

BOARD BRIEF

Date: August 20, 2021

BOARD INFORMATION: X

MEETING PREPARATION:

FROM: Terri H. Mazingo, Ed.D., Chief of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership
Wendy Gonzalez, Ed.D., Executive Director of School Leadership

THROUGH: Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Meagan Alderton, Chair, and
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: PreK-12 Lunch Process

ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL

Goal 2: Instructional Excellence

SY 2020-2021 FOCUS AREA

Focus Area 1: Reopening Of Schools

Focus Area 3: Strategic Plan Implementation

FY 2022 BUDGET PRIORITY

Implementation of 2025 Strategic Plan

SUMMARY

The purpose of this brief is to specifically highlight the process and safety measures that will be implemented during the PreK-12 lunch process. As we return to In-Person Learning, ACPS students will be offered breakfast and lunch at no charge.

BACKGROUND

ACPS is committed to ensuring the health and safety of our staff and students throughout the entire school day, including lunchtime, when students will not be able to wear masks while eating. We are committed to implementing health and safety protocols to ensure that all students and staff are safe during the lunch blocks of time. These protocols for Pre-K-12 schools include:

- Students will be required to wear masks in the cafeteria when not actively eating and drinking.
- Students will need to wear their masks while going to, through, and from the serving line.
- Students will put their masks back on when they finish their meal.
- Cafeteria spaces will be regularly and thoroughly cleaned with a sanitizing solution.
- Students will be assigned tables and/or seats (student podding) in the cafeteria.
- Students will be required to sign in at their assigned table for contact tracing purposes.
- Students will wash their hands before and after lunch.
- Cafeterias will have limited student capacity.
- Air purifiers will be operational in all school cafeterias.

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ACPS Pre-K, Elementary, K-8 and Middle Schools

At the elementary and middle school levels, students will eat during scheduled grade level and/or class times. Students will eat in the traditional cafeteria though some may eat in their classrooms. The physical layout of each cafeteria varies from school to school, depending on size and student enrollment. However, every safety precaution will be taken as outlined above to ensure a safe environment while eating.

Alexandria City High School (ACHS)

At the high school level, students will eat lunch as a whole school during a 74-minute period of time called “*Lunch & Learn*.” During this time, students can decide where to eat lunch throughout the building, alleviating the crowding stress on a traditional cafeteria setting in a high school.

During high school *Lunch & Learn*, students will also be able to make decisions about the remaining time in that period. Activities may include spending time with teachers, participating in clubs/organizations, and spending quiet time doing school work. No matter what activity they select, safety protocols will have to be followed, and students will have to sign in for potential contact tracing purposes.

At the King Street and Minnie Howard Campuses, students will also access traditionally used outdoor spaces such as outdoor dining areas, roof gardens, and courtyards. Students will be required to sign in either on paper or electronically by QR codes and follow all aforementioned safety protocols.

RECOMMENDATION

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the information within this brief.

IMPACT

The impact of the measures will allow all schools to implement health and safety protocols to minimize risk and account for contact tracing. At the same time, students will be provided with a lunchtime setting in the cafeteria or classroom with their classmates in an environment that is safe and important to socialization.

CONTACTS

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