

OFFICE OF
RICHLAND PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

SHELDON JONES, Superintendent

P. O. BOX 599

RAYVILLE, LOUISIANA 71269

Kevin Eppinette
District 8
President

Eugene Young, Jr.
District 2
Vice-President

Chris Pruitt
District 9

Marie Lewis
District 6

Sharon Jones
District 3

James Hough
District 4

Dr. Georgia Ineichen
District 5

Scott McKay
District 7

Billy Calvert
District 1

August 9, 2022

TO: Richland Parish School Board Greater School Community

FROM: Superintendent Sheldon Jones

RE: REVISED: Ready to Achieve! 2022-2023 School Operational Guidelines

As we anticipate the reopening of schools for the 2022-2023 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 11, 2022. The first day for students to return to school is scheduled for August 15, 2022. All schools in Richland Parish will implement the traditional five day school 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! 2022-2023 School Operational Guidelines. It is contingent upon any future guidelines released by the Governor's Office, CDC, LDH, and Louisiana Department of Education (LDE). The LDE worked with its partners at the LDH and Children's Hospital of New Orleans (CHNOLA) to review the CDC guidelines surrounding school operations. The preliminary guidelines listed below were informed by LDH/CDC and are subject to change if required by state or federal mandate.

TRANSPORTATION

Buses are allowed to operate at 100% capacity. Windows should be kept open when it does not create a safety or health hazard. Seating charts should be created and consistently enforced. Wearing of a face mask during school transportation is optional. 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 performed as needed.

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 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

All individuals present on Richland Parish School Board property shall have the option to wear a face mask or covering.

COVID VACCINATION INFORMATION

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends COVID-19 vaccination for everyone 6 months and older and boosters for everyone 5 years and older, if eligible. Use CDC's COVID-19 booster tool located at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/booster-shot.html#when-you-can-get-booster> to learn if and when your child or teen can get boosters to stay up to date on their COVID-19 vaccines.

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.

RELATED INFORMATION

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 2022-2023 school year for all students who have been approved through the RVA application process. Richland Virtual Academy will be housed at the Richland Career Center at Archibald with operating hours of 7:40 a.m. – 3:10 p.m. on Monday – Friday. Virtual courses will be offered through the Edgenuity, eDynamic, and SchoolsPLP platforms. For students enrolled in the Richland Virtual Academy, school meal sites will serve students on Mondays (10 meals) only. Hours of operation on Mondays will be from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at the following schools: Delhi High School, Rayville High School, Mangham Elementary School, and Start Elementary School. For more detailed information concerning the academy, visit our website at richland.k12.la.us/rva/. The Richland Parish Homework Hotline will be available for the 2022-2023 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 September 6, 2022. 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 2022-2023 school reopening.