

BRCSD Reopening Overview

August 3, 2020



Agenda

1. Focus of reopening discussions
2. Timeline/Process overview
3. Considerations
4. Transportation
5. Public Health Information
6. Schedule of students
7. Current Support/Planning
8. Next Steps

Overarching Themes for Reopening

The Beaver River School District Believes:

1. Safety is a top priority for students and we will use the NYS Department of Education and Health guidelines in determining the safest environment possible.
2. Students learn best in an in-school, in-person learning environment especially in the early grades.
3. Flexibility is a key component to make both items 1 and 2 above work together.

Plan Input

- Parent/Family Survey (590 responses)
- Board of Education
- Classroom Teachers
- Support Staff
- Healthcare Staff
- Carthage Area Hospital
- Management Team
- Administration
- Lewis County Offices
 - Public Health
 - County Manager
 - Lewis County General Hospital
 - Emergency Management

Timeline:

- June-July - research on models and possible solutions.
- July 13th
 - Governor releases closing/opening criteria
 - NYS DOH releases Interim Guidance for Schools
 - NYS Board of Regents accepts various proposals to help with reopening
- July 14th
 - BRCS Task Force meets to review DOH Guidance, and develop workgroups
- July 15th
 - NYSED releases new regulations
- July 16th
 - NYSED releases guidance to reopen NYS schools
- July 17th
 - NYSED releases format for submitting plan
- July 18th
 - NYSED releases FAQ around their reopening guidance
- July 20th-ongoing
 - BRCS workgroups meet to discuss and plan for various aspects of plan
- July 31st
 - Plan was submitted to NYSED and DOH, but is still flexible
- August 3rd
 - Virtual Meeting about plan
 - Governor will make a final decision this week

Considerations

- It is not possible for all students to be in school all of the time and meet NYSED/DOH guidelines
 - According to NYSED/DOH guidelines students are to maintain 6 feet of social distancing and wear masks.
- Masks may be removed for instructional times, meal times, and for “mask breaks”.
- Limited movement is important to keep groups of students (cohorts) together.

Other Considerations

- Cohorting is more difficult as grades increase because of greater mobility.
- Childcare is an issue, parent survey indicated
 - if families stay together in either a Green or Orange cohort that could ease the burden.
- While we are able to create space that could be used, our major limitations for additional sections are the number of staff that are needed, along with the needs of the students that various staff provide.
- Students with disabilities needs are very difficult to meet in a remote format

Transportation

- 22 students can ride the school bus based on the NYSDOH guidelines.
- The students have to be socially distant and be 6-feet apart.
- The students have to wear a mask the **entire** time they are on the bus.
- Temperature screening will take place before students are able to ride the bus.
- Large concern over number of students on the bus. BRCS will need to know the number of families that will transport.

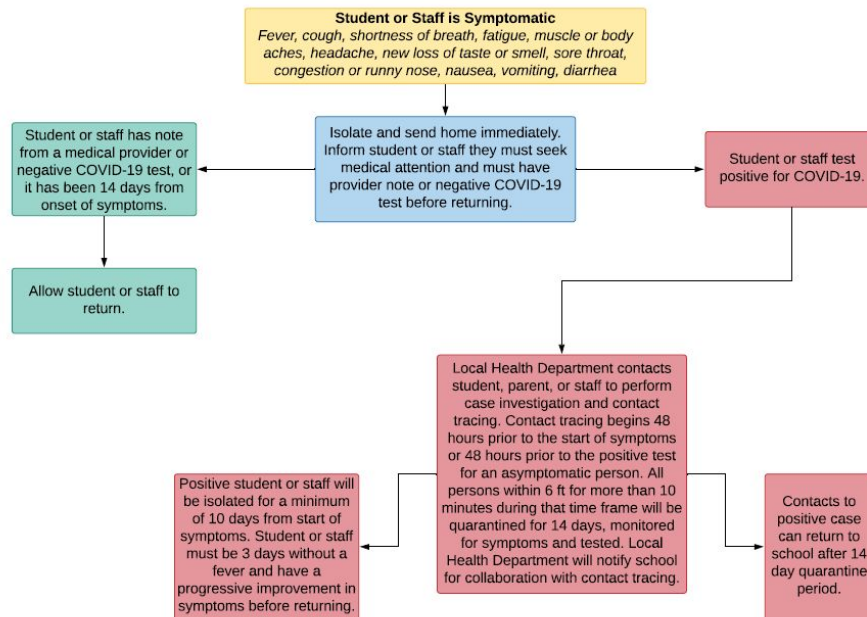
Health Checks

- Students will have their temperature checked before loading on the morning bus.
- All individuals that drive, ride (not a bus), or walk to school will enter at the Elementary gym doors and will be screened before going to the classrooms.
- All employees are required to complete a questionnaire including temperature each day.
- Students will be asked questionnaire questions periodically.

General Guidelines from Public Health

- Social Distancing Information
- Symptomatic or Positive Individuals
- Contact Tracing

School Protocol for Symptomatic or Positive COVID-19 Student or Staff



General Schedule

Pre-K	Pre-K will not be held for the beginning of the 2020-21 School Year.
Kindergarten-1st Grade	Students will attend Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday for ½ day, either AM or PM. Wednesday will be remote learning.
Grades 2	All students will attend all day with modified schedules Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Wednesday will be remote learning.
Grades 3-12	Students will follow an AA (Green)/BB (Orange) schedule. Students will be assigned to a green or orange group. Monday/Tuesday the Green group will attend, Thursday/Friday the Orange group will attend. Wednesday will be remote learning

School lunch will be served for those students that attend all day. When students are not in school they will be offered the opportunity to receive a week supply of food for days when they do not attend according to their schedule.

Typical 5-day In School Schedule

Grade Level	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
K-1	AM/PM	AM/PM	Remote Learning Deep Cleaning Weekly Meal Delivery	AM/PM	AM/PM
2nd	Full Day	Full Day		Full Day	Full Day
3-12	Green All Day Orange Remote Learning	Green All Day Orange Remote Learning		Orange All Day Green Remote Learning	Orange All Day Green Remote Learning

When students are *not* in school they will be participating in remote learning. Normal grading practices will take place.

Pre-Kindergarten (max 36 students)

Why did BRCS decide to not hold Pre-K?

- Pre-K students are not mandated to attend school. NYSED Education Law - EDN § 3201 defines compulsory attendance at a public school are ages 6-16 for students.
- The focus of Pre-Kindergarten curriculum is on socialization and learning in group context. Under current DOH guidelines this type of lesson is not effective.
- Many other districts may receive grant funding, BRCS does not.
- By putting Pre-K on pause, we can have 191 students K-2 attend four days a week in the hybrid model.
- As the year moves forward the school district will reevaluate starting Pre-K again.

Kindergarten-First Grade

- 130 students will attend ½ days, either in the AM or PM.
- Focus on ELA (Phonics, Reading, Writing) and Math lessons
- Social Studies and Science standards are integrated into the ELA curriculum
- All of our students with a disability and our multi-language learners will be able to attend with their cohort.
- Lunches will not be served, but students will be offered to be part of the weekly lunch delivery.

Second Grade

- 61 students will attend full day sessions on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.
- All of our students with a disability and our multi-language learners will be able to attend with their cohort.
- Wednesday students will participate in remote learning.
- Lunch will be eaten in classrooms
- Special areas will push in to the classrooms

3rd Grade - 12th Grade

- Students will follow an AA (Green)/BB (Orange) schedule.
- Students will be assigned to a Green or Orange group. Monday/Tuesday the Green group will attend, Thursday/Friday the Orange group will attend.
- Wednesday will be remote learning
- Special areas (PE, Music, Art, etc.) will be pushing into classrooms or adjusting to online learning.
- Learning will be Synchronous and Asynchronous
- All students will receive a chromebook to take home. The district is trying to verify home connection issues.
- In some cases students will enter school each day and will be scheduled for support in the event that they need technology connections, special education services, academic engagement support, etc.
- Block scheduling will allow for less movement of students.
- We will work with BOCES for HGTC students

Special Circumstances/Other Details

- In some cases, various groups of students will enter school each day and will be scheduled for support in the event that they need technology connections, special education services, academic engagement support, etc.
- CTE/BOCES instruction will be determined in collaboration with BOCES and students will be scheduled accordingly.
- Wednesday is a “Cleaning and Feeding” day.
 - Classrooms will be deep cleaned and disinfected as there is a new cohort entering the building on Thursday
 - For students who receive lunches for remote learning, a weekly delivery will be provided on Wednesdays
- Social/Emotional Health - Counselors will be provided for in person counseling and virtual counseling as schedule permits

Current Support/Planning

- Chromebooks for grades 3-12
- Internal email accounts for grades 3-8, External email accounts for grades 9-12
- Trainings about face mask etiquette, handwashing and respiratory hygiene for staff, faculty and students
- Childcare database will be developed either locally or county wide to create a conduit between those that need childcare and those that may be able to provide childcare

Next

- As it stands today (8/3/20) BRCSD will use a hybrid schedule for teaching and learning. As new regulation and guidelines are released we will need to adjust our plan.
- The District will need input from families regarding transportation.
- We are still waiting for the Governor to announce his directive for schools in the fall.
- Communication to families will be done through:
 - Voice and/or video messaging
 - Emails
 - Peachjar
 - Website
 - BRCS Facebook page
 - Letters
 - News Media