

Updated Return to School- Continuity of Services Plan 2023-2024

This original plan was developed with information from DOH (Department of Health); DOE (Department of Education), SASD (School Administrators of South Dakota), CDC (Centers For Disease Control), local COVID-19 committee and our BCSD staff and parents. This UPDATED plan continues to follow the CDC information. It also includes the required elements per the U.S. Department of Education's ARP ESSER checklist. This plan will be a fluid document to adjust to the ever-changing situation. Timeline for planning and reviewing is located at the end of this document. Please contact Patrick Frederick at 605-685-6112 or email at patrick.frederick@k12.sd.us with any questions or if you need to have the document translated to another language.

Purpose

- Ensure that every student in the BCSD receives an equitable education and has equal access to learning and instruction during any school disruption such as a pandemic.
- Develop protocols to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus within the school setting and to provide for the safety of students and staff

Guiding Principles

- Mitigate the spread of the virus through clear mitigation protocols
- Communication with all stakeholders needs to be clear and consistent
- Follow the recommendations of the DOH concerning school opening and protocols for potential positive cases in the school setting
- Ensuring all students in the school or district will have equal access to the learning and required materials, including technology

Instruction

- Models of Instruction—
 - Traditional Learning- All students return for in-person delivery, with modifications to spaces and protocols as recommended by DOH/CDC. Should a pandemic or other issue interrupt school for a period of time, the BCSD is prepared to offer the following for continuity of instruction:
 - Modified on Campus Learning-- Students report to school one or two full days a week. Students will be provided assignments to support student learning on days in which they do not report to school. This could include remote learning---1:1 technology including parallel learning while off site, paper, pencil, or a combination.

- Remote Learning - All instruction is provided off-campus due to COVID-19 related issues OR other disruption that would make this necessary.

Addressing Learning Loss

- Staff will use approved screening/assessment tools to identify students who have learning loss. The BCSD will provide the following options for students to close the learning gap:
 - Research Based Interventions
 - Tutoring after school and on scheduled Fridays
 - Identified research based instructional strategies will be used to address learning loss
 - Summer School and Credit recovery
 - Viable Curriculum

Assessment and Grading--All assessment and grading will follow the student handbook guidelines and teacher developed guidelines

Attendance- Attendance will be tracked and students with chronic absences will be contacted and provided support

Special Education & 504s - Students with disabilities will have equitable access to specialized instruction and related services so that they have access to general education standards and continue to demonstrate progress toward the general education standards and IEP goals. ○ Staff will communicate with parents and guardians regarding their child's services, which includes discussion regarding IEP services and how to meet the student's needs in a distance learning model. This includes direct specialized instruction, related services, and accommodations. IEPs may be amended to reflect these changes.

- Appropriate technology will be available to support learning. There will be modifications in order to implement appropriate instructional strategies that comply with IEPs. Specialized Service staff will work with classroom teachers to support students that need modifications/accommodations to support learning in addition to providing instructional activities aligned with current IEP goals, services, and related services. Specialized Service staff will work with students and families on assistive technology needs.
- Staff will plan for the needs of students eligible for special education, child find activities, evaluations/reevaluations, and IEP implementation.

Students experiencing homeless and or housing instability

- Homeless Coordinator will work with school counselor and or social worker in the district to identify and support students who fall in this category.

School Nurse and Health Services

- School nurse will assist with safety practices
- School nurse will assist with procedures for pre-screening for students and staff
- School nurse will assist with providing education for correct wearing of masks, handwashing etiquette, respiratory etiquette and other healthy hygiene practices and others as requested
- The number of staff and students in the school nurse office will be limited
- **Protocol for Positive COVID Cases---** When we have been notified of a positive case of COVID 19 within our school building by the State Department of Health we will take the following measures:
 - 1. We will be working closely with the Department of Health as they will take the lead on what happens next with the positive case. The Department of Health will be mindful of confidentiality issues for students and staff. Our nursing staff along with the Department of Health will monitor any positive cases to ensure students and staff are quarantined for the appropriate amount of time.
 - 2. If your child has tested positive for COVID 19, we would ask that you notify the district by calling the district nurse, Mrs. Cindy Allard-Hines at BC Elementary School (605-685-6300). You should also be receiving a call from the State Department of Health. Anyone testing positive for COVID 19 will be isolated for a 5-day period. They may return after 5 days if they are symptom free and have a negative COVID test (school will provide a BINAX NOW diagnostic test upon request) before returning to school. (Updated January 3, 2022 per CDC guidance). If you choose to not be tested then you will need to remain in isolation for 10 days. We will work closely with families to provide instruction during this time so your child can be actively involved in the class even as they are quarantined.
 - 3. The Board of Education recognized the challenges students face moving from face to face to remote learning due to being identified as a close contact. To combat those educational challenges, the Board of Education will allow students that are deemed close contacts to continue attending school and school activities as long as they are not having any symptoms, masks are encouraged.

All household close contacts will be allowed to return to school as long as they are not having symptoms. Masks are encouraged and twice daily symptom checks are required. On or after the 5th day, the student may be tested (at school during the regularly scheduled school week or

documentation from your healthcare provider) and if the test is negative, they may continue without a mask.

4. We will follow the guidance of the Department of Health as to whether we need to close down a classroom, a school etc. to sanitize appropriately. During this time, we would plan to continue with remote learning.

5. If a teacher tests positive for COVID 19, they will need to be isolated for a 5-day period. They may return after 5 days if they are symptom free and have a negative COVID test (school will provide a BINAX NOW diagnostic test upon request) before returning to school. (Updated January 3, 2022 per CDC guidelines.) If the teacher is symptomatic and is sick, we will hire a substitute teacher for this class.

- **Protocols for Sick Students in School (Not Covid)** related—when we have a student who exhibits any of the symptoms on the student checklist, we will take the following measures:
 - Students will be sent home and must be fever free without medication for 24 hours if showing symptoms from Section 1 on the student checklist and none on Section 2.
 - Student who has answered YES to questions in Section 1 and Section 2 should see a health care provider and stay home
 - Student Checklist is on the website under the Return to School Information Tab
- We will follow the procedures for **I.C.E** as recommended by the DOH for any student or staff member exhibiting symptoms on the checklist
 - Isolate and mask
 - Contact the parent/guardian
 - Exit the school building as soon as possible

School nurse will continue to uphold SD state law in regards to vaccination requirements

- PPE Protocols
 - Staff and students—face coverings are encouraged per plan protocols.
 - School nurse or staff who perform routine healthcare procedures will wear appropriate PPE
 - School nurse and staff who care for COVID-19 symptomatic students or staff will wear appropriate PPE
 - Custodial Staff who are responsible for cleaning where person with suspected COVID-19 symptoms has been will wear appropriate PPE
- PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES
 - Screen students for symptoms in the morning before sending to school
 - Checklist will be provided
 - Keep sick students at home
 - Open communication with the school
- STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES
 - Provide for social distancing as possible
 - Pre-Screening for symptoms prior to coming to work
 - Checklist will be provided
 - PPE will be available
- Substitutes
 - Provide for social distancing as possible
 - Pre-Screening for symptoms prior to coming to work
 - Checklist will be provided
 - PPE will be available and is recommended if not vaccinated

Addressing Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs

- Second Step Curriculum in grades K-8
- Nurse, School Counselor, Human Services staff are on staff to provide needed assistance to staff and students as needed
- Wellness team will plan activities for staff
- Outside speakers to address social needs for students, families and staff
- Professional development for staff as requested to address the understanding of social and emotional needs of students

Technology

Technology staff will have devices ready for 1:1 instruction when necessary

- Student will be assigned a device to be used at school and at home if necessary
 - Chromebooks will be used for K-12
 - PreK and TK will use Kindle devices
- All parents will receive the Technology Device Checkout Sheet to sign and return prior to a student receiving a device

Building/Classroom Practices

- Provide for social distancing as possible (CDC recommends 3 feet)
- Monitor mixing of students. Plan to keep students in cohorts when practical
- Limit student sharing of materials
- Promote Healthy Hygiene Practices—hand washing, covering coughs and sneezes, social distancing
- Teach and schedule hand washing at All levels
- Entrance and Exit procedures established at each school

Athletics and Extra Curricular Events

- We will adhere to the SDHSAA recommendations and local protocols

Facility and Maintenance

- Summer Deep Cleaning will have been completed
- All building will have a sanitizing/cleaning schedule and approved cleaning supplies will be used along with the sanitizing wand where applicable
- Hand Sanitizer dispensers will be placed in all classrooms and commons areas
 - HVAC systems will be fully operational and filters changed as recommended.
- Bipolar ionization technology equipment has been installed on all HVAC equipment
- Water Fountains—Touchless Bottle Filler units will be available in all buildings
- Protective plexiglass stations will be installed where requested
- Signage will be located to inform of social distancing, COVID-19 symptoms, hand washing and respiratory etiquette

Child Nutrition Services

- Touchless Point of Sale
- Individual prepackaged condiments

- Milk coolers with individual cartons
When and where possible, reduce the number of students eating in one location to promote social distancing
- If long term closure occurs, grab and go meals will be available

Transportation

- Hand sanitizer will be available on all busses and students will be encouraged to use the hand sanitizer as they get on and off the bus
- Disposable masks will be available on the bus to use in times when social distancing is not possible.
- Students will have an assigned seat when practical
- Students from the same family are encouraged to sit together when practical
- When possible, student will sit 1 student per seat
- Parents also have the option of transporting their own child if they would prefer

Communication Methods

- Communication will be the key to keeping everyone informed. Methods of communication that may be utilized include the following:
 - Campus Messenger—phone, text
 - School Website, Facebook, and APP and Marquee
 - School Newsletter
 - Bennett County Booster
 - Staff Communication Tools
 - Informational Meetings
 - Local Radio Stations
 - Posters in local stores and post office

Timeline of Planning--

- Original Return to School Plan
 - June 15th, 2020--Plan was discussed at the board meeting
 - July 8th, 2020--Public Meeting Held at 1:00 and 6:30 PM for public input
 - July 27th, 2020--Plan approved by the BCSD Board of Education
 - August 17th, 2020--Plan was updated
 - December 16, 2020--Plan was updated

- Updated Return to school--Continuity of Services Plan Reviews and Approval
 - July 15, 2021--BCSD Board of Education meeting approval
 - December 2021--Reviewed at the December 16, 2021 School Board Meeting
 - January 17th, 2022--Reviewed and removed vaccination close contact language
 - February 3rd, 2022--Updated Close contacts Verbiage
 - February 21, 2022--Update on close contacts, household close contacts and staff positives
 - May 2022--Updated contact information and also removed contact tracing
 - June 2022- Updated
 - December 2022 – Updated protocols, positive cases, staff response, PPE, and building/classroom practices.
 - May/June 2023-Updated
 - December 2023 – Updated / Board Approved