

Zachary Community School District

Strong Start 2020



Message from Superintendent Devillier

July 12, 2020

Zachary Community School District Families,

When the 2019-2020 academic year began, no school district could have predicted the difficult decisions and challenges in providing ongoing education that we currently face. The Louisiana Department of Education released the 2020 Strong Start School Reopening Guidelines. We have reviewed this guidance, as well as the input received through stakeholder survey data. Not all school district's plans will look the same, as administrators must work around various barriers to ensure the safety of each school system, including but not limited to student counts, class size, course offerings, grade spans, and facility size.

The Zachary Community School Board met on Thursday, July 9, 2020, and voted to open the 2020-2021 school year using a Hybrid learning model during our transition back to school period. This transition period will occur Monday, August 10, 2020, through Friday, September 4, 2020. This transition period provides the most flexibility but does not carry the risk of putting all students back into our buildings too quickly.

The Zachary Community School District will be among some of the first school districts in the United States to bring students back into the buildings during this pandemic. The utilization of the Hybrid learning model, during this transition time, will allow our district to evaluate and determine possible effects on the safety of our students and employees based on the current school sizes and configurations. Without this transition, we could find ourselves having to offer only the 100% virtual learning model. This gives us a better chance of working through the unknown effects of this pandemic on our instructional environments. We understand the need to balance safety, academics, and the needs of our families. We believe this transition is needed to make informed decisions as we continue through this uncharted journey. Our district wants to keep our community informed of any changes that will affect a safe, conducive learning environment.

During the board meeting, we also discussed the following surrounding our transition plan:

- **Class sizes will be reduced to promote greater social distancing:**
 - We are allowing our educators the opportunity to organize face-to-face instruction and make appropriate adjustments, around smaller groups of students.
 - We are allowing our schools the opportunity to successfully implement the two essential requirements of adhering to social distancing protocols in classrooms and on buses.

- **Schools will utilize the Hybrid learning model during this transition period to be prepared for potential building closures:**
 - We are allowing our educators time to work more closely with students and families in the early days of this school year, to ensure each student has what he/she needs to be successful under the multiple models that may be implemented.
 - Should the health situation decline, restrictions may be tightened. We are providing our educators, students, and families an opportunity to become familiar with the adjustments needed to be successful at both Hybrid and Virtual Learning.

- **The Zachary Community School District's Grade Cluster:**
 - With nearly half of our students attending a "new" school each year, this also allows our staff and students the opportunity to get accustomed to "new" school procedures, especially with the additional monitoring required due to the pandemic.

We are required to submit the Zachary Community School District's Reopening plan to the Louisiana Department of Education this month. However, during our school board meeting, it was discussed and understood that our plan could be modified based on:

- Additional/clarification of current state and federal guidance;
- Building level safety data collected during this transition time; and/or
- Other recommendations

The Zachary School Board will continue to receive appropriate updates to determine if modification is needed for our plan.

In addition, the [Zachary Community School District's 2020-2021 Calendar](#) has been revised to allow our schools additional time for preparation and required training. **The first day of school for Zachary Community School students will be on Monday, August 10, 2020.**

As our district continues to work through future released guidelines, we will keep our stakeholders updated through our [Strong Start webpage](#) and district text/email messages. As we look forward to the reopening of schools, we want to assure you that safety is our top priority. As always, please feel free to reach out to us at any time, and we look forward to a great 2020-2021 school year.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at strongstart@zacharyschools.org.

Sincerely,



Scott Devillier, Superintendent

Phases I – III (Effective September 8, 2020)



Pre-K - 12th Grade

During Phase I, the ZCSD will accommodate ALL students online. All school buildings will be closed to students.

Pre-K - 12th Grade

During Phase II, the ZCSD will utilize the Hybrid Learning Model on ALL campuses.

Pre-K - 12th Grade

During Phase III, the ZCSD will accommodate our students on ALL campuses daily using the Traditional (In-Person) Learning Model.

The Zachary Community School District will open the 2020-2021 school year using a Hybrid learning model during our transition back to school period. This transition period will occur Monday, August 10, 2020, through Friday, September 4, 2020.

Please know that the information outlined in this document are subject to revision based on new information and guidance.

Overview: Return to School



To maintain the health and safety of our students and staff, we ask you to:

- Keep your children home if they come in contact with any known case of COVID infection or show any possible [symptoms](#) of COVID-19:
 - If exposure or infection is suspected, students will need to be assessed by their primary care provider.
 - Students who are sick should stay home (regardless of illness).
 - Students who have COVID-19 are to stay home and remain isolated until they have recovered and have been determined to no longer be infectious by their doctor. If a diagnosis of COVID-19 is identified, students will need a letter of medical clearance before returning to school. COVID-19 related absences will not impact their attendance record.
- Individuals who are in close contact with a student or staff member may be identified, contacted, and asked to stay home and monitor symptoms for 14 days.
 - Not every student/faculty member in a school will need to stay home for 14 days, just those who are identified as close contacts to a case.
- **Do not send students to school if they have a temperature of 100.4 or above.**

Zachary Community School District Guiding Academic Principles:

- Assess students' academic needs using high-quality screeners for students in grades K-3 and high-quality ELA and math diagnostics in grades 3 to high school;
- Utilize aligned curricular materials during periods of modified operations;
- Provide continuous instruction in non-core subjects, including CTE courses, during periods of a facility closure or modified operations;
- Ensure high school students continue their paths to graduation and successful post-secondary transition;
- Ensure that English Learners have access to curriculum and services delivery, including language support services during periods of modified operations;
- Ensure all students with disabilities receive instructional and related services and have access to devices that meet their unique needs regardless of modified operations;
- Conduct compensatory education reviews of all students with disabilities and provide compensatory services accordingly;
- Ensure students have access to technology and connectivity

Instructional Models

Below you will find general information about models that may be utilized during this academic year:

Traditional (In-Person) Learning Model

- Students will attend school daily for 100% face-to-face instruction with increased safety measures.
- Teachers will integrate technology and blended learning platforms to ensure students are prepared for possible closures.
- Students will access core, ancillary and elective courses.
- If needed, daily schedules will be adjusted to meet safety guidelines.

Hybrid Blended A/B Model

This model will be utilized when a traditional school option is not feasible. Our goal is to have students safely in school buildings as frequently as possible while ensuring the health and well-being of all. This model includes a combination of distance and face-to-face instruction with increased safety measures, allowing for smaller class sizes, social distancing, and limiting the number of students in a group. Instruction will be delivered face-to-face and virtually, using Zachary Community School District's adopted high-quality curriculum, live web conferencing software, and companion digital resources, including videos.

- **Group A (Last Names A-K)**
 - Students will attend school face-to-face on Mondays and Wednesdays.
 - Students will participate in distance learning online on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.
- **Group B (Last Names L-Z)**
 - Students will attend school face-to-face on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
 - Students will participate in distance learning online on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

Please [click here](#) to request a change to ensure all family groups and students sharing a household are scheduled to attend school on the same days.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Group A <i>In-School</i>	Group A <i>Online</i>	Group A <i>In-School</i>	Group A <i>Online</i>	Group A <i>Online</i>
Group B <i>Online</i>	Group B <i>In-School</i>	Group B <i>Online</i>	Group B <i>In-School</i>	Group B <i>Online</i>

Virtual Learning Model

- All students attend school online.
- Teachers will meet with students utilizing web conferencing tools.
- Use of high-quality curriculum and instruction
- Students will be required to log-in and submit graded assignments and assessments.
- Teachers will maintain attendance records in determining satisfactory completion of course requirements.
- Students are required to complete daily course assignments.

Full-time Virtual Learning Program

Full-time Online Virtual Learning Program

You must be fully enrolled as a Zachary Community School District Student in order to participate in the Zachary Virtual Program.

7/13/2020 Update

Thank you for your patience as we continue through the registration, scheduling and placement process!

The Zachary Community School District is utilizing all available resources to ensure that our students have the essential tools for learning continuity for the 2020 – 2021 school year. Our educators are currently working to ensure that students receive the same high-quality curriculum and instruction through all models. We will continue to release updates as we move through the registration, scheduling and placement process.

Grades Pre-Kindergarten-12th: Zachary Community School District Virtual Program

- **Educators:** Courses will be taught by assigned Zachary School District Teachers*
- **Curriculum & Instruction:** Use of the same High-Quality State Standards Aligned Curriculum that is used in traditional classrooms
 - HQ curriculum companion and supplemental digital platforms, video-based presentations, online activities, interactive technology and simulations
 - Same printed resources provided in traditional classrooms, as applicable. These printed resources will be provided to each student
- **Web-Conferencing Tool:** Teachers will utilize web-conferencing tools such as Zoom and Microsoft Teams to provide ongoing communication and live instructional sessions
 - Live sessions will be recorded for those who are not able to join at the scheduled times TBD.
- **Learning Management Platform:** Use of Moodle Platform – easy access to daily lessons
- **Single Sign-On System:** Use of CLEVER System- Each student will have their personalized digital portals, so they are able to find everything they need.
- **Supply Fee:** Students will pay the same fee and will be provided their supplies to utilize for online learning.

**Please note that Edgenuity and K-12 Fuel Education may be utilized for individual need or isolated courses.*

Our district is committed to supporting the learning of all Zachary students, whether at school or at home. We respect that parents are the best resource to determine whether their children come to school or continue learning at home, and we understand that each child's family circumstances will be different. We know that we have medically compromised students and those families who are not comfortable having their students return during the pandemic.

Therefore, families who choose this program may apply for the [Zachary Community School District's Full Virtual Learning Program](#) from July 2, 2020 – July 16, 2020, by clicking [here](#) regardless of what the conditions are in August.

Beginning Monday, July 13, 2020, parents will begin to receive an email confirming receipt of the application verifying your child's enrollment in the ZCSD Virtual Program. Any change in decision to enroll your child in the virtual program must be made by August 3, 2020, by contacting your school.

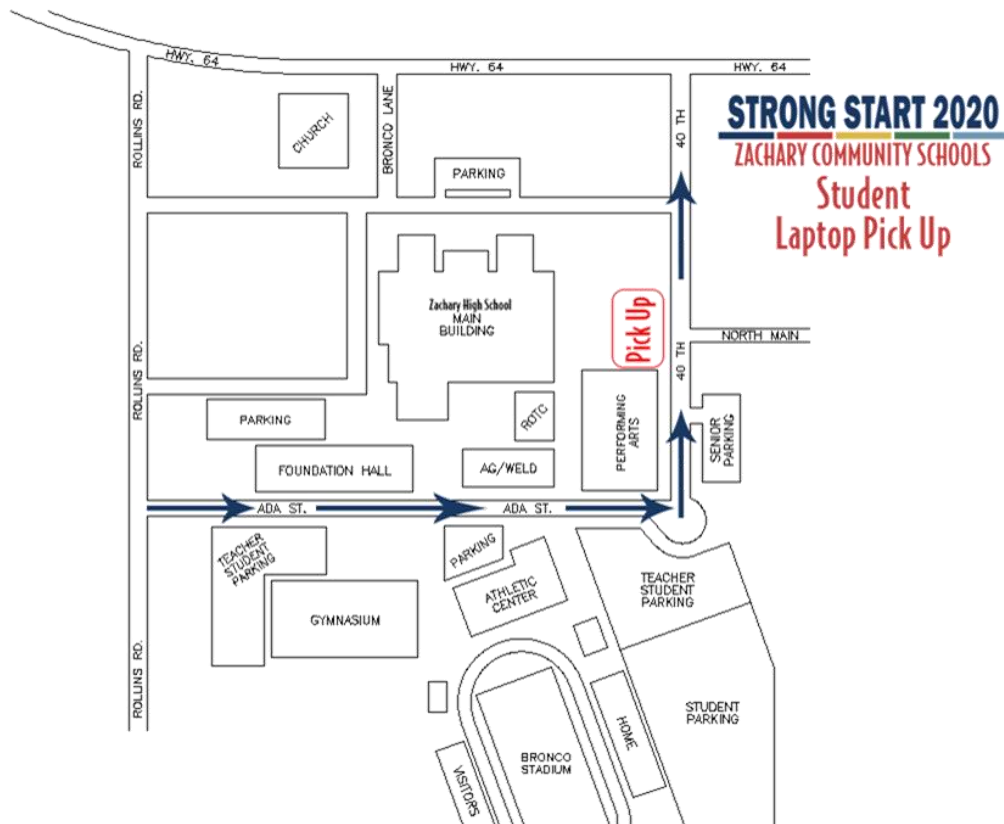
- Students will have the option to return to their school campuses second semester (January 5, 2021) or remain online for the full school year.
- Teacher-designed lessons and quality courseware platforms will be utilized.
- Teachers will meet with students utilizing web-conferencing tools.
- Student support services will be provided.

Technology

Student Devices

During the Spring, we issued over 1500 laptops to ensure all students were able to continue with academic gains using our continuous learning supplemental resources. These laptops remain with our students as we prepare to fill additional identified needs across our community.

Parents may request to check out a [Zachary Community School District laptop](#) for instructional purposes by [clicking here](#).



Wednesday, July 15, 2020

11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, July 16, 2020

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Monday, July 20, 2020

11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, July 21, 2020

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, July 23, 2020

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

As needed, additional check-out dates will be scheduled.

School Closures



The decision to close schools is a case-by-case process. Decisions will ultimately be made by district/school leadership, with guidance and expertise from the Louisiana Department of Health.

- All decisions about implementing school-based strategies (e.g., dismissals, event cancellations, other social distancing measures) will be made locally.

Social and Emotional Health



The Zachary Community School District is committed to focusing on social and emotional learning, relationships, and supporting transitions.

- There will be more frequent monitoring of students occurring in the fall to ensure those who may need additional emotional or mental health support, receive that support.
- Resources are available to assist students with mental health needs. This can range from direct support from our school counselors, social workers, psychologists, and school nurses, as well as linking your child with community resources if needed.

Student and Support Services



The Special Education Department will contact all parents of students with disabilities who have an IEP to discuss the provision of services.

Prevention and Preparations:

Protecting Yourself and Others



<p>Prevention: Education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequent promotion of daily hygiene and social distancing measures throughout the school building; • Information to schools, parents, and staff about hand sanitizers, cough and sneeze etiquette, signs, and symptoms; • Ensure custodial staff has appropriate training on proper cleaning and disinfecting work and play areas; and • Provide all staff with COVID-19 training (include transmission, prevention and use of masks)
<p>Prevention: Cloth Face Coverings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Zachary School District will follow state and federal guidelines regarding face coverings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Face masks must be any solid color. ○ Face masks may have a child's initials/name. ○ Face masks may have a Zachary School logo.
<p>Prevention: Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol can be used (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer). • Encourage staff and students to cover coughs and sneezes appropriately. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash and hands washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol can be used.
<p>Adequate Supplies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supplies, including soap, hand sanitizer, paper towels, tissues, disinfectant wipes, will be made available.
<p>Monitoring</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents should complete a student health screening at home before sending students to school. • Staff and students will be assessed on arrival and throughout the day, including conducting an initial temperature. • Anyone with 100.4+ fever may not remain at school and must be picked up immediately. • Each school has identified and designated an area that will be used to isolate sick students and staff.

<p>Cleaning and Disinfection</p>	<p><u>ZCSD Operations has increased routine cleaning and disinfection.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff will clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces within the school and on school buses. <p><u>Enhanced Cleaning</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleaning high-touch surfaces multiple times throughout the day, including bathrooms • The ZCSD will utilize electrostatic sprayers. • When students change classrooms, shared surface spaces will be sanitized. <p><u>Personal Cleaning</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All employees will clean their personal area. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Personal Area Cleaning: desks, computer keyboards/mouse, phones and copiers, chair arms, remote controls, cabinet, and file drawer handles <p><u>Emergency Cleaning</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performed by contracted services on an emergency basis • Directed by the Superintendent or designee • May require building closure
<p>Shared Objects</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discourage the sharing of items that are difficult to clean or disinfect • Keep each child's belongings separated from others' and in individually labeled containers, cubbies, or areas • Ensure adequate supplies to minimize the sharing of high touch materials to the extent possible or limit the use of supplies and equipment by one group of children at a time and clean and disinfect between uses
<p>Ventilation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure ventilation systems operate correctly and increase the circulation of outdoor air as much as possible, for example, by opening windows on buses • Change HVAC Filters twice monthly
<p>Water</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water fountains are being retrofitted with bottle fillers. • Schools will provide water bottles to all students.
<p>Facility Use</p>	<p>External use of facilities has been suspended until further notice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove furniture in classrooms to maximize physical distance and minimize objects that must be cleaned • Establish distance between the teacher's desk/board and students' desks • Identify and utilize large spaces (e.g., gymnasiums, auditoriums, outside spaces) to enable physical distancing in Phases 2 and 3 • Install physical barriers, such as partitions, particularly in areas where it is difficult for individuals to remain at least 6 feet apart (e.g., reception desks) • Provide physical guides, such as tape on floors or sidewalks and signs on walls, to ensure that staff and children remain at least 6 feet apart in lines and at other times (e.g., guides for creating "one-way routes" in hallways)

<p>School Transition</p>	<p>Updating school transition plans to minimize the congregation of students and staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide additional time for transitions • Identify the flow paths • Plan staggered class changes (e.g., by hall, odd/even room numbers, grade/discipline) to decrease the number of students in hallways at one time. • Provide guidance to students in prevention methods
<p>Drop-off and Pickup Processes to limit contact</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All schools will adjust processes to enable physical distancing and allow the flow of students to move in single directions.
<p>Large Gatherings and Extracurricular Activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ZCSD is encouraging the use of virtual group events, gatherings, or meetings, if possible, and the promotion of social distancing of at least 6 feet between people if events are held. • Pursue virtual activities and events in lieu of field trips, student assemblies, special performances, and school-wide parent meetings, etc. • ZCSD is limiting any nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations.

Child Nutrition



The Zachary Community School District will continue to follow all guidelines:

- Proper cleaning and sanitizing
- Cafeteria workers will wear proper PPE (mask & shield)
- Custodians will assist with waste management

Phase 1	ZCSD Child Nutrition Department will provide students breakfast and lunch as "grab and go" meals. These will be available for drive-through pickup. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Schedules and locations will be announced.• Details regarding regulations will be provided.
Phase 2 & Phase 3	Students will be allowed to eat in designated areas, depending on the campus. Students will maintain social distancing. Breakfast: GRAB & GO Style <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Set up stations to hand out meals to students on their way to homeroom• Disposable serving items and utensils will be used. Lunch: Prepare hot meals to feed students on the campus. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Disposable serving items and utensils will be used.• All meals ordered will be delivered to designated areas.

*Grab-n-Go Meals will be available for drive-through pickup for those students participating in full-time virtual and hybrid learning days at home.

Transportation

	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
Maximum Group Size (including adults)	10	25	50
Maximum Bus Capacity (including adults)	25%	50%	75%
School Bus Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean high touch areas between runs • Ensure hand sanitizer is available on each bus • Disinfect each bus thoroughly at the end of each day 		

Extended Day



Phase 1: Not Applicable, 100% Virtual

Phase 2-3: Afterschool programs will continue but must adhere to maximum group sizes and physical distance protocols. Due to guidelines, spaces may be limited.

Each school will provide additional information.

Zachary Early Learning Center Pre- K



Pre-K Tuition Paying Students:

- Tuition will be prorated at 50% during periods when the Zachary Community School District is not operating a Traditional Model.

Communications



The Zachary Community School District will utilize multiple means of communicating with families, employees, and community stakeholders, including:

- Automated text, voice, and email messaging to families and employees
- Social media posts
- Dedicated webpage on the district website
- Telephone support lines
- School use of Remind and Seesaw
- School use of Moodle Learning Management Platform

Extra-Curricular Activities and Athletics

	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
Athletics	No Sports	<p>Athletic plans must be pre-approved by Main Office Administration.</p> <p>Athletic activities are allowed to resume with the recommendations put forth in the Louisiana High School Athletic Association's Guidance for Opening High School Athletics and Activities.</p>	<p>Athletic plans must be pre-approved by Main Office Administration.</p> <p>Athletic activities are allowed to resume with the recommendations put forth in the Louisiana High School Athletic Association's Guidance for Opening High School Athletics and Activities.</p>
Field Trips	Not Applicable, 100% Virtual	<p>Field trips discontinued until further notice.</p> <p>Only approved district identified trips will be allowed.</p>	
Band and Choir	Not Applicable, 100% Virtual	Discontinued	Only with physical distance in effect

Choir and Band (updated 7/14/2020)

Under the current state guidelines, during Phases I & II, students will not be singing or playing instruments. During Phases I & II, students will be provided with alternative instruction in those classes. Band and vocal music may resume in Phase III.

Questions

If you have any additional questions about our Strong Start Plan, please feel free to contact us at strongstart@zacharyschools.org.