School Reopening
Best Practices
2020
Recap of March-May 2020

School Nutrition staff served over 65,000 meals during the closure. They were supported by counselors, nurses, and school psychologists.

Operations staff ensured buildings remained thoroughly cleaned and sanitized.

Students did not miss one day of instruction! Distance learning began on Mon., March 16. A huge thanks to parents for their support!

Teachers did an incredible job supporting students in many creative ways during the closure.

Schools held Spirit Days to foster strong relationships - and have fun - with students.

Every elementary school hosted a neighborhood drive-by parade! This was a wonderful way to see our families from a distance.

Schools connected with students in a variety of creative and meaningful ways.

Art, Music, P.E., and Media Centers remained an active part of students' learning experiences with unique opportunities.

Board Meetings, school system meetings, and professional development all took place via Google Meet.

Transportation staff played a key role in meal service and elementary parades.

FLEX Fridays provided flexibility for families as no academic work was assigned on Fridays starting in April. There were social-emotional lessons each week.

High school stadiums shone brightly each night at 20:20 for 20 minutes and 20 seconds to honor the Class of 2020.

Diploma Pick-Up Day, followed by virtual graduation ceremonies, were utilized to celebrate our graduates.

Teachers and students enjoyed finding safe ways to visit with each other at the end of the school year.

Even from a distance, we remained #togetherinspirit!
Dimensions of Best Practices

• Promotion of Safe Behaviors
• Creating Mask-Wearing Cultures
• School Nutrition
• Transitions
• Utilizing Outdoor Spaces
• Nurse’s Clinics
Pervasive Practices

- Reinforcement of *Mask Up, Oconee* with signage and in morning announcements, as well as faculty/staff modeling mask-wearing
- Reduced numbers of students in cafeteria
- Safe Dismissal System at elementary and middle levels
- Hallways marked directionally and some reconfigured as one-way
- Modified transitions
- Disposable masks for students who forgot masks
- Frequent cleaning
Pervasive Practices

• Separate areas in nurses clinics for students with COVID-19 symptoms and those without, as well as plastic dividers

• Assigned seats on buses and in classrooms

• Playground zones

• Increased use of outdoor areas

• Individual supplies and manipulatives

• Multiple doors used for dismissal

• Water filling stations only (not fountains)
Oconee County Primary School

- Morning Announcements – nurses model hand-washing
- Breakfast pick-up and eating in classroom
- Go outside frequently for read-alouds and snacks
- Addition of four outdoor play/learning spaces
Colham Ferry Elementary School

- “Mask Up, Mustangs!” campaign
- Updated PBIS matrix in hallways, cafeteria, and restrooms
  - Mask Swag
- Teachers use “quiet zombie arms” or “superman arms” to socially distance in lines
- Restroom breaks for reduced capacity

Piedmont healthcare workers show students proper hand-washing
Dove Creek Elementary School

- Classroom discussions of mask-wearing through SEL sessions
- Virtual PTO meetings
- Mandatory seating charts in classrooms, lunchroom, and activity
- Engaged distance students with inclusion in weekly newsletter, morning meetings, picture day

Mask Up Art Projects with Student Videos
High Shoals Elementary School

- “Sit/Stand on Shoalie” campaign to encourage social distancing
- PTO-provided lanyards for masks
- Reading garden updated to accommodate a full class
- Hallways utilized for small-group instruction to allow for additional spacing
Malcom Bridge Elementary School

- Mask on MBES eagle in hallway and positive reinforcement for mask-wearing
- Yellow dots for students to distance in hallway at common waiting points and standing two squares apart in hallways
- One grade uses an instrument for the week and they are cleaned after every class; each grade level has a different instrument focus
- Social distancing reinforced in P.E.
Oconee County Elementary School

- Afterschool staff escorts students from each pod to cafeteria or playground
- Individual bag of art supplies
- Classroom discussion of mask-wearing during morning meetings
- Students report to classrooms beginning at 7:10 a.m.

Physical distancing example
Rocky Branch Elementary School

- No-touch book checkouts
- Virtual assemblies with students remaining in classrooms
- ROCKETS’ Way recognition of masking up
- Outside morning meetings utilized

Virtual assembly
Malcom Bridge Middle School

- Students go to homerooms at 7:45 a.m. to reduce congregation before class

- Access to outside seating during lunch when feasible

- Outside student transition plan

- Limited small group instruction
Oconee County Middle School

- Grade-levels separated during morning drop-off (gym, locker forum, media center)
- No shared hall passes and use of digital hall passes
- Increased hours for lunch service
- Limited maximum restroom occupancy

Mask Up, Oconee
North Oconee High School

- Google Meets with distance learners hosted by counselors
- Increased outdoor classes
- Bell times staggered per classroom and varied by hallways
- Utilizing common areas to increase distancing
Oconee County High School

- Covers on ends of instruments
- Increased transition times
- Alternate seating available for lunchtime (courtyard, pavilion, upper bleachers)
- Right-side travel patterns

Instrument cover on a tuba
Let’s Work Together to Keep Oconee Open

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