release June 1, 2020

As any teacher, staff member, school principal or district superintendent can tell you, returning to school in periods of normalcy is hard. Doing so in the face of COVID-19, a public health epidemic with extreme uncertainties, will be monumentally difficult. The stakes could not be higher. An entire generation of students' academic, social-emotional, and mental health hangs in the balance. Public schools provide our children with hope and prepare them for productive work and fulfilling lives. They are a central source of community, a place to come together as a nation, to assemble openly, and to elect our public officials.

As the Haywood County Schools' leadership team has been preparing for re-entry in the 2020-2021 school year, we have been reading and reviewing multiple documents and tools. We have structured our leadership to plan in the following key areas: governance, wellness, instruction, facilities, school operations, and technology.

In full transparency, HCS is also working to look at various scenarios for a school return in August 2020. Scenario planning examples include:

Scenario 1: Most students and staff are in person at the same time with social distancing measures within school (10–20% are at home)

Scenario 2: Most students and staff come to school in person in shifts (33% in school, 66% at home on a rotating schedule)

Scenario 3: Half of students and faculty regularly come to school in person (50% are regularly at home)

Scenario 4: No one comes to school in person (100% are at home)

It is the CDC guidance for reopening schools that provides Haywood County Schools with the most important details. As we plan for next year, we are looking through a lens focused on the following:

- Promoting Behaviors that Reduce Spread
- Maintaining Healthy Environments
- Maintaining Healthy Operations
- Preparing for When Someone Gets Sick

Given scenario planning and CDC guidelines, Haywood County Schools will make assignment shifts for staff and students in the 2020-2021 school year. This plan will assist in our re-entry and safety management. Here are the reassignments:

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| • Anderson Early Childhood Center | PK3, PK4, & Kindergarten |
| • Haywood Elementary School | 1 st Grade & 2 nd Grade |
| • East Side Elementary School | 3 rd Grade & 4 th Grade |
| • Sunny Hill Intermediate School | 5 th Grade & 6 th Grade |
| • Haywood Middle School | 7 th Grade & 8 th Grade |
| • Student Options Academy | REACH & Alternative School Placement |



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Over the next few days, Haywood County Schools will share surveys to be completed by staff and families of our students. Survey results will assist in additional planning and preparation for the 2020-2021 school year. Thank you in advance for your participation in our surveys. We value the feedback.

Additionally, during the month of June, Haywood County Schools will be communicating any potential changes to the 2020-2021 calendar as well as specific protocols linked to policy and safety in the following areas:

- Facilities
- Health
- Instruction
- Social & Emotional Learning
- Schedules
- Technology
- Transportation

Protocols will be shared for information purposes to educate our community on the actions of HCS to provide a healthy school environment for staff and students. Calendar changes will be announced as soon as possible for families to plan accordingly if needed.

Please reach out to Haywood County Schools on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9:30a.m. – 2:30p.m. with any questions and/or concerns. Additionally, feel free to e-mail Joey Hassell, Superintendent, at joey.hassell@hcsk12.net.

Stay safe, take care, and go Tomcats!