

RETURN TO LEARNING

Spring 2021

Auburn City Schools





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With appreciation for the engagement of our students, staff, school families, and community stakeholders, Auburn City Schools courageously steps forward into the 2020-2021 school year. With focus on the health, safety, and wellness of all community members, Auburn City Schools embraces our mission, to ensure that each student realizes and nurtures their own unique talents and intellectual gifts to achieve personal aspirations while admirably contributing to the greater good.

Every great challenge is an opportunity for renewal and growth. With innovative approaches to teaching and learning, new measures of safety and precaution, and rapidly changing circumstances in our state, nation, and world, the COVID-19 pandemic forces all of us to adapt. It is expected that Auburn City Schools will face obstacles in the year ahead; it is our goal to demonstrate flexibility and acclimate to every extent possible. It is in advance of our hurdles that we thank you for the same.

School and system administrators are working closely with The Alabama State Department of Education and receiving guidance from The Alabama Department of Public Health. In addition, there is partnership with local healthcare officials, community leaders, and government agencies. Importantly, Auburn City Schools regards highly the alliance of parents and guardians. Monitoring student health, to include daily screening, is an essential element of our return to school. It is imperative that we all work together to ensure the safety of our students and schools.

With much respect for the decision of selecting a learning environment most suitable for each student and family, Auburn City Schools presents *Return to Learning, Spring 2021*. We wholeheartedly embrace the opportunity to scaffold the educational journey of each student in the year ahead utilizing remote and traditional learning environments.

The creativity and collective efficacy of our teaching team positions Auburn City Schools to successfully navigate the 2020-2021 school year. The leadership of our Board of Education, stewardship of our school administrators, and dedicated service of our support staff advances Auburn City Schools in actualization. An organization deeply connected to the members of this community, Auburn City Schools affirms our commitment to students, parents, guardians and families and stands resolute in joining together to launch, learn, adjust, and succeed in the school year ahead.

With my respect and gratitude,

Cristen Herring

Superintendent
Auburn City Schools



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INSTRUCTIONAL MODELS

Students/families have two options of instructional learning environments for Spring 2021—Traditional Learning and Remote Learning. All students, regardless of the option selected are subject to the following:

Register for school using the online registration portal for the school in which the student is zoned (elementary) or for the secondary school with the grade level in which the student will be enrolled.

Follow the academic calendar for 2020-2021 posted on the Auburn City Schools website. [Click here](#) to view the calendar.

Complete all assessments required by the Alabama State Department of Education. See Assessment section for a list of spring assessments.

Demonstrate mastery of standards described in the Alabama Courses of Study for the grade and/or subject in which the student is enrolled at the pacing and rigor required to complete the course content.

Receive feedback at the mid-quarter and end-of-quarter for grades K-2 and receive grades at the end of each quarter for grades 3-12.

Be eligible for participation in after-school events.

Students may transition from Traditional to Remote only during the Third Quarter. No transitions will be made in the Fourth Quarter.

REMOTE LEARNING PLATFORM

Students must have access to a computer device (not a phone) and high-speed internet in order to participate in Auburn Remote Learning. All students in grades 7-12 are eligible to receive an iPad. Families who have technology needs (iPad or Wi-Fi service) for remote learning should contact the school directly. Families who receive devices from the school must sign and submit the [iPad Student and Parent Agreement Form](#).

Students enrolled in Remote Learning are assigned coursework that comes completely from a digital platform and is facilitated by instructors.

- The digital content for Grades K-7 may include SchoolsPLP and will be facilitated by Auburn City Schools teachers in both synchronous and asynchronous meetings. The digital content for Grades 8-12 is Edgenuity and will be facilitated by teachers outside of Auburn City Schools except for select ninth grade courses and hybrid 10-12 grade courses.
- The Learning Management Platforms for all grades K-12 in Remote Learning are Schoology or Edgenuity.

Students and families should expect to be engaged in daily online learning with the standards of pacing and rigor used in the traditional model.

Attendance for Auburn Remote Learning is determined by participation in daily online learning events and weekly assignments.

Students enrolled in Remote Learning will remain in Remote Learning for the entire semester. All Remote Learning courses must be completed by May 20, 2021.

REMOTE LEARNING CONTENT

Courses offered in Remote Learning will be the same as those offered in Traditional Learning as much as possible.

Grades K-5

English Language Arts

Mathematics

Social Studies

Science

Physical Education

Art

Music (Not Kindergarten)

Grades 6-7

English Language Arts

Mathematics

Social Studies

Science

Physical Education

At least one additional elective/exploratory that could include Art, Music, or Coding

Grades 8-12

As much as possible, the subjects for which a student registered for the spring semester will be the subjects included in Remote Learning.

However, all courses and electives are not available through Edgenuity, including some Career Technical courses and advanced courses. Families will be contacted by school counselors about solutions for elective courses that are not offered through Edgenuity.

Schedules will be developed with attention to required prerequisites, course sequence and graduation requirements.

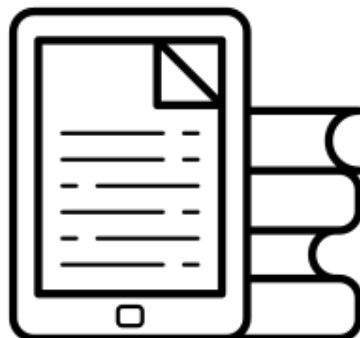
REMOTE LEARNING DELIVERY

Remote learning requires daily interaction with content. Because multiple academic areas are required daily, the instruction may be delivered throughout the day in grades K-7. Except for select ninth grade courses and hybrid courses in grades 10-12, students in grades 8-12 will be able to access all content at any time during the day, but daily access is required to maintain pacing requirements for learning.

The following daily online time requirements, recommended by the Alabama State Department of Education, will be used as guidelines for teachers in the Remote Learning model. Additional off-line work will be required each day to complete assignments.

Grade Level	Time Requirement
Kindergarten	30-90 minutes per day
First and Second Grades	45-90 minutes per day
Third – Fifth Grades	1 – 3 hours per day
Sixth – Eighth Grades	15-30 minutes per class per day
Ninth – Twelfth Grades	20-45 minutes per class per day

Attendance for Auburn Remote Learning is determined by participation and engagement in online learning events and daily and weekly assignments. For students with an IEP, an amendment to the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) may be written based on the individual needs of the student as a learner in a remote setting.



REMOTE LEARNING: OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

For students with an IEP, an amendment to the IEP may be written based on the individual needs of the student as a learner in a remote setting. All services described in the IEP will be provided.

Elementary students who are eligible for Venture Pull-Out will receive weekly enrichment assignments from Venture Pull-Out teachers.

Remote Learning students may participate in extra-curricular activities including athletics.

Students who participate on teams or groups for which there is a coordinating class during the day on campus may come to school for that class.

Homeschool students who are athletes may select the Remote Learning option for their required course. [Click here for information](#) about participation in Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA) sanctioned sports by non-traditional students.

Students who receive EL services will continue to receive support as part of Remote Learning.



TRADITIONAL LEARNING: HOME PREPAREDNESS

The first line of defense for preventing the spread of infection in our schools is the home defense. Parents and families should be familiar with the symptoms associated with infection and keep students at home if any of these symptoms are evident. These symptoms include:



Fever of 100.4, especially first thing in the morning



Cough, runny nose, or sinus congestion



Trouble breathing or persistent pain or pressure in the chest



Abdominal pain or stomach ache; Diarrhea or vomiting



Body aches



New loss of taste or smell

Honest communication between schools and families is essential. If in doubt, please keep students at home.

If a member of the household is COVID-19 positive, students in the household are required to complete quarantine procedures and follow protocols for return to school as established by the Alabama Department of Public Health.

TRADITIONAL LEARNING: FACE COVERINGS

The greatest risk for infection occurs when people are in close contact with someone with a confirmed positive case. Close contact is defined as being within approximately 6 feet of a confirmed COVID-19 case for a total of 15 minutes or longer or having direct contact with infectious secretions of COVID-19 by a confirmed COVID-19 case.

Signage related to COVID-19 safety precautions will be displayed in all schools.

There are three practical guidelines that lower the risks of close contact, the first of which is the use of face coverings.

COVID-19 spreads mainly from person to person through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, talks, or raises their voice (e.g., while shouting, chanting, or singing). These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. Recent studies show that a significant portion of individuals with COVID-19 lack symptoms (are “asymptomatic”) and that even those who eventually develop symptoms (are “pre-symptomatic”) can transmit the virus to others before showing symptoms.

To reduce the spread of COVID-19, CDC recommends that people wear cloth face coverings in public settings when around people outside of their household, especially when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.

[About Cloth Face Coverings](#)

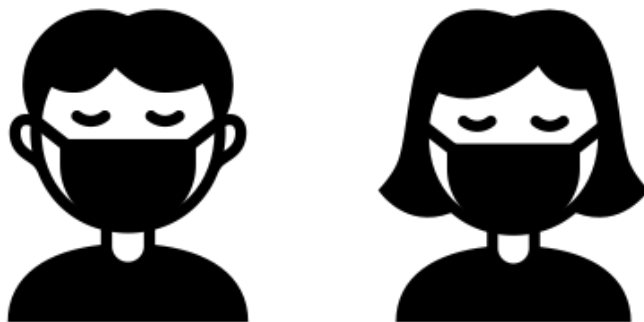
TRADITIONAL LEARNING: FACE COVERINGS

ACS Employees

According to the June 30th Order of the State Health Officer, “Each employee [of an educational institution] shall, to the greatest extent practical wear a mask or other facial covering that covers his or her nostrils and mouth at all times when in regular interaction within six feet of a person from a different household.” Based on this order, all staff will wear face coverings in the circumstances described in the order, including masks and/or face shields.

ACS Students

Students in Auburn City Schools will be required to wear masks, as feasible. Students attending school on campus will be provided a reusable, washable face cover. Parents/guardians are asked to provide additional masks, as needed. Disposable masks will be available for incidental use but should be reserved for an emergency in which the provided or personal mask is not available. Students should be practiced and prepared in managing their mask independently. The wearing of masks by students during the school day will follow practical guidelines that are appropriate for the student’s health needs and developmental stage.



TRADITIONAL LEARNING: HANDWASHING AND SANITIZING

The greatest risk for infection occurs when people are in close contact with someone with a confirmed positive case. Close contact is defined as being within approximately 6 feet of a confirmed COVID-19 case for a total of 15 minutes or longer or having direct contact with infectious secretions of COVID-19 by a confirmed COVID-19 case.

Signage related to COVID-19 safety precautions will be displayed in all schools.

There are three practical guidelines that lower the risks of close contact, the second of which is handwashing and sanitizing.

Custodial staff will sanitize doorknobs and handles routinely with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registered disinfectant.

Classroom teachers will be provided with bottles of hand sanitizers and surface-cleaning sanitizers that will be refilled as needed throughout the semester as long as supplies are available.

Students will be encouraged to wash hands and/or sanitize regularly throughout the day, especially before and after transitions to different parts of the building.



TRADITIONAL LEARNING: PHYSICAL DISTANCING

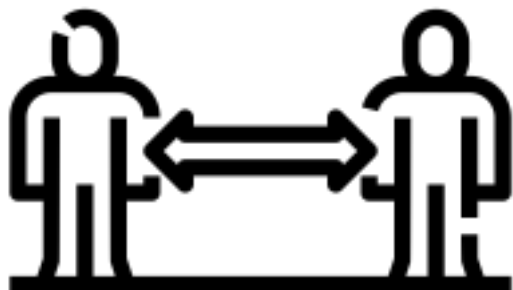
The greatest risk for infection occurs when people are in close contact with someone with a confirmed positive case. Close contact is defined as being within approximately 6 feet of a confirmed COVID-19 case for a total of 15 minutes or longer or having direct contact with infectious secretions of COVID-19 by a confirmed COVID-19 case.

Signage related to COVID-19 safety precautions will be displayed in all schools.

There are three practical guidelines that lower the risks of close contact, the third of which is physical distancing. Complete physical distancing is impossible to achieve during the school day, elevating the importance of the first two guidelines.

As much as is feasible, physical distancing will be enforced. Excess classroom furniture will be removed to allow for more spacing between desks. As much as possible, tables will be replaced by desks which will all be oriented forward facing 3-6 feet apart. [Click this link](#) for information about physical distancing from the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Entry to school routines will change to decrease large group congregations of students. Travel routes inside and outside the buildings will be changed to decrease or eliminate contact with larger groups. Dismissals will be staggered.



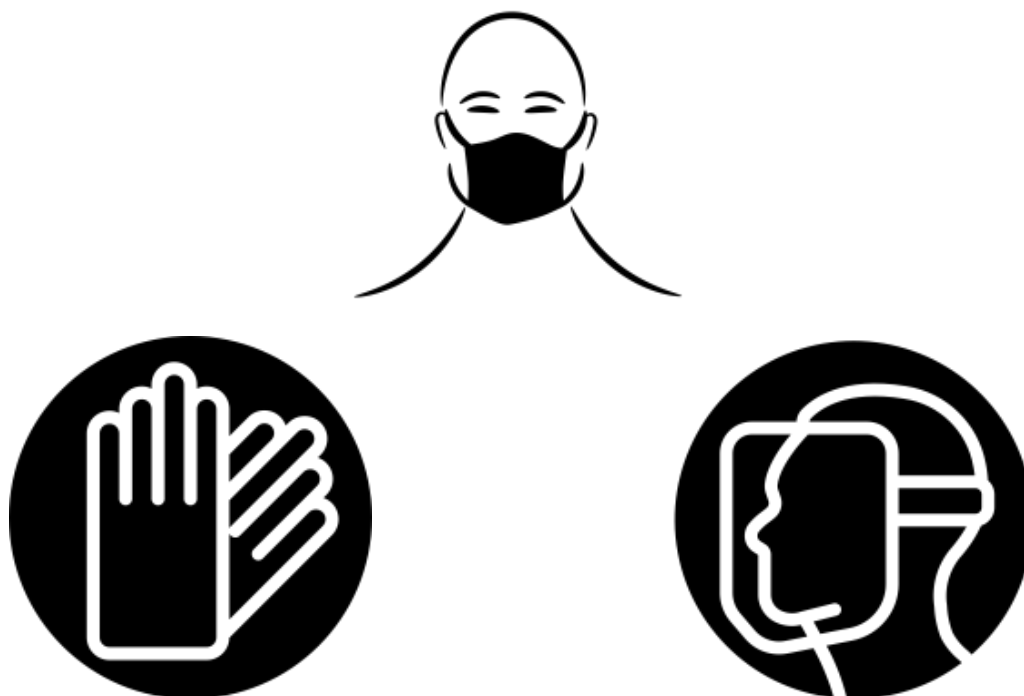
TRADITIONAL LEARNING: PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Auburn City Schools has purchased washable, reusable cloth masks with adjustable straps for each student and staff member. Students may wear their own face masks as long as those masks are cloth and cover the nose and mouth. Designs or logos on face masks must meet student dress code regulations. See page 22 of the [Student and Parent Handbook](#) for specific information about dress code.

Face shields and gloves have been purchased for teacher and staff use. According to the CDC, face shields are not a substitute for cloth face coverings. Face shields will be used by teachers when it is important for students to see the teacher's mouth.

A supply of disposable masks for incidental use has been ordered.

Signage related to COVID-19 safety precautions will be displayed in all schools.



TRADITIONAL LEARNING: COVID-19 DIAGNOSIS

Auburn City Schools will follow the most current guidance of local, state, and national health professionals, including the Alabama Department of Public Health. The recommendations are subject to change as new information is gathered.

COVID-19 Positive Diagnosis

A student or staff member with a positive COVID-19 diagnosis will be subject to a quarantine period defined by the most current guidance from their healthcare provider and the Alabama Department of Public Health.

COVID-19 Positive Exposure

If a student or faculty member is diagnosed positive for COVID-19, the parents or guardians of any student with risk of infection due to close contact will be notified.

A student or staff member with positive exposure will need to complete a quarantine measured from the date of last exposure according to the most current recommendations from the Alabama Department of Public Health.

Return to School

For both a positive diagnosis and a positive exposure, a written statement from a healthcare provider may be required. Schools will notify families if a written statement is required. If required, the statement must include one of the following:

The student has a negative COVID-19 test and is symptom free at the completion of the quarantine period, OR

The student has been symptom free during the quarantine period.

TRADITIONAL LEARNING DURING QUARANTINE

There may be circumstance in which students in traditional learning are mandated through quarantine to leave the traditional school setting and receive all content online.

Students during quarantine will continue to receive assignments from classroom teachers using an online learning management system (for example, Schoology). In the case of a large group quarantine or a school closure, students will engage in fully online learning with the Traditional Learning classroom teacher when possible.

The rigor and pace of learning will continue through times of quarantine. Students who are ill or symptomatic during quarantine will receive extended time to complete assignments.

If a positive case has been identified in school, Auburn City Schools will follow CDC recommendations for cleaning and disinfecting.

Auburn City Schools will monitor positive cases of COVID-19 and stay in contact with the Alabama Department of Public Health Epidemiology Department. We will follow their recommendations for classroom, school or district closure.

Distance learning will begin on the third school day after classroom closure to allow for preparation and transition.

TRANSPORTATION

School bus transportation operations will proceed normally unless otherwise notified by Auburn City Schools. Due to COVID-19, parents/guardians are encouraged to transport students by private vehicle, if possible.

Any modifications to the transportation plan for students with an IEP require approval and should be reflected in the IEP.

Bus Drivers

Drivers will spray common touch points (seats, aisle flooring, floors between seats, handrails, entrance doors, and driver controls inside the bus) with a disinfectant prior to the start of a route, between routes and immediately following the completion of a route.

Bus drivers and aides will wear face masks and/or eye glasses or safety goggles.

Before Entering the Bus

Communication will be sent home to parents of bus riders emphasizing their responsibility to check temperatures and screen before placing students on the bus.

Parents/guardians should check for COVID-19 related symptoms daily. If any symptoms exist, do not let your child come to school.

Students should socially distance themselves at bus stops.



TRANSPORTATION, CONTINUED

While On the Bus

Students are required to wear masks on buses.

Students will apply hand sanitizer as they enter the bus. A dispenser of hand sanitizer will be mounted and available.

The first two seats behind the bus driver and the first seat of the passenger row will remain empty at all times.

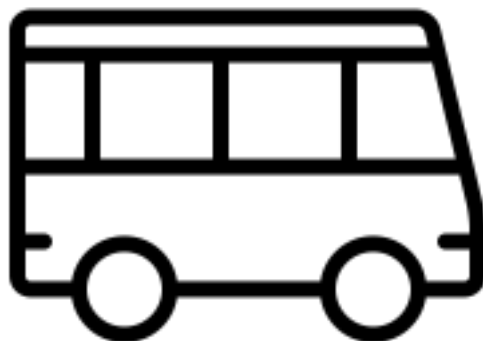
Students will have assigned seats and family households will sit together.

Buses will be loaded from the rear to the front and unloaded from the front to the rear.

Students will face forward and not lean over seats while on the bus.

Each bus will reserve the second seat of the passenger row as a quarantine seat for students who show symptoms while on the bus.

Weather permitting, roof hatches and windows will be open to keep fresh air circulating .



SCHOOL OPERATIONS

Schools will proceed with normal hours of operation unless otherwise notified by ACS. Updated Check-In/Check-Out procedures will be communicated by each individual school with back-to-school information.

Visitors to buildings during normal operating hours will be limited and by appointment only. Masks or facial coverings will be required of visitors in school buildings.

Masks will be required for service, maintenance, or other essential personnel to enter school buildings.

To minimize exposure, personal deliveries to students will be limited to medical needs only.

Students will be able to check out library books with temporary book isolation taking place upon return of books. Individual media center visitation and checkout procedures will vary in each school.

After school programs in elementary schools will operate as scheduled with social distancing and cohort groups utilized as feasible. Similar measures that take place during the school day will occur during after school hours.



SANITIZING AND CLEANING

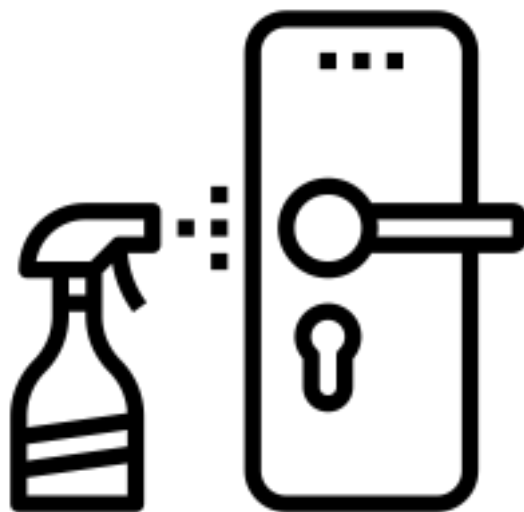
School facilities will undergo routine cleaning following guidance from the CDC using EPA-approved products.

High touch areas will be wiped down multiple times per day.

Water fountains will be accessible during the day. Water fountains will be sanitized. Students are encouraged to bring a water bottle filled from home with water daily.

Areas of the building that have been exposed to contact of the COVID-19 virus will be cleaned and disinfected, including student isolation/quarantine designated rooms.

Enhanced facility routines will include regular or increased maintenance and/or replacement of air filters.



CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM

Breakfast will be served utilizing social distancing for lines and seating. Touchless data entry will occur at the point of sale.

Individual lunch procedures will be established at each site to accommodate social distancing as much as feasible for their physical spaces. Pre-plated meals will be available to all students. Touchless data entry will occur at the point of sale.

Families are encouraged to prepay to reduce the handling of money using My School Bucks.

Ala carte items will not be available for sale in elementary schools. Limited ala carte items will be available in secondary schools with a cash line that will not provide change.



ASSESSMENTS FOR SPRING 2021

Regardless of enrollment in Traditional or Remote Learning, some assessments are required by the Alabama State Department of Education.

Renaissance STAR Universal Screener

The Renaissance Star Universal Screener is required to be taken in the spring by students in grades K-3 as part of the Alabama Literacy Act. Per the Alabama Literacy Act, parents of students who need additional attention, focus, and support as informed by universal screeners will be notified of the interventions that will be used with their child.

Renaissance Star Universal Screeners will also be completed in both Traditional and Remote Learning settings for students in grades K-9.

ACAP

The Alabama Comprehensive Assessment Program (ACAP) is the summative assessment administered to all students in grades 2-8 and 10 beginning Spring 2021. These assessments must be taken at school whether students are in a remote or a traditional setting. A testing schedule will be communicated to families in the spring.

ACT Plus Writing

The ACT Plus Writing is a paper/pencil test that will be administered to all 11th graders in the spring. The test must be taken at Auburn High School whether the student is enrolled in Traditional or Remote Learning.

TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES

Clever is a single sign-on web-based portal used by Auburn City Schools to make access to online products easier for students and parents. All students, whether in Traditional or Remote Learning, will use Clever to access web-based products available to students, including Nearpod, EduType and Office 365.

[Click here to access Clever.](#) Students will use their network login credentials for their username and lunch number for the password. The typical login credentials are the student's first two initials and last name. For example, William Tyler Johnson would use wtjohnson as his username. Contact the school directly for any problems accessing Clever.

Schoology is available as an app on iPad devices. The username and password for the app-based version of Schoology are the same as the Clever login credentials.



RESOURCES

The following list of resources has been used by Auburn City Schools in planning and facilitating the launch of school.

[Alabama Achieves: Roadmap to Reopening Schools](#)

[Alabama Department of Public Health](#)

[Alabama Safer at Home Orders](#)

[American Academy of Pediatrics](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

[Federal Emergency Management Agency's Coronavirus Rumor Control](#)

[World Health Organization Myth-Busting](#)

[How to Protect Yourself and Others](#)

[ACS Parent and Student Handbook](#)

[ACS School Calendar](#)

[ACS Pandemic Preparedness Plan](#)

[Alabama Courses of Study](#)

[Alabama Literacy Act](#)

[ACCESS Courses Offered Fall 2020](#)

[Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security \(CARES\) Act](#)

[Governor's Emergency Education Relief \(GEER\) Funds](#)

RESOURCES (CONTINUED)

[Click here](#) to access the Remote Learning Resources webpage.

[Click here](#) to access the Auburn City Schools Learning Models description sent to parents and guardians July 2, 2020.

[Click here](#) to access the Auburn City Schools Elementary Talking Points document sent to parents and guardians July 2, 2020.

[Click here](#) to access the Auburn City Schools Secondary Talking Points document sent to parents and guardians July 2, 2020.



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