



Dr. Brenda Coley
Superintendent

RUSSELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

506 - 14TH STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 400 PHENIX CITY, AL 36868-0400
TELEPHONE: (334) 468-5540 FAX: (334) 448-8314
<https://www.myrcsd.org>

*Kenneth Barnes
Barbara Clark
Keith Mitchell
Tommy Pugh
Timothy Simpson
Eugenia Upshaw
Joseph Williams*

Dear Russell County School District parents or guardians,

We appreciate your support as we opened our doors in August 2021, requiring masks and maintaining social distancing to ensure the safety of everyone. As a result, we have seen a decrease in positive COVID-19 cases as the year has progressed. We are pleased that we have not had to close any of our schools due to COVID-19. Staff and students have been resilient in their daily efforts working together to keep everyone healthy and learning. As we indicated at the beginning of the year, there are continuously changing factors that impact our plans on a daily basis.

The Russell County School District has been examining local data, monitoring updated information from the Russell County EMA, and having conversations with our school and district leaders to determine necessary updates. At this time, it has been determined that it is best for all employees and students to continue wearing masks and maintaining social distance when possible through the holiday season. Based on past trends, we have seen increases in COVID-19 positive numbers during and after the holidays where more people are coming together inside.

Currently, the ADPH Dashboard for overall level of community transmission is moderate. We will continue to monitor COVID-19 cases and isolation/separate at home numbers and will revisit the wearing of masks after the first of the year. Our goal is to keep all of our students as well as employees safe. Furthermore, we want to keep our schools open. Again, thank you for your continued support. We are committed to providing your child an excellent education and remember, *"We Are All in this Together"*. We truly do have an amazing community!

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