

OFFICE OF  
**RICHLAND PARISH SCHOOL BOARD**

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August 6, 2021

TO: Richland Parish School Board Greater School Community

FROM: Superintendent Sheldon Jones

RE: REVISED: Ready to Achieve! 2021-2022 School Operational Guidelines

As we anticipate the reopening of schools for the 2021-2022 school year, the Richland Parish School Board (RPSB) has worked diligently to continue its compliance with guidance from the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) for a safe return to school. Teachers and other nine month employees are scheduled to return to work on August 12, 2021. The first day for students to return to school is scheduled for August 16, 2021. All schools in Richland Parish will implement the four day face-to-face/one day remote learning school and work week. Contact your child's school if you have any questions regarding the structure of the school week. Grab-and-go breakfasts and lunches for all students will be served.

The guidance below is from the Ready to Achieve! 2021-2022 School Operational Guidelines, Presidential Executive Order No. 13999, and State of Louisiana Executive Department Proclamation Number 137 JBE 2021. It is contingent upon any future guidelines released by the Governor's Office, CDC, LDH, and Louisiana Department of Education (LDE). The LDE is continuing to work with its partners at the LDH and Children's Hospital of New Orleans (CHNOLA) to review the latest CDC guidelines surrounding school operations. A set of operational guidance for K-12 school systems to use in the 2021-2022 school year were provided to school systems and went into effect on July 1, 2021. The preliminary guidelines listed below were informed by LDH/CDC and are subject to change.

**TRANSPORTATION**

Buses are allowed to operate at 100% capacity and as required by Presidential Executive Order No. 13998 on Promoting COVID-19 Safety in Domestic and International Travel, all passengers on the school bus must wear a facial covering while using transportation, regardless of capacity. The order in its entirety can be accessed at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/21/executive-order-promoting-covid-19-safety-in-domestic-and-international-travel/>. Windows should be kept open when it does not create a safety or health hazard. Seating charts should be created and consistently enforced. Regardless of school masking policy and vaccination status, all adults and students 5 years of age and older are required to wear a face mask during school transportation. Individuals age 2 – 4 years old should wear a face mask, if tolerated. Children under two years old and individuals with breathing difficulties should not wear a face covering.

**SCREENING UPON ARRIVAL ON CAMPUS**

RPSB continues to encourage families and employees to self-monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 (i.e. fever of 100.4 or higher, persistent cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, or loss of taste/smell) prior to arrival on campus. If your child exhibits the symptoms listed above, we recommend that you take them to your family physician and do not send them to school until you receive medical clearance. Temperature checks of visitors, students and faculty on campus will be required one time upon entry daily.

### PHYSICAL DISTANCING/GROUP SIZE

The maximum group size that may convene indoors in a single room will be determined by physical distancing requirements. Younger students who are unable to wear face coverings or maintain a physical distance from other students or adults will be assigned static groups if necessary. This includes, at a minimum, students in Grade 2 or lower. The static group composition will be maintained for as long as possible. The composition of a group may change if students are able to maintain a physical distance of at least three feet from other students and six feet from adults in a classroom or indoor setting, to the greatest extent possible.

### FACIAL COVERING REQUIREMENTS

The Richland Parish School Board will comply with the mandates of State of Louisiana Executive Department Proclamation Number 137 JBE 2021 and any future mandates pertaining to COVID-19 issued by the Governor during the 2021-2022 school year. The proclamation in its entirety can be accessed at <https://gov.louisiana.gov/assets/Proclamations/2021/137JBE2021StateofEmergency.pdf> . Pursuant to the proclamation, all individuals (except any child under the age of five not enrolled in a kindergarten program) in the State of Louisiana shall be required to wear a mask covering over the nose and mouth when indoors in any place outside of a private residence.

### BAND, VOCAL, AND MUSIC

Band or vocal activities may occur indoors or outdoors. Indoor concerts can be held in accordance with Theaters, Concert, or Music Hall guidance found at <https://opensafely.la.gov/> .

### COVID VACCINATION INFORMATION

On May 13, 2021, the LDH announced that Louisianans ages 12 and up can now receive the COVID-19 vaccine, following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's action recommending use of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for this age group. For a person younger than age 18, parental/caregiver consent is required to get the vaccine. The LDH has developed a consent form that can be found on its website.

In the event of a Coronavirus confirmed positive case of a student or employee, the Principal will contact the Superintendent to report. The Superintendent's Office will contact the Regional Medical Director to report. A Contract Tracer from the LDH may contact parents and/or employees to identify those potentially infected. A form letter may be sent to parents making them aware of any positive cases reported for their child's school. A confirmed positive case is not an automatic trigger to close school.

The Richland Parish School Board Virtual Learning Academy will be offered again as an option to the traditional face-to-face school setting during the 2021-2022 school year for all students who have been approved through the RVA application process. Virtual courses will be offered through the Edgenuity platform. For students enrolled into the Richland Virtual Academy, school meal sites will serve students on Mondays (4 meals) and Wednesdays (6 meals) only. Hours of operation on Mondays and Wednesdays will be from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at the following schools: Delhi High School, Rayville High School, and Mangham Elementary School. For more detailed information concerning the academy, visit our website at [richland.k12.la.us/rva/](http://richland.k12.la.us/rva/). The Richland Parish Homework Hotline will be available for the 2021-2022 school year. The hotline will be staffed by teachers from across Richland Parish. Students and parents can access the hotline at (318) 417-7335. The Homework Hotline can be accessed on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 5:00 until 8:00 beginning tentatively August 23, 2021. The Homework Hotline will be closed on Fridays and school holidays.

Please contact your child's assigned school for questions pertaining to school reopening. Coronavirus updates are located on our district website at <https://www.richland.k12.la.us/index.php/2021/07/14/covid19resources/> . Stay safe as we continue to plan and prepare for 2021-2022 school reopening.