

Bayard Public Schools Continuity of Learning and Reopening Plan



Proposed to Board of Education
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Mission Statement

The mission of Bayard Public Schools is to partner with parents to provide a successful educational experience and diverse opportunities.

Vision Statement

Bayard Public Schools will effectively provide and adapt its programs to meet the needs of its students, today and in the future.

Rationale and Background

In accordance with our mission and vision, Bayard Public Schools has developed this revised Continuity of Learning and Reopening Plan as we strive to provide a successful educational experience for our students during the global COVID-19 pandemic and as we comply with funding requirements from the Federal Government and the Nebraska Department of Education. The partnership of parents has been and will continue to be critical to the success of this joint effort. The content of this plan has been informed by the significant response of parents and staff to recent surveys conducted in partnership with the Nebraska Association of School Boards prior to the 2019-2020 school year and our shared experiences over the past 19 months. The challenges of education in a pandemic have greatly accelerated the pace by which our school continues to adapt to provide programs to meet the needs of students today and in the future.

This Continuity of Learning Plan is an extension of the Emergency Operations Procedures approved by the Bayard Public Schools Board of Education in March of 2020. This plan was updated in July of 2020, again in November of 2020, August of 2021, November 2021, August 2022, January 2023, August 2023, and January 2024. The current revision is intended to provide additional details and direction to students, parents, employees, and patrons of the Bayard Public Schools Community for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year (and beyond) in compliance with provisions of the American Rescue Plan.

Conditions related to the global pandemic change rapidly and the associated guidance for a response to the pandemic is continually adjusted. As such, we know the operational needs of the school district will require monitoring and adjustment moving forward. This plan is intended to be a guide. Effective implementation will require careful and thoughtful actions and adjustments by employees, students, parents, and community members. Bayard Public Schools will adjust plans and programs as conditions, guidance, directives, and mandates change.

Statement of Personal Responsibility

Bayard Public Schools expects each student, parents, staff member, and patron to take personal responsibility for their health and the health of the people around them. Each person has an individual responsibility to take actions to reduce the risk of exposure to disease. Coordination with your medical provider is suggested when making determinations regarding the personal protective equipment, social distancing strategies, hygiene, and other behavioral factors that are implemented along with decisions about whether to participate in face-to-face learning or learning through online instruction opportunities.

Statement Regarding Treatment of Individuals Who Test Positive for COVID-19

Bayard Public Schools expects respectful treatment of every person every day. Bullying, intimidation, threats, and harassment of individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 will not be tolerated. Please be kind, no one is immune to this virus. Modeling kindness for children is an important strategy to help lessen physical and emotional anxiety for the entire community.

Public Health/Agency Guidance and Operational Adjustments

As the level of risk or conditions change the operation of the school may need to be adjusted. The transition period between various modes of operation could be gradual or immediate, depending upon situational factors (such as rate of transmission, severity of illness, and hospital capacity), and guidance from public health and other agencies.

The Bayard Public Schools plan to be open for in-person instruction during the 2023-2024 school year. When authorized by the Principal for health or other reasons, students may be granted permission to attend class via electronic means.

There is currently no declared State of Emergency for Nebraska or Directed Health Measure (DHM) in effect that requires the District to mandate masks or other specific interventions.

District Procedures

Academic/Classroom Procedures Plan

- Hand sanitizer available to students and staff
- Seating charts recommended for academic purposes and if necessary, for close contact notifications.
- Students and staff assist in cleaning/wiping desks and frequently touched objects periodically.
- Use of outdoor spaces for class instruction is encouraged (in coordination with the building principal).
- Social distancing practices encouraged.

Specials

- Students transition to music, art, PE, and media as normal.
- Social distancing practices encouraged.

Special Education/504

- Students will be served as per their IEP/504 Plan.
- Revisit the IEP/504 with the team as needed or requested by parents to discuss, whether or not there are underlying student medical conditions that make school attendance impractical or undesirable to parents, should there be an increase in active virus transmission.
- Discuss whether or not continued attendance under the selected alternate learning schedule is feasible for the student, given any underlying health concerns.
- If school attendance is not possible or desirable, as it may pose a substantial health risk to the student, conduct an IEP, change the student's placement, and coordinate delivery of services through the IEP process.
- If school attendance is possible during elevated transmission of the virus, discuss with the IEP/504 team any additional supports or modifications that need to be made to the students plan during the time that the school is engaged in an alternate learning schedule.

Pathfinders (21st Century Community Learning Center)

- Hand sanitizer available to students and staff
- Seating charts recommended for academic purposes
- Students and staff assist in cleaning/wiping desks and frequently touched objects periodically.
- Use of outdoor spaces for class instruction allowed (in coordination with the building principal).
- Social distancing practices encouraged.
Pathfinders will follow the other components of the school plan regarding food service, and recess.

Early Childhood Education (Preschool)

- Hand sanitizer available to students and staff
- Seating charts recommended for academic purposes
- Students and staff assist in cleaning/wiping desks and frequently touched objects periodically.
- Use of outdoor spaces for class encouraged allowed (in coordination with the building principal).
- Social distancing practices encouraged.

Face Coverings and Social Distancing

- Face coverings allowed for all staff and students
- Social distancing practices encouraged.
- Plastic barriers/shields optional in high traffic areas such as offices.

Water Fountains/Bottle Fillers

- The water fountain is available for use.
- Bottle filler stations are available.
- Students are encouraged to use personal water bottles or disposable cups.
- Regular sanitation of water bottle fillers is performed by custodial staff.

Mobile Device Procedures

- K-6 students are assigned mobile devices specific to each student. Mobile devices remain at school.
- 1:1 program for students in grades 7-12

Screening/Temperature Checks

- Any student or staff member who has a temperature higher than 100° will be checked for a wrist temperature. If the wrist temperature is over 100° the individual will be escorted to a holding area for 15 minutes, then will be re-checked. If the temperature continues to be over 100°, parents will be called and the student will be sent home until fever free (without fever-reducing medications) for at least 24 hours.
- When authorized by the principal, students may attend school via virtual means during such time that they are experiencing fever or symptoms.
- Staff members will communicate with the building principal to determine whether work from home will be possible until fever-free (without fever-reducing medications) for at least 24 hours.

Cleaning/Disinfecting/Sanitizing/Ventilation

- Daily cleaning disinfecting/sanitizing procedures for all occupied locations in the schools according to CDC guidelines.
- Students and staff assist in cleaning/wiping desks and frequently touched objects when transitioning classrooms.
- Staff requests for additional custodial and maintenance needs are submitted to the principal.
- Air handling units adjusted to increase fresh air intake. When feasible, updating of HVAC Units to mitigate COVID-19, and replacement of non-functioning/outdated windows to allow for additional fresh air in school buildings.

Visitors and Deliveries

- All visitors are required to sign-in and obtain a visitor pass to a specific location upon entering school buildings.
- Face coverings recommended for visitors and for those making deliveries.

Mental and Social Emotional Health

- Continue universal supports offered to all students through the school-wide MTSS Model
- Conduct universal screener of students as early in the year as possible, to help identify potential students in need of assistance.
- Increase staff awareness regarding the need to support the mental and social/emotional needs of students as they return to school.
- Provide staff self-care and resiliency strategies to staff.

Activities

- Activities and Athletics will be conducted in accordance with NSAA guidelines.
- Most activities will be streamed live, utilizing the school's Hudl page.
- Students attending school via the HyFlex educational model may participate in activities according to the eligibility criteria in the student handbook.

Lunch

- Lunch served in the cafeteria.
- All students expected to wash hands and/or use hand sanitizers before getting in the lunch line.

Recess

- Schools will continue to have recess as scheduled with hand sanitizer available upon entry and exit from the building to the playground area.

Hallways

- PK-6 students transition normally with staff support
- 7-12--Regular transitions with social distancing encouraged in hallway areas.

Responding to Positive Tests Among Staff and Students

- Individual will be excluded and allowed to return based upon current guidance from CDC at the time.

Busing/Student Transportation and Activities Transportation

- Hand sanitizer available to students and staff
- Seating charts recommended for safety and behavior management purposes are recommended
- Activity transportation provided in the regular manner
- Face coverings for students are recommended.

Vaccinations

- The school district will work with Panhandle Public Health District and local medical providers to share and disseminate information on vaccinations to students, staff, and the community.

Diagnostic Testing and Screening

- The school district will refer symptomatic students and staff to available community testing locations/resources.