

BCSD Re-Opening FAQ's

GENERAL

Under what conditions can the Beacon City School District reopen?

On July 13, Governor Cuomo and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) released guidance regarding how schools within the State will reopen for the 2020-2021 school year and indicated that all schools that are able to, must work to safely welcome back as many students as possible while social distancing. The Beacon City School District plans to open the 2021 School Year using a Hybrid Learning Model that will consist of in-person learning and remote learning. The district will be unable to bring all of the students back on a daily basis and follow the guidelines set by the CDC and the Department of Health which requires six feet of space between students in a classroom.

K -12 Hybrid Schedule

Day of the week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Group I Blue Group (A -L)	In School	In School	Virtual Day (check in w/ teacher)	Remote Learning	Remote Learning
Group II Gold Group (M -Z)	Remote Learning	Remote Learning	Virtual Day (check in w/ teacher)	In-School	In-School

Will the Pre-K students follow the same hybrid Schedule?

Yes, Pre -K students attending the Beacon City School District during the 2021 School Year will follow the same schedule as students in K - 12.

How to select a learning plan for the 2020 - 2021 school year?

During the week of August 3rd, families will receive a Preference for 2021 School Year form to indicate their instructional preference for the 2020 - 2021 school year. Your selection and timely completion will allow us to plan for staffing, create student cohorts, determine transportation needs, finalize plans for school meals, and any other necessary logistics. We ask that families complete the form online or mail back (to the district office) the form that was sent to you, by August 14, 2020. We are asking families to maintain their decision for the first semester.

If you have more than one child that attends the Beacon City School District, can there be a different option for each child in the household?

Yes! You can choose the option that best meets the needs of each child in your household.

If you have more than one child that attends the Beacon City School District, and the students attend different schools, will they attend school on the same two days'?

Yes, we are planning to have siblings attend school on the same days of the week.

Will meals be provided for students that receive full remote learning?

Yes! The district will provide meals to all Beacon City School District students whether they are in school or participating via remote learning. The district will send out information pertaining to the meals program when plans are finalized.

Will bus transportation be provided?

Yes. The Beacon City School District will conduct transportation activities that are consistent with state-issued public transit guidance and NYSED School Reopening guidelines. In order to maintain social distancing, district buses will need to operate at reduced capacity and students and the driver will need to utilize Personal Protective Equipment. The following are other safety actions that will be taken:

- Students should social distance on the bus whenever possible.
- Students will be required to wear face masks/coverings prior to boarding the bus unless they have been provided a medical exemption. Students who do not have a face covering will be provided with facemasks as needed by the district.
- Students who do not have a mask will not be denied transportation and will be provided a mask.
- Students with a disability which would prevent them from wearing a mask will not be forced to do so or denied transportation.
- Members of the same family may be seated with six feet of each other
- Students will be encouraged to find alternative modes of transportation if possible (e.g., walking or parent drop off) to reduce bus occupancy
- Boarding children will occupy seats from back to front, where feasible to reduce bi-directional traffic in the bus aisle.
- Students will sit one student per seat. When possible using every other row to increase social distancing.
- Hand sanitizer will not be available to students due to its combustible composition and potential liability to the district.
- The district will communicate with parents and students regarding the need to minimize the mixing of children from different households at bus stops and adhere to proper distancing when boarding school buses.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Will the district conduct daily health screenings of staff?

Yes. All Beacon City School District employees will receive a daily COVID-19 health screening questionnaire in their email inbox at 4:00am, which they are required to complete prior to entering any district facility.

In the questionnaire, the employee will be asked the following:

- Do they have any symptoms of COVID-19
- Have they been in close contact with anyone that has COVID-19? or
- Have traveled to any areas that are included in the [COVID-19 Travel Advisory for New York State](#)

What practices are in place to ensure Social Distancing?

All building occupants will be required to maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet from one another. Each school building will utilize visual aids such as floor decals to promote social distancing in commonly used areas and areas where lines are formed and bi-directional arrows to direct traffic flow in hallways and other common areas.

Will face masks be required?

Face masks are required to be worn in the school buildings by staff and students. Teachers will be required to give students mask breaks several times during the day. Additionally, other Personal Protective Equipment may also be necessary. The school district will provide two cloth masks to each staff and student. If someone forgets to bring their mask to school, a disposable mask will be provided.

What procedures will be in place to disinfect and sanitize?

Regular cleaning and disinfection of the facilities will occur, including more frequent cleaning and disinfection for high-risk and frequently touched surfaces. This will include cafeteria tables, which should be cleaned and disinfected between each individual's use. The district will also treat most high touch surfaces, including desks, with Bioshield, a product which will further protect against microbials up to 90 days. Cleaning and disinfection will be rigorous and ongoing and will occur at least daily, or more frequently as needed. The district will also be utilizing Ultraviolet light towers to additionally disinfect each classroom each night.

Will students be able to stay for afterschool programs?

We know that childcare is a major concern for many of our families and are hopeful that the afterschool programs that take place in our buildings will also be able to reopen in the fall. Our district administrators will work with the afterschool program directors to ensure that all of our health and safety protocols are adhered to.

ACADEMICS/LEARNING

We are working hard to create learning opportunities to support our students in a hybrid schedule as well as in a full remote schedule. We want to ensure that students will be engaged in meaningful learning opportunities that are not only aligned to NYS Learning Standards but also presents a level of rigor that challenges our students to think beyond the level of memorization or recall.

Teachers will be expected to provide support to students individually and in small groups when students attend school in person. There will be a combination of live teaching and posted lessons for students working in the remote schedule.

How will the district ensure students with disabilities receive the education and services they need?

1. Beacon City School District's reopening plan, whether services are provided in-person, remote, and/or through a hybrid model addressing the provisions of a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE), consistent with the need to protect the health and safety of students with disabilities and those providing special education services.
 - a. The Beacon City School District recognizes that a team (parents, teachers, administrators, related service providers) through the support of the CSE will ensure the following:
 - i. Continuity of IEP Services and programs
 - ii. Related Services are provided in a synchronous or asynchronous model
 - iii. In-person services will adhere to CDC and NYSDOH guidelines to maintain social distance, and proper hygiene
 - iv. In-person testing will adhere to CDC and NYSDOH guidelines to maintain social distance, and proper
 - v. CSE/CPSE/Team meetings will be held virtually to ensure committee members including parents are active participants
2. Students receiving special education services in placements outside of the district will continue to receive the provision of services consistent with the recommendations on their IEPs to the maximum extent possible, in order to maintain the health and safety of students. Regular monthly meetings between the CPSE and CSE offices will ensure consistency for and collaboration between CPSE, CSE, in-district providers, and out-of-district providers.
3. Students with disabilities will continue to have access to the necessary accommodations, modifications, supplementary aids and services, and technology (including assistive technology) to meet the unique disability-related needs of students.

What support will be in place for English as a New Language (ENL) students?

The Beacon City School District is committed to comprehensive high-quality, and culturally responsive instruction for ENL students. We will provide the required instructional Units of Study to all ELL's based on their most recently measured English Language Proficiency Level during in-person or virtual instruction.

We will complete the ELL identification process within thirty school days of the start of the school year for all students that enrolled during the COVID-19 school closure period as well as all students that enroll during the summer of 2020 and during the first twenty days of the 2020 - 2021 school year. After the twenty day flexibility period, identification of ELL's will resume for all students within the required ten school days of initial enrollment as required by Commissioner's Regulation Part 154.

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING

How will the BCSD support students' social-emotional well-being when school begins?

Our schools will anticipate and be prepared to address a wide range of mental health needs of children and staff when schools reopen. Preparation for **infection control** is vital and admittedly complex during an evolving pandemic. But the emotional impact of the pandemic, financial/employment concerns, social isolation, and growing concerns about systemic racial inequity — coupled with prolonged limited access to critical school-based mental health services and the support and assistance of school professionals — demands careful attention and planning as well. **The District will be prepared to provide various, developmentally appropriate, approaches for mental health support which will include, but not limited to:**

- The District is prepared to continue to check-in with students and connect frequently to help decrease anxiety and ensure a positive and safe return to school.
- Social stories on various topics such as health and safety; wearing a mask, self-advocacy, and more
- Use of Responsive Classroom strategies to build community and trust
- Student teams will be asked to create individualized behavior plans to increase students' tolerance and willingness to socially distance
 - Social stories may be used to increase tolerance
 - Goals will be established to increase compliance
 - Students will be provided with positive feedback for social distancing
- Schools will provide training to classroom teachers and other educators on how to talk to and support children during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Students requiring mental health support will be referred to school mental health (School Social Workers/School Psychologists) and the team, along with the family, will outline appropriate support(s).

What type(s) of training will be provided to the BSCD mental health providers to support the social emotional needs of all students and their families?

The District, along with mental health professionals, will be prepared to provide training to teachers and staff in the following areas:

- School Social Workers and administrators will participate in professional development focused on Trauma Informed Practice
- Teachers will participate in Responsive Classroom Training (elementary)
- Teachers will participate in Restorative Practice Training (Secondary)
- Social Workers participate in New York State Social-Emotional Learning Benchmarks and Mental Health Literacy.

COMMUNICATION

How is the district collaborating with the local health department?

The District maintains regular communication with county health officials to develop and monitor health and safety measures. In the event there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 among our students and/or staff, we will work with the Dutchess County Health Department to notify our school community, in accordance with applicable laws and provisions, and to make a determination as to whether closure is necessary.

The local health department also provides the district with information about students and staff impacted by quarantine restrictions, including when those students and staff, may return to school.

How can I learn more about the BCSD's reopening plan?

Dr. Matthew Landahl hosted a series of Zoom meetings discussing the reopening of our schools. The meeting of July 23rd and slides from the other meetings can be found on our website <https://www.beaconk12.org/domain/510>.

We will be adding more FAQ's as information becomes available!