



BEAUFORT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

REOPENING PLAN

A Message from BCSD Superintendent Dr. Frank Rodriguez



The Beaufort County School District's reopening plan for the 2020-21 academic year is focused on providing the very best and most appropriate learning models for our 22,000 students. Its development took into account the latest available COVID-19 data from national, state and county sources. In addition, guidance was reviewed from a variety of organizations, including the federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC).

Face-to-face learning is vitally important for students' academic and social growth. At the same time, the dangers and disruptions caused by the current global pandemic demand a delicate balancing act. While in-person learning in school buildings is the ideal situation, the district's No. 1 priority will always be to protect the health and safety of students, classroom teachers and school staff. We will do our best to honor the preferences of parents whenever and wherever we can do that, so long as safety is not compromised.

The proposed learning models in this plan are reasonable and practical models the district can introduce given its financial resources and staffing levels. The district will continue to monitor COVID-19 data and remain flexible. To avoid disrupting children's learning, we will be prepared to adapt and adjust if conditions change or parent preferences shift.

I am incredibly appreciative and thankful for the leadership demonstrated by our teachers, principals and school staff. I am equally grateful for the engagement and patience demonstrated by our parents and the guidance provided by our Board of Education. I could not be more proud of the teams who worked under the most challenging of circumstances to develop effective learning options for our school system and community.

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Update

Due to increasing COVID-19 metrics in our county, BCSD announced on Aug. 4 that all schools will be opening on Sept. 8 in a virtual capacity. The district will continue to monitor these DHEC metrics with the intent of opening in a face-to-face hybrid model as soon as it is safe to do so.

The exception to this is special education students with 'low-incidence disabilities.' They will be serviced in a face-to-face capacity at their schools starting on Sept. 14.

BCSD will adhere to the current South Carolina Department of Education [Face Covering Guidelines for K-12 Public Schools](#).

Overview

The Beaufort County School District has been working to reopen schools with the input of parents, teachers, public health officials and state agencies. As COVID-19 continues to change our collective landscape, we will strive to provide the best possible programs for each of our students. We have worked to develop instructional plans and options to improve student academic performance and address learning losses from a spring 2020 semester that was drastically altered when schools were shutdown statewide. The district's plans are subject to change as health-related guidance is updated. The health and safety of our students, staff and families is our No. 1 priority.

Assurances

The situation with COVID-19 changes rapidly and may do so for the foreseeable future. That means we cannot fully predict how the virus will affect our community in six months or even six weeks. We have developed a comprehensive reopening plan that allows parents to choose either a face-to-face or virtual option for their children.

As the 2020-2021 school year resumes, BCSD parents and employees can be assured that:

- The health, safety and well-being of our students, employees and community stakeholders will be at the center of all decisions.
- Guidance from the health experts at the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) will be followed.
- Facts and data will inform all decisions.
- The opinions and concerns of parents, employees and stakeholder groups will guide our process.

Flexible Expectations

When schools reopen in the fall, they will look different than they have in the past. In order to keep our students and staff safe, we will need parents to support these changes, even when inconvenient.

- It is our desire to reopen with some level of face-to-face instruction. It is likely, however, that schedules, classroom spaces, opportunities for socialization, and day to day operations (arrival, dismissal, busing, breakfast, lunch, athletics, etc.) will be dramatically different.
- Because the virus will be present beyond August, schools must take extended measures to prevent its spread during the school day. Until a vaccine is widely available, schools will have four primary ways to protect students and staff: a) Implementing frequent hand-washing and hand-sanitizing opportunities; b) Requiring the use of face-coverings for staff and students; c) Reducing close contact within the six-foot physical distance guideline to the extent possible; and d) Intensifying the sanitation protocols in buildings and buses.
- These protocols may change, to some extent, the open and nurturing climate our schools have typically emphasized with students and parents. But they are necessary. Additionally, they will require the district to increase the numbers of bus routes, stagger school schedules, move some classes to bigger venues, keep students with the same cohort groups at some grade levels, and extend times for transitions, meals and other activities.
- State and local funding will be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. While BCSD prides itself on careful and proactive budgeting, funding shortfalls may some programs to be adjusted or reconsidered.

Our Process and Timeline

The district's three phases of development for the reopening plan are based upon the needs of our key stakeholders as well as guidance from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) and the AccelerateED task force.

Phase I (June 8- July 16)

- BCSD organized a Central Task Force consisting of representatives from all divisions, including Human Resources, Academics, Finance, Operations, Athletics, and Communications.
- The Central Task Force was subsequently expanded to a Comprehensive Reopening Task Force that included Central Office division heads and principals from a variety of schools.
- Superintendent Rodriguez met with the district's Teacher Forum as well as representatives of School Improvement Councils to gather their opinions and concerns about reopening.
- ThoughtExchange surveys were completed by parents and district employees. These surveys were followed up by two additional surveys to obtain more specific information to guide the development of the district's fall reopening plan.

Findings indicate that:

- ✧ BCSD families are divided among two broad perspectives. A slightly higher percentage of parents prefer a virtual (online) educational option (56%), while a smaller percentage of families prefers an in-person, face-to-face option (44%.)
- ✧ Despite the differences of opinion with regard to virtual vs. in-person schooling, there was overwhelming consensus among parents that safety measures like physical distancing and enhanced sanitation should be high priorities, along with ensuring a quality education for all students regardless of economic circumstance or geographical location within Beaufort County.
- ✧ By a significant margin (76%), BCSD employees indicated that they support a return to school using a face-to-face operating model so long as safety provisions are in place e.g. activating physical distancing measures and the use of personal protective equipment. A small amount (4%) desired to return with no safety protocols in place. A lesser but representative population (20%) preferred starting the year under a virtual learning platform. (NOTE: Because COVID-19 infection rates surged across South Carolina in the days following the survey, it is possible or even likely that opinions might be different today.)
- ✧ Specific to reopening, 47% of principals expressed a willingness and corresponding optimism around starting the school year using a traditional, face-to face operational modality.

Phase II (July 17-31)

- Release BCSD Reopening Plan.
- Prepare school facilities, custodial staff and administration for health and safety protocols.

- Identify teachers for specific training, to include virtual instruction.
- Start preparing teachers for educational models and new safety protocols.
- Ensure sanitation supplies and safety devices are available when school reopens.
- Registration opens for virtual and face-to-face models.

Phase III (August 3 - September 8)

- Implement back-to-school professional development plan for all staff.
- Continue to prepare teachers for educational models and new safety protocols.
- Continue to train staff in virtual instruction.
- Provide principals with school-specific health and safety protocols.
- Continued sanitation and readiness.

Health and Safety Protocols

BCSD will implement enhanced health protocols for the 2020-21 school year in accordance with DHEC guidance per county-specific metrics and categories.

Disease Metrics and Categories for Spread from DHEC

Two-week cumulative incidence rate: the number of new cases in the prior two weeks per 100,000 people. This metric provides the recent incidence of COVID-19 infections in a county. Categorization (# cases/100,000 people):

- Low: 0–50
- Medium: 51 – 200
- High: ≥ 201

Trend in incidence rate: whether the two-week incidence rate is increasing, decreasing, or stable compared to the previous two weeks. For purposes of this assessment, consider the trends to be equivalent to

- Increasing = High
- Stable = Medium
- Decreasing = Low

Two-week percent positive rate: the percentage of individuals who tested positive out of the number of individuals tested with a molecular (swab or PCR) test in the last two weeks for each county. The metric takes into consideration the number of tests performed in the county in the prior two weeks. Categorization:

- Low: $\leq 5.0\%$
- Medium: 5.1 – 9.9%
- High: $\geq 10.0\%$

Overall Assessment for Each County

1. Determine the categorization for the incidence rate, the trend in incidence rate, and the percent positive rate for the county. Example: County A
 - ✕ Incidence rate = Medium
 - ✕ Trend: Increasing = High
 - ✕ Percent positive rate = High
2. If the rates are all the same categorization, that is the overall assessment.
3. If the rates are not the same categorization, take the average of them.
 - ✕ Example: County A = Moderately High

Guidelines for Treating Staff/Students with COVID-19 Symptoms or Positive Test

Beaufort County School District will follow DHEC guidance that is based on what is currently known about COVID-19.

Students or staff with symptoms of COVID-19

Students and staff should be excluded from school if they have:

- Any one (1) of the following
 - ☒ Fever – or-
 - ☒ Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing -or -
 - ☒ Loss of taste or smell -or –
- Any two (2) of the following:
 - ☒ Sore throat – and/or -
 - ☒ Muscle aches – and/or –
 - ☒ Chills – and/or –
 - ☒ New or worsening cough

Note: Any child with any one of these symptoms should consider not attending school regardless of meeting exclusion criteria. If these symptoms are explainable by an underlying condition (such as shortness of breath or cough for an individual with asthma), exclusion may not be necessary.

Schools should plan to have a room identified to isolate students or staff with symptoms of COVID-19 identified during the school day.

- Students and staff should be moved safely and respectfully, as well as in accordance with any applicable privacy laws or regulations, to the isolation room for evaluation. The individual should be provided a mask if he or she is able to use one, and students should be supervised by a staff member who maintains at least six feet of distance and uses appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) if available.
- School nurses and other healthcare providers should use Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions when caring for sick people.

Return to school

- Direct sick staff members and children not to return until they have met criteria for return.
- Students or staff excluded for these symptoms should not return until they have either tested negative for COVID-19 or a medical evaluation determines their symptoms were more likely due to another cause (e.g. sore throat due to strep throat). In this later case, the individual can return when he or she meets criteria for that condition.
- Students or staff who require testing for COVID-19 will require a negative PCR test or must complete the current isolation criteria for COVID-19 to return to school.
- Current isolation criteria for COVID-19:
 - ☒ Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19, and persons with symptoms of COVID- 19 (see list above) who do not get tested, will isolate until:
 - Ten (10) days have passed since symptoms started - and –

- Three (3) days (72 hours) have passed since last fever without taking medicine to reduce fever - and –
- Overall improvement in symptoms.
- ✧ Those who test positive by a PCR test but do not have symptoms will be required to stay out of school until ten (10) days after the specimen was collected.
- ✧ The criteria above should be used to determine eligibility to return to school. Negative PCR test results are not required after meeting these criteria.

Testing

A student or staff member who develops symptoms of COVID-19 but does not get tested could limit DHEC’s ability to appropriately respond to new cases and ensure the health and safety of other students and staff. PCR testing (nose or throat swab) is highly recommended by DHEC and is strongly preferred over antibody testing.

- Location of testing sites is available on the DHEC [website](#).
- Location of DHEC mobile and pop-up testing [website](#).

Cases in classroom

Students or staff members who test positive could have been contagious with the virus up to 48 hours before their symptoms began. It is essential that staff ensure maximum distancing between students and other staff while in the classroom and throughout the day to limit the possibility of transmission. Encourage the use of masks among student and staff able to use them. Routinely using these precautions will help avoid needing to quarantine all classroom contacts of persons with COVID-19.

- Classroom contacts with a known COVID-19 case should remain together in the same cohort to the extent possible. They should receive screening for fever and symptoms (see above) each morning until 14 days after last contact with the case.
- Anyone identified as a classroom contact of a case who has symptoms of COVID-19 should be sent home and will be required to be tested and cleared before returning to school.
- The classroom will be closed for cleaning and disinfection before being reoccupied.

Quarantine

Some students or staff may have been told they were a close contact to a case of COVID-19 and directed to complete a quarantine period. They will be required to stay home so they do not risk exposing others to COVID-19. DHEC staff will inform them of the length of their quarantine period. For students, a parent’s note that they have been cleared from quarantine may be used to allow return to school

- Close Contact: If you were told that you’re a close contact of someone who recently tested positive for COVID-19, you should quarantine at home for at least 14 days and monitor for symptoms of COVID-19. Close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of someone who tested positive for COVID-19 for at least several minutes (usually about 15 minutes).
- Household contact: If the student or staff lives in the same household as the case and has daily close contact, they will have to quarantine for an additional fourteen (14) days after the day their household member has been cleared from their isolation period.

- Other household members in quarantine: If the student or staff lives in the same household as someone in quarantine, they will not necessarily need to quarantine themselves unless the household member in quarantine is then determined to be a COVID-19 case. DHEC will notify those who are required to complete quarantine.

When to close a class/school:

- If a classroom has 20% or more of the student population test positive for COVID-19 within a two-week period
- If a school building has 10% or more of the total student enrollment test positive for COVID-19 within a two-week period.

Note: This guidance is consistent with information currently available from AccelerateED task force and may be updated as new information on this novel virus and evolving situation become available.

Guidelines for families, teachers, staff, and students

Screening at Home

- Families are recommended to take temperatures daily before going to school. Anyone with a fever of 100 F or higher should not go to a school site.
- Students and adults should also screen themselves for respiratory symptoms such as cough and shortness of breath prior to coming to school each day. Students and adults experiencing those symptoms should not attend school.

Physical Distancing

To maintain physical distance, schools will have a different appearance. Physical distancing will help limit the spread of the virus. Schools will consider the following strategies to maintain smaller groups of students in shared spaces:

- Modify school schedules.
- Visitors, to include parents, cannot go past the front office. There will be no volunteers until further notice
- Keep students in smaller groups.
- Serve meals in small group settings.
- Space desks further apart to ensure a minimum of 6 feet distance between students
- Serve individually plated or boxed meals.
- Where possible, keep student cohorts from mixing.
- Stagger lunches, recesses and other transition times.
- Do not host large assemblies such as assemblies and dances.
- When feasible, identify a sick room for students who are not feeling well to minimize contact with others until they are able to go home.

Healthy and Safety Protocols

In developing the return to in-person model of instruction we want to ensure our families, students and staff that BCSD will adhere to strict health and safety protocols. Currently, these protocols include:

- Lower student-teacher ratios
- Students and staff will be reminded at the start of the school day to notify the teacher

or school administrator if they are not feeling well.

- Hand sanitizer dispensers will be in all major areas of the building
- Continued physical distancing of at least 6 feet in classrooms to the extent possible, throughout the school and on school buses
- Restrooms continually cleaned and monitored to ensure sanitation and an ample supply of soap and towels for hand washing.
- Frequent cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces, including table/desktops, doorknobs, light switches, handles, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks in accordance with Centers for Disease Control guidelines

Stay Home if You are Sick or Exposed to Someone with Covid-19

- Stay home if you are not feeling well.
- Stay home if you have tested positive for COVID-19.
- Stay home if you have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.
- Follow the DHEC Interim COVID-19 Guidance for Schools: Management of suspect and confirmed COVID-19 cases.

Isolate and Transport Those Who are Sick

- Make sure that staff and families know that they (staff) or their children (families) should not come to school, and that they should notify school officials (e.g., the designated COVID-19 point of contact) if they (staff) or their child (families) become sick with COVID-19 symptoms, test positive for COVID-19, or become exposed to someone with COVID-19 symptoms or a confirmed or suspected case.
- Immediately separate staff and children with COVID-19 symptoms (such as fever, cough or shortness of breath) at school. Individuals who are sick should go home or to a healthcare facility (depending on how severe their symptoms are) and follow DHEC guidance for caring for oneself and others who are sick.
- Work with school administrators, nurses and other healthcare providers to identify an isolation room or area to separate anyone who has COVID-19 symptoms or tests positive but does not have symptoms.
- Establish procedures for safely transporting anyone who is sick to their home or to a healthcare facility. If you are calling an ambulance or bringing someone to the hospital, try to call first to alert them that the person may have COVID-19.

Cloth Face Coverings (Masks)

All students and staff members will be required to wear a mask on campus. Masks must be cloth or disposable. Neck gaiters are not permitted. A mask must fit snugly and completely cover the nose and mouth. It should be free of holes or voids and must protect the wearer and others from the exchange of respiratory droplets. Masks must also be school appropriate and shall not include markings, pictures, or lettering. Students, parents and staff members may not wear bandanas of any kind for a mask. Bandanas are not acceptable face covering per existing dress code.

- When on school property, personnel and students are required to wear cloth face coverings. The exceptions are:
 - ✧ Children younger than 2 years old

- ☒ Anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious
 - ☒ Anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance
- Teach and reinforce use of cloth face coverings. Face coverings will be worn by staff and students and are most essential in times when physical distancing is difficult. Individuals should be frequently reminded not to touch their face coverings and to wash their hands frequently. Information should be provided to staff, students, and students' families on proper use, removal and washing of cloth face coverings.
- Cloth face coverings are meant to protect other people in case the wearer is unknowingly infected but does not have symptoms. Cloth face coverings are not surgical masks, respirators or other medical personal protective equipment.
- At the school site, the wearing of a cloth face covering is to be considered part of the school uniform. Continual refusal to wear a cloth face covering properly may result in school action.
- Employees are to follow Beaufort County School District Health and Safety Protocols (BCSDHSP). Non-compliance from adhering to BCSDHSP may be subject to disciplinary actions. For employees who cannot wear a cloth face covering, a face shield is acceptable.

Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette

- Teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and increase monitoring to ensure adherence among students and staff.
 - ☒ If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol can be used (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer).
- Encourage staff and students to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash and hands washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
 - ☒ If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol can be used (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer).
- Gloves are not recommended for use by students or staff except for those conducting duties such as cleaning, first aid, or food service.

Transportation

Student Registration to Ride

Before school opens, families must indicate if their children will be a bus-riders when registering so BCSD may adequately plan routes.

Staggered School Schedule to Accommodate Transportation

To accommodate the half-capacity load requirements, schools will likely operate on staggered schedules. This may result in earlier pick-up times than normal to afford drivers time to disinfect their buses prior to picking up the next loads of students to take to school.

Route Plan

On the traditional model when all students are on campus Monday – Friday but buses are required to run at 50% capacity, several schools will need to run double routes for both elementary and secondary loads. Individual routes themselves will not be longer for the students, but pick-up times for students will be staggered across an extended period of time as the bus makes one trip to a particular school and must go back out to pick up a second group of students at a later time.

Times for all routes will be posted at the beginning of the school year on the district website and at each school.

Morning (By Bus)

- Buses will run at 50 % capacity. For example, the maximum number of students on a bus will be 36 for a bus that holds 77 students. Some seats may be occupied by two students. The first uses of two students on a seat should pair household members together.
- All bus riders will wear cloth face coverings.
- Students will not be allowed to be seated in the first seats on either side of the bus. Bus drivers are required to have assigned seating.
- Buses will be loaded from back to front. This will allow for students to maintain appropriate physical distance.
- Siblings can sit together. All other students will be seated one student per seat with space between seats.
- Schools will assist with developing seating charts for buses
- Buses will be cleaned and sanitized between routes.
- Students are to maintain physical distance while disembarking from the bus.

Afternoon Dismissal (By Bus)

- It is required that students be separated by zones/routes, and school sites are to create protocols that support physical distancing.

Students Transported by Car

- Schools will assign staff in the Parent Drop-off/Pick-Up area to ensure students maintain a minimum of 6feet distance and meet school dress code.

Meals

Students will have their breakfast and lunch in the classroom. Barriers will be used at the service lines and cashiers. All personnel will wear protective gear, and shields will be installed. Physical distancing will be developed by each school to meet guidelines.

Bathroom Breaks

Schools will develop bathroom break procedures that take physical distancing into consideration.

Classroom Operations

Facilities and Risk Management departments are working with schools to develop classroom layouts that take into consideration physical distancing and teacher circulation.

Additional classrooms safety practices

- Schools will receive sanitizing cleaning products.
- Classrooms will be cleaned and sanitized daily.

Shared Objects

- Discourage sharing of items that are difficult to clean or disinfect.
- Keep each child's belongings separated from others' and in individually labeled containers, cubbies or areas.
- Minimize sharing of high-touch materials to the extent possible.
- Avoid sharing electronic devices, toys, books and other games or learning aids.

Modified Layouts

- Space seating/desks at least 6 feet apart to the extent possible.
- Turn desks to face in the same direction (rather than facing each other), or have students sit on only one side of tables, spaced apart.

Physical Barriers and Guides

- Install physical barriers, such as sneeze guards and partitions, particularly in areas where it is difficult for individuals to remain at least 6 feet apart (e.g., reception desks).
- Provide physical guides, such as tape on floors or sidewalks and signs on walls, to ensure that staff and children remain at least 6 feet apart (to the extent possible) in lines and at other times (e.g. guides for creating "one way routes" in hallways).

Communal Spaces

- Limited communal use of shared spaces such as dining halls and playgrounds with shared playground equipment if possible; otherwise, stagger use and clean and disinfect between use.
- Add physical barriers, such as plastic flexible screens, between bathroom sinks especially when they cannot be at least 6 feet apart.

Gatherings, Visitors, and Field Trips

- Pursue virtual group events, gatherings or meetings, if possible, and promote physical distancing of at least 6 feet between people if events are held. Limit group size to the extent possible.
- Limit any nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations as possible – especially with individuals who are not from the local geographic area (e.g., community, town, city, county).
- Pursue virtual activities and events in lieu of field trips, student assemblies, special performances, school-wide parent meetings and spirit nights, as possible.
- Follow South Carolina High School League (SCHSL) guidelines for participation in sports activities in ways that minimizes the risk of transmission of COVID-19 to players, families, coaches and communities.

"Enhance Clean" Protocols***Safety Supplies***

Prior to the return of school, the district will provide the following supplies:

- Hand sanitizer dispensers throughout school buildings.
- Infrared thermometers for athletics as recommended by the SCHSL.
- Masks for all staff and students who cannot provide their own.
- EPA and CDC approved hospital-grade disinfectant.

Classroom Disinfecting Plan

Remove, file or store as many items laying on all flat surfaces to help speed up the sanitizing procedures. Teachers and students will daily sanitize surfaces before transitions, as well as and objects that are touched often, such as desks, countertops, chairs, tables, handrails, doorknobs, light switches, computer keyboards, hands-on learning items, faucet handles, phones and toys.

Custodians

- ☒ Custodial staff will sanitize common workspaces, high-traffic areas and frequently touched surfaces multiple times per day.
- ☒ Check rooms for soap, paper towels and sanitizer.
- ☒ Empty all trash and sanitize trash receptacles.
- ☒ Sweep and mop hard-surface floors with approved cleaners.
- ☒ High-touch surfaces in bathrooms will be disinfected frequently during the day (sinks, soap dispensers, towel dispensers, doorknobs, handrails and bathroom fixtures).
- ☒ Wipe down and sanitize countertops and all flat surfaces.

Staff

- ☒ Remove any unnecessary furniture or personal belongings.
- ☒ Remove, file or store as many items laying on all flat surfaces to help speed up the sanitizing procedure
- ☒ Wipe down and sanitize countertops and desks throughout the day
- ☒ Clean and sanitize sinks and wipe down faucets and knobs throughout the day.
- ☒ Wipe down and sanitize doorknobs, pencils sharpeners and towel dispensers throughout the day.

Common Space Disinfecting Plan

Main Office

- ☒ Remove any unnecessary furniture or personal belongings.
- ☒ Remove, file or store as many items laying on all flat surfaces to help speed up the sanitizing procedure.
- ☒ Wipe down and sanitize countertops and desk throughout the day.
- ☒ Clean and sanitize sinks and wipe down faucets and knobs throughout the day.
- ☒ Wipe down and sanitize common doorknobs, cabinet knobs, pencil sharpeners, phones, towel dispensers, copy machines, printers, mailboxes, etc. throughout the day.
- ☒ In lounge areas, at the end of the day, put away all dishes and utensils, coffee pots, coffee mate products, etc. to protect from disinfectant sprays.

- ✘ Teacher work rooms should be cleaned and sanitized in the same manner.

Restrooms

- ✘ Staff should wash their hands after every use.
- ✘ Custodial staff will clean and sanitize all office restrooms at the end of the day.
- ✘ All restrooms shall be sanitized routinely throughout the day by the custodial staff. At the end of the day, custodial staff will clean and sanitize all restrooms.

Locker Rooms

- ✘ Locker room users will spray down surfaces with spray disinfectant after each use.
- ✘ A contracted cleaning service will perform a weekly deep, misting sanitation using an electrostatic mister with DHEC approved chemicals.
- ✘ Athletes will not be allowed to leave personal items in lockers overnight. If personal items are left and the room is sprayed with disinfectant, the items should be bagged in a plastic bag and cleaned/washed before re-use.

Training Provided to Staff on Cleaning and Sanitation

All BCSD staff will receive the following necessary training required by OSHA to clean and disinfect.

1. Know the difference between cleaning, disinfecting and sanitizing
 - ✘ **Cleaning:** Removes germs, dirt and impurities from surfaces or objects. Cleaning works by using soap (or detergent) and water to physically remove germs from surfaces. This process does not necessarily kill germs, but by removing them, it lowers their numbers and the risk of spreading infection.
 - ✘ **Disinfecting:** Kills germs on surfaces or objects. Disinfecting works by using chemicals to kill germs on surfaces or objects. This process does not necessarily clean dirty surfaces or remove germs. But by killing germs on a surface after cleaning, it can further lower the risk of spreading infection.
 - ✘ **Sanitizing:** Lowers the number of germs on surfaces or objects to a safe level, as judged by public health standards or requirements. This process works by either cleaning or disinfecting surfaces or objects to lower the risk of spreading infection.
2. Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that are touched often
 - ✘ Follow your school's standard procedures for routine cleaning and disinfecting. Typically, this means daily sanitizing surfaces and objects that are touched often, such as desks, countertops, chairs, tables, handrails, doorknobs, light switches, computer keyboards, hands-on learning items, faucet handles, phones and toys. Some schools may also require daily disinfecting of these items. Standard procedures often call for disinfecting specific areas of the school, like bathrooms.
 - ✘ Clean surfaces and objects immediately if they are visibly soiled. If surfaces or objects are soiled with body fluids or blood, use gloves and other standard precautions to avoid coming into contact with the fluid. Remove the spill, then clean and disinfect the surface.

3. Clean and disinfect correctly

- ☒ Surfaces should be cleaned using soap and water and then a disinfectant if necessary. Cleaning with soap and water reduces number of germs, dirt and impurities on the surface. Disinfecting kills germs on surfaces. This may require separate EPA-approved products.
- ☒ Use disinfecting wipes on electronic items that are touched often, such as phones and computers. Pay close attention to the directions for using disinfecting wipes. It may be necessary to use more than one wipe to keep a surface wet for the stated length of contact time. Make sure that electronic devices can withstand the use of liquids for cleaning and disinfecting.

How to clean and disinfect

- ☒ Hospital-grade disinfectant in the classroom will not require gloves for teachers or students.
- ☒ Clean surfaces using soap and water, then use disinfectant if necessary. Follow the instructions on the label to ensure safe and effective use of the product. Many products recommend keeping surfaces wet for a period of time (see product label).
- ☒ Practice routine cleaning of frequently touched surfaces.
 - More frequent cleaning and disinfection may be required based on level of use.
 - Surfaces and objects in common areas, such as copiers and point-of-sale keypads, should be cleaned and disinfected before each use.
 - High-touch surfaces include: tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, sinks, etc.

4. Use products safely

- ☒ Pay close attention to hazard warnings and directions on product labels. Cleaning products and disinfectants often call for the use of gloves or eye protection. For example, gloves should always be worn to protect your hands when working with bleach solutions.
- ☒ Do not mix cleaners and disinfectants unless the labels indicate it is safe to do so. Combining certain products (such as chlorine bleach and ammonia cleaners) can result in serious injury or death.
- ☒ Ensure that custodial staff, teachers and others who use cleaners and disinfectants read and understand all instruction labels and understand safe and appropriate use. This might require that instructional materials and training be provided in other languages.

5. Handle waste properly

- ☒ Follow your school's standard procedures for handling waste, which may include wearing gloves. Place no-touch waste baskets where they are easy to use. Throw disposable items used to clean surfaces and items in the trash immediately after use. Avoid touching used tissues and other waste when emptying waste baskets. Wash your hands with soap and water after emptying waste baskets and touching used tissues and similar waste.

Registration

Students can request face-to-face instruction or virtual instruction when registering for the 2020-2021 academic year. However, if families choose the face-to-face option, there is still the possibility of transitioning to the virtual model as COVID-19 infection metrics change.

Whether you choose face-to-face or virtual for your child, it is recommended that you commit to this option for at least one semester so your child can experience a consistent learning environment. This said, if you would like to change your choice, you can work with your child's school directly to do so.

Traditional

All students will report to school five days a week with enhanced health and safety protocols.

(NOTE: If COVID-19 infection rates continue to rise, a hybrid A/B model may be implemented at some schools in order to accommodate recommended social distancing requirements. Once BCSD knows how many families desire face-to-face instruction and virtual instruction, we will be able to make this determination and distribute specific information about the hybrid A/B model accordingly.)

Modified elementary and secondary bus routes to accommodate ½ capacity requirements on school buses will be implemented.

Classroom

- Teachers and staff will wear face coverings in all BCSD buildings.
- Students are required to wear masks in all BSCD buildings.
- All classroom desks will face the same direction.
- Special education services will be provided as outlined in the students' IEPs.
- Furniture and manipulatives that cannot be sanitized will be removed.
- Students will have their own writing utensils, supplies and tools.
- All classrooms will have appropriate cleaning supplies for teachers to wipe down desks daily.
- Doors will remain closed during instructional periods. Teachers will be responsible for opening/closing doors when students must enter/leave class.
- Restroom breaks are scheduled by classroom teachers in small groups of 3 or fewer students. For students in grades 6-12, restrooms will be monitored during class changes to ensure there are no more students than stalls in the restroom at a given time.
- Handwashing breaks are scheduled in conjunction with restroom breaks.
- Handwashing or hand sanitizer required before/after meals; after sneezing/coughing/toileting. Note: handwashing is preferred. Hand sanitizer should be used if washing is not available.
- Keep each student's belongings separated from their classmates' items. Students will be asked to not bring extra items from home.
- At end of each day, ask students (if age appropriate & without asthma/allergies) to disinfect own desk.
- Routines will be developed to clean student areas before any transition.
- Depending upon conditions with the virus, K-5 students may remain in one classroom all day, with teachers rotating to them. A decision to implement this step will be made closer to opening or at a later time in the school year when a less restrictive model is feasible.

Arrival

- Doors will be open and monitored by staff during arrival.
- All individuals wear masks.

- Nurse stations will have separate areas for students with temperatures or other symptoms of COVID-19.
- Students will walk independently into buildings and report directly to homeroom or first block class.
- Staff will monitor entry to ensure students do not congregate in hallways or common areas.
- Visitors may not enter school during arrival time to reduce crowding.

Dismissal

- Students are expected to wear masks until picked up by a parent vehicle, arrive home via bus, or are off campus.
- Doors will be opened and monitored by staff during dismissal.
- Students will be released on a staggered schedules to parking lots, car rider lines or bus loading areas to reduce crowding. Bus riders will wait in their last period class areas until their buses are called.
- Staff will monitor waiting areas (bus, car, daycare lines) to ensure distancing.

Meal Service Options

These will be school-specific as conditions and associated learning models change.

- Breakfast and lunch will be served in the classroom.
- Barriers will be used at the service lines and cashiers. All personnel will wear protective gear, and shields will be installed. Physical distancing will be developed by each school to meet guidelines.

Common Areas

- Water fountains are closed. Bottle filling stations will remain open. Students should bring their own water bottles to school.
- Common areas (main office, hallways, teacher work rooms, restrooms, some specialized classrooms) will be cleaned a minimum of three times daily.
- Restroom breaks will be scheduled by teacher when possible.
- Physical barriers, such as plastic flexible screens, will be installed between bathroom sinks that spaced closely together.

Gatherings and Field Trips

- Pursue virtual group events, gatherings or meetings if possible, and promote physical distancing of at least 6 feet between people if events are held. Limit group size to the extent possible.
- Employ virtual activities and events in lieu of field trips, student assemblies, special performances, school-wide parent meetings and spirit nights if possible.
- Follow SCHSL guidelines for participation in sports activities in ways that minimize the risk of transmission of COVID-19 to players, families, coaches and communities.

Band/Music/Chorus

Band students will sanitize/disinfect personal instruments, flags, rifles, etc. before and after using them daily.

- Students will not share instruments or equipment.
- Students will face same direction while practicing inside.
- Students will practice in large venue (auditorium) or outside when possible for physical distancing.
- Class will be divided into smaller groups and practice separately when possible.
- Students will wash hands when they have lunches or snacks in the band area.

Library/Media Center

- Books and paper are not considered a high risk for COVID-19 exposure and do not require additional disinfection.
- Physical distancing guidelines will be adhered to in these larger classroom spaces.

Physical Education

- Physical education courses will follow the SCHSL guidance.
- Equipment shared by students will be sanitized between student groups.

Art

- Students will maintain a set of basic individual art supplies.
- All materials and surfaces re-used by staff and students are sanitized before transitions
- Physical distancing guidelines will be adhered to in these larger classroom spaces.

Dance

- Space dancers six feet apart when possible.
- Only touch the bar with gloves on; sanitize between student groups.
- Wear masks at all times.
- No hand-to-hand contact.

Career and Technical Education (ATC) Courses

- Teachers will wear clear masks when providing instruction.
- Dividing screens will be provided for certain activities, such as welding.
- Students wear masks at all times.
- Wash hands before start of CTE class; hand-sanitize after each activity where students are touching common equipment.
- Follow safety protocols of job sites when conducting work-based learning assignments.
- Staff will wipe down main equipment between classes.
- Minimize sharing of tools by students; when students must share tools, sanitize after use.

Athletics and Extra-curricular Activities

- BCSD will follow the SCHSL's guidance for athletics.
- Custodial staff will spray down locker rooms weekly.
- Athletes and staff will spray down surfaces after each use with disinfectant.
- Follow all district "Enhance Clean" protocols for extracurricular activities.

After School Programs

- The Boys and Girls Club and additional childcare providers will be partnering with BCSD. Details will be provided when available.

Recess

- BCSD will make every effort to maintain consistency with established safety procedures.
- BCSD may limit student access to certain pieces of playground equipment that may be difficult to clean or which prevents students from practicing physical distancing.
- Activities considered “high touch” will also be restricted.
- Students must wash or sanitize their hands before and after recess, with the preference being washing.

Learning Family Cohort

Typically implemented in elementary classrooms, the Family model achieves a small “family unit” within one classroom all day to provide an additional layer of safety. All instruction, meals and related arts will be provided in the classroom.

- Students will remain in their homeroom “family unit” for the full day.
- Instructional staff will wear face coverings during instructional time.
- Students will wear masks at all times.
- On rainy days, when outside physical education is not possible, students will do health curriculum and exercise within their classroom family environments.
- Related arts, intervention and special education teachers who support students within the family would rotate to them, wearing shields to keep the family safe from outside exposure.
- Students receiving pull-out services will be rotated out of the classroom using enhanced safety protocols to include masks.
- Students will have their meals in the classroom.
- Outside visitors and volunteers to the classroom, and large gatherings with parents present, will not be allowed.

BCSD Virtual Experience

We are excited to announce that Beaufort County School District will be offering a new BCSD Virtual Home Learning Experience (BCSD-V) for families who want a full-time virtual option. Students in grades K-12 will have the opportunity to experience high-quality instruction in a teacher-led virtual classroom environment staffed by Beaufort County School District faculty. BCSD-V will offer scheduled lessons with a teacher, flexible support in individual or small groups, a strong online course platform combined with teacher-developed lessons for core and elective classes, and participation in home school athletic and extracurricular opportunities. Prior to entering the Virtual Home Learning environment, families will meet with their school counselors to discuss courses and program models.

Mission: Beaufort County School District Virtual (BCSD-V) will provide a high-quality learning experience that challenges learners and prepares them to succeed in a secondary education environment.

Learning Platform: Accredited online learning courseware based on South Carolina curriculum standards will be used as a base for instructional content. Courses will be grounded in the curriculum platform and supported with standards-based teacher-designed lessons, direct instruction and relevant activities.

Courses Offered: BCSD-V offers K-8 core content area courses in English/language arts, mathematics, science and social studies with gifted & talented extensions. Special and exploratory courses such as PE, health, world language, technology and performing arts are part of the curriculum. A full array of Grade 9-12 academic courses, including Honors and AP levels, are provided. High School courses are NCAA-approved. Numerous electives, including fine arts and Career and Technical Education (CTE), are also provided.

Learning Opportunities: BCSD-V will be based on a flexible model allowing for synchronous and asynchronous classes. BCSD-V will provide fully virtual courses with online and live video instruction, tutoring, small group and independent learning opportunities.

Schedule: Students will have flexible schedules that include all required grade-appropriate courses and content. Students will have opportunities to schedule time for independent assistance and small group instruction. There may also be scheduled class sessions or study groups.

Student-Centered: Teachers will work hard to develop relationships, maintain contact and provide access to each student. Students will complete a learning style survey and a personal profile to help staff better assess each student's needs. For example, the student (and parent) may submit a video to the teacher introducing themselves in order to build community and relationships with the instructor and class.

Student Activities: BCSD-V will provide parent and student engagement activities on its campus. However, students will also be able to participate in extracurricular activities, including sports and fine arts programs, at their home schools while enrolled at BCSD-V. Student Expectations: Students are expected to be engaged in each of their classes, which includes completing assignments and staying on schedule. Participating in online teaching sessions, online small group work and individual sessions may be required. Teachers will post a syllabus for each class or course detailing expectations each week. The platform will provide instant course data, including time on task, percentage of course complete, and grade.

Accommodations: Students who qualify for special education services will receive accommodations and modifications according to their individualized education plans (IEP) or 504 plans. Any necessary face-to-face accommodations will be scheduled.

Technology: District-issued devices are available to all enrolled students in grades K-12 for use on or off campus. Schools will provide students with direct instruction on how to connect with teachers and access school assignments. Training opportunities and tutorials for students and parents to learn to navigate software will be provided. The district will maintain a Help Desk call center as well as a Web Help Desk Ticketing system to provide technical support to teachers and staff. Families are encouraged to contact their children's teachers for technical support. If further assistance is needed or the teacher is unable to resolve the issue, the student may be directed to drop off their device at a central designated Technology Support Depot Center at a nearby school. Each service will be handled on a case-by-case basis. All repairs that require a device to be dropped off at a depot center will be returned, repaired or replaced at the same location in a timely manner.

BCSD is coordinating with local organizations that may be able to provide internet hotspot locations and MiFi mobile hot spots available for check-out through schools (limited quantity at each location). BCSD also works with local Internet Service Providers who provide low-cost internet programs to qualifying families. There is the additional possibility of having hotspots on buses that can travel to areas with low internet availability.

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need high-speed internet services at home to participate in BCSD-V?

High-speed internet is ideal for participation in BCSD-V so that students can access courseware and streamed lessons. If your family does not have high-speed internet, local internet providers have low-cost options for qualifying families. Families also may sign out a mobile hotspot from their children's school, if available. Families may also use school parking lots to download or upload material via school WiFi.

Do BCSD-V students have access to the meal services provided at their home school?

We are transitioning from a meal program funded by emergency federal dollars to our normal meal program. More details will be provided when available.

Can a student with an IEP or 504 attend BCSD-V?

Yes. If you are interested in BCSD-V, please apply. Your child's IEP team or 504 team will meet to review and identify individual services and supports that will be necessary to meet your child's unique needs.

Can my student participate in co-curricular programs like band and chorus?

Yes. BCSD-V students enrolled will remain connected to their attendance zone schools. They will have access to Chorus, Band, ROTC and some CTE courses as scheduled on the respective campuses. Parents may have to provide transportation to and from their attendance zone schools for such classes.

Can my student be in clubs and play sports?

Yes. Students enrolled at BCSD-V will have access to clubs and sports offered at their attendance zone schools. Parents must provide transportation to and from their home schools for meetings and practices.

Can my student graduate from BCSD?

Yes, your student can earn credits to graduate. They will graduate at their assigned school.

Will there be a regular online class meeting schedule?

Yes. Students will be required to meet during scheduled times with their teacher. They will participate in virtual whole class, small group and/or individual meeting opportunities. Additionally, your student's teachers may be available for some live video support.

Do students need to attend scheduled sessions, or can they work at their own pace?

Yes, students need to attend their scheduled classes online. There will be class and course requirements for all students. Pre-scheduled classes and support opportunities are available and can also be scheduled individually. Students may also complete work independently; however, they must be able to maintain appropriate progress and achievement. Students will have access to coursework 24/7.

How does a virtual student workload compare to a regular classroom?

Every effort will be made to maintain relevant and appropriate workloads, but virtual learning requires more independent work and attention from students to balance the absence of a classroom. Students should plan to dedicate specific times for daily tasks.

What academic support systems are in place for virtual students?

Your student's teachers will be available via email, office hours and scheduled class or individual sessions. Your student's teachers will provide appropriate face-to-face academic support and learning opportunities through the BCSD-V program. Students will also have access to a school counselor and other members of the community who provide auxiliary services.

Can a BCSD-V student transfer back to “traditional school” within the district?

Whether you choose face-to-face or virtual instruction for your child, it is recommended that you commit to this option for at least one semester so your child can experience a consistent learning environment. However, if you would like to change your choice, you can work with your child’s school directly to do so.

Communication

Two-Way Communication Plan

Beaufort County School District will provide staff, students and families with timely and comprehensive information about our school reopening plan and ongoing modifications to the plan as needed. We understand you need this information to make safe decisions for your families and plan accordingly.

District Communication of School Reopening

- The official Beaufort County School District Reopening Plan will be housed on the district [website](#).
- Links to the plan will be shared via social media (Facebook and Twitter).
- BCSD 2020 School Reopening Plan will be emailed directly to parents
- Weekly Department of Health and Environmental Controls Disease Metrics for Beaufort County will be available at www.beaufortschools.net.

Communication Expectations

District will:

- Handle media requests through the Office of Communications.
- Establish procedures for notifying staff and parents of possible COVID-19 exposure conducive with HIPAA.
 - ✧ The district will not be able to confirm the identify of a student or staff member who has tested positive for COVID-19.
 - ✧ The district will notify individuals who have been in direct contact with a person who has tested positive.
- Direct contact is defined as contact less than six feet, for more than 10 minutes, without a mask, in the previous 48 hours.

Schools will:

- Communicate school-specific information, schedule, procedures and deadlines related to the school reopening plan.
- Set dates for school activities.
- Communicate grade-level, intervention, resource and gifted and talented schedules.
- Communicate directly with families on safety and health issues related to COVID-19.

Parent Responsibilities to Monitor Health of Student(s) and Notify the School

Attendance is important, and we want children to be in school every day they are healthy. However, this year the greater good for school attendance is to keep children showing any symptoms of COVID-19 home until they are well. To keep all staff and classmates healthy, it is imperative that parents monitor the symptoms and temperatures of their children before sending them to school and implement the following steps:

- Take the temperature of any child demonstrating shortness of breath, loss of taste, sore throat, muscle aches, chills, new or worsening cough, or runny nose.
- Keep your child at home one or more days to monitor symptoms.

- If you decide to have a COVID-19 test, notify the school nurse of the results so the school can implement the Enhanced Health and Safety Protocols in the classroom(s) where your child attended. *All information will remain confidential between the school and family. No other families will be given the health information of your child.

School Procedures to Notify Parents of a Positive COVID-19 Case

- When the school becomes aware of a positive COVID-19 case, the following steps will occur:
- School nurse will notify DHEC.
- School administration will notify the district office.
- School will implement Enhanced Health Procedures for elementary classrooms operating in the “Family” Model.
- School will implement Enhanced Safety Protocols for disinfecting classrooms the individual attended.
- School administration will send a letter to parents of children in the classroom notifying that there is a positive case.

Questions?

Please direct any questions or concerns to communitycomments@beaufort.k12.sc.us.
We look forward to hearing from you.

We are #BeaufortCountyStrong!