

READY FOR LEARNING

2024-2025

Arkansas School for the Deaf

Arkansas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired



Safe. Ready. Engaged

A forward-thinking plan for opening school.

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INTRODUCTION

The Ready for Learning Plan at the Arkansas School for the Deaf and the Arkansas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired was thoughtfully developed with valuable input from our parents, students, teachers, administrators, and district-level staff. Since its inception, this dedicated group of stakeholders has continued to enhance and refine the plan. The guidelines we follow are informed by the Arkansas Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH). We will keep this plan updated regularly based on the latest information from the ADH, DESE, and relevant federal, state, and local agencies.

As we enter a new school year with both opportunities and unforeseen challenges, our focus remains on ensuring a seamless continuity of learning for all students. The traditions and experiences at ASD/ASBVI are what bring us together each year, and they continue to be the foundation of our educational journey.

K. Nicole Walsh

KEEPING EVERYONE SAFE



When opening school, we continue to do everything we can to keep our students, staff, and families safe.

We have extensively researched the guidance of highly respected entities, including:

1. *Arkansas Department of Health*
2. *Arkansas Department of Education*
3. *Operational Guidance for K-12 Schools and Education Programs to Support Safe In-Person Learning*

OUR 2024-2025 Plan

While the Federal Government has ended the COVID-19 public health emergency, there are still things you need to know.

- Vaccines will remain available.
- COVID-19 at home tests may not be covered by insurance.
- ASD/ASBVI Health Center will still offer free testing.

Our plan is the continual monitoring of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases. We will work closely with ADE/ADH and other agencies to seek guidance as needed to make sure we are providing the healthiest environment for our students and staff.

SCHOOL CALENDAR & SCHEDULE



For the 2024-2025 School Year, we will follow a traditional schedule.

ASD/ASBVI will typically have classes on campus from Monday – Friday. Students will travel to school on Sunday. Students will ride the bus home on Friday afternoon.

Check the school calendar for long weekends or holidays.

TEACHING & LEARNING

At ASD/ASBVI, we believe deaf and hard of hearing and blind or visually impaired children learn best in the classroom. Therefore, our 2024-2025 Ready for Learning Plan is based on students receiving on-site instruction.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we learned how to maximize learning through technology. We also learned the value of giving students access to online learning opportunities. We will continue to use technology to engage and enhance learning for our students.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO PARENTS

1. BEFORE SENDING YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL

- Look for signs of ILLNESS.
- KEEP them home when they are sick.

2. BE PREPARED TO PICK UP YOUR CHILD QUICKLY.

- Make sure the school has your BEST CONTACT information.
- If your child becomes ill at school, come IMMEDIATELY to pick up your child.
- Please know that ASD/ASBVI MAY NOT be able to transport sick students' home for you.

GENERAL INFORMATION



VACCINATIONS

COVID-19 vaccines are the most effective strategy to protect people from getting sick and to reduce the risk of people spreading COVID-19. Anyone who is 6 months and older are now eligible to receive the vaccination. If you need any information regarding COVID-19 vaccines contact health services nursing staff at 501-772-6008.

FACIAL COVERINGS

Wearing cloth face coverings has been shown to be one of the most effective ways to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. At ASP, health services staff will continue to wear masks when they deem necessary.

WASHING HANDS

According to the CDC guidelines, regular handwashing is one of the best ways to remove germs, avoid getting sick, and prevent the spread of germs to others. At ASD/ASBVI, all staff, and students will be encouraged to wash their hands at the following times:

- Arrival to the facility and after breaks
- Before and after eating, helping feed children, and preparing food or drinks.
- Encountering bodily fluid, using the restroom, or helping a student
- After playing outdoors
- After being in a public place and touching surfaces frequently touched by other people
- Before touching eyes, nose, or mouth

VENTILATION / AIR CIRCULATION

Evidence suggests that improved air circulation is beneficial in reducing the spread of COVID-19. Whenever possible, windows will be opened to improve air flow by allowing outside air to circulate in the building, and thereby lower the concentration of viral particles. Additionally, every room on campus has been equipped with an air purifier.

HEALTH SERVICES



CONTACT INFORMATION

Vicki Crump, RN
Director of ASD/ASBVI's Health Services
Phone (Text or Voice): 501-658-0971

Health Services goal for ASD/ASBVI's "Ready for Learning" Plan is to keep students and staff healthy and safe.

ASD/ASBVI Health Services adheres to guideline recommendations set forth by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Arkansas Department of Health, and the Arkansas Department of Education. Following these basic principles can help keep our students, teachers, and staff safe at school and help stop the spread of these diseases.

PPE in Health Services

Health Services staff will utilize PPE per CDC and ADH guidelines.

What Happens When a Student Becomes Sick

1. ASD/ASBVI Staff will notify health services immediately of any students who become ill, or any absences of students due to any suspected illness relating to COVID-19 and/or Flu.
2. The student will be evaluated by our Health Services Team for COVID-19, Flu, and or RSV symptoms.
3. If the student presents with symptoms of COVID-19 or Flu symptoms, the school's nurse will follow the orders from the school health care provider to

perform a rapid response COVID-19 or Flu test on campus with parental permission.

4. Parents will be notified prior to testing and the results.

5. Testing & Care

Day Students:

- Parents will come to the school to pick up their child.
- Students may return to school when symptoms are improving overall and have been fever free without fever reducing medications for 24 hours.

Dorm Students:

- Dorm students will have a rapid response COVID-19 and/or Flu test administered at ASD/ASBVI (*Parents will have given permission during the registration process*)
- After testing results, students will stay in nursing suite until picked up by parent/guardian with a positive test. If the test is negative and has no fever, the nurse/and or parent/guardian may decide to send the child back to dorm or class if the student feels up to it.