



Safely Reopening Blaine County Schools

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted entire communities, states and the world, leaving us all to rethink and change many aspects of our lives. We are on a new journey—something unlike anything we’ve ever seen. The **Blaine County School District** is faced with an extraordinary challenge that requires individual and collective expertise and inquiry to address the needs of students, families, staff and school communities during this unprecedented time.

As we prepare to reopen our schools this fall, we must recognize that this pandemic validates the important role that schools play in contributing to a healthy community. Our schools and families depend on one another. Our district’s re-entry plan will only be effective through a collaborative effort by all community stakeholders. We must responsibly reduce the spread while keeping students on an educational trajectory to prepare them to be college and career ready upon graduation. Schedules may be impacted, learning may look different, roles may change and operations may be adjusted. These shifts in new educational practices are to keep students learning and growing academically, as well as to keep our community healthy and safe.

It is our desire to have all our students in school at all times, as it is the best format to maximize student learning. However, we also know from our experience last spring that there are times when we will be expected to follow more stringent health practices to protect the health and safety of our children and staff.

On July 21, 2020, the BCSB Board of Trustees approved the following guiding principles for development of a re-entry plan.

- Principle 1:** Healthy students and staff should be in school as much as possible.
- Principle 2:** Our schools must be as safe as possible for students and staff.
- Principle 3:** Teachers should be able to reach students in multiple locations, both synchronously and asynchronously.
- Principle 4:** Providing a regular schedule will help our students, families, and staff be as successful as possible in every Plan.
- Principle 5:** Teachers need support in this new learning environment.
- Principle 6:** Students across the district should have equitable access to learning, regardless of where that learning takes place.
- Principle 7:** Simple solutions are usually the best solutions.

This plan will likely **EVOLVE** with time as we determine the best approach to protect community health while providing our students with the best possible educational experience. Together, we can address the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and keep the learning process moving forward.

BLAINE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- Keith Roark, Chair, Zone 3
- Lara Stone, Vice Chair, Zone 5
- Amber Larna, Zone 1
- Dan Turner, Zone 4
- Vacant, Zone 2

2 Options for BCSD Students

There are two options for attending Blaine County School District (BCSD) schools this year:

1) Attend school in person as much as possible

2) Attend school online at all times

1



The model for attending school **in person** will change as the events in our community change.

- All students could be in school at one time, or
- Half of students could attend on a given day while the other half of students learn from home, or
- All students could be learning from home.

This model allows for students to be with their peers as much as possible and works well for students who learn best in person or with frequent support and feedback from the teacher.

2



The model for attending school **online** at all times means full-time BCSD students are enrolled in classes with the Idaho Digital Learning Alliance. These students remain enrolled at their BCSD school and their families will receive school newsletters and other updates. Interested students must enroll through their BCSD school by August 31 and commit to IDLA classes for either a full semester or a full year. This model works well for students who are self starters and can regulate their own learning or have significant support at home. *If you wish to enroll your child in IDLA, please call your child's school.*

SCHOOL CHOICE OFFERINGS COMPARISON

In-Person School	Full Online Learning
Students will be enrolled in BCSD full time.	Students will be enrolled in BCSD full time. (Call your principal for details.)
Students will be in the classroom with their teacher and peers as much as possible.	Students will learn from home through Idaho Digital Learning Alliance (IDLA)
Students will attend school based on the current rate of COVID-19 spread in the community. The model under which school is held (all students, half students, at home) may change.	Students will remain in the online learning model throughout the semester or year and will not need to change models based on local health conditions.
Students start classes September 8	Students start classes August 24.
Elementary students will primarily focus on literacy and math. Other subjects areas will also be incorporated.	Elementary students will participate in literacy and math only with IDLA.
Students will receive instruction from BCSD teachers who are licensed to teach the content.	Students will receive instruction from IDLA teachers who are licensed to teach the content.
Students qualifying for additional services, such as Special Education, 504 accommodations, GATE, or English Language Development, will receive them.	Students qualifying for additional services of special education and/or 504 accommodations will continue to receive them based on their plan.
Students must wear a cloth face covering while at school or school events.	Students do not have to wear a cloth face covering while at home.
Students may participate in extracurricular activities if available.	Students may participate in extracurricular activities if available and wearing a cloth face covering.
No enrollment/tuition fees for Blaine County residents.	No enrollment/tuition fees for the regular course schedule for Blaine County residents.

Attending School in Person As Much As Possible

Students enrolling to attend school as much as possible will change the model under which they participate in school depending on the status of COVID-19 in the community.



2020-2021

All at School	Half at School	All at Home
All students at school using healthy and safe practices	Half of students at school and half learning from home	Distance learning only
<p>Schedule:</p> <p>Regular five day/week schedule according to school master schedules.</p> <p>Social distancing (to the extent that the physical spaces accommodate it) and other safety precautions are implemented.</p> <p><i>*If families prefer an online option, students may maintain BCSD enrollment status and attend courses through IDLA (Idaho Digital Learning Academy). Contact building principals.</i></p>	<p>Schedule:</p> <p>Students will attend school in the classroom two days a week and learn from home the other three days. Friday is a day for teachers to work with individual or small groups of students and work in collaborative teams for developing lessons.</p> <p>Families with a last name that begins with A to L will attend school on Monday and Wednesday and learn from home on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.</p> <p>Families with a last name that begins with M to Z will attend school on Tuesday and Thursday and learn from home on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.</p> <p>Families with children who have multiple last names will follow the schedule for the last name of the oldest child enrolled in BCSD.</p> <p>Case managers may determine that an individual student's plan requires that student to attend four days/week to ensure student goals are met.</p>	<p>Schedule:</p> <p>Adhere to the minimum four hours of learning per day the state assumes for full-day attendance</p> <p><i>Note: Extracurricular activities and after-school activities scheduled at school are cancelled.</i></p>

Determination of which learning plan we use is based on current local/state conditions and on guidance from the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare and/or South Central Public Health District, CDC, the Idaho State Board of Education and the Blaine County Board of Trustees. Depending on the spread of the outbreak, some schools may have all students attending while other schools may only have half of the students attending or none at all.

School Master Schedules

Each school designates master schedules that may include recess, breaks, handwashing, breakfast, lunch, arrivals/departures, interventions, enrichment, teacher collaboration and communicating with families and students.

Flexibility Is Key

Although we desire to have all our students in school each day, we understand that the health and safety of our community is our top priority and we may be called upon to only have some students in school at a time or all students at home. Please make plans for how your family will manage the need to change schedules when called upon to do so.

What Will the School Day Look Like?

When students can attend school in person, there will be some changes to the school day. These changes include the following:

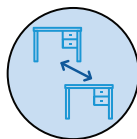


Students and staff will wear face coverings on the bus, in the school yard, in the hallways, and in classrooms.

When students arrive at school, they will be instructed to wash or sanitize their hands and report directly to their classroom.

Classrooms will have less furniture in them. Reading corners, small-group tables, and many of the extra learning materials will be placed in storage.

Student desks and chairs will be moved as far apart as possible.



Teachers will greet students with a warm welcome and silently screen for possible symptoms of illness.

Students will be excited to see their friends. When in our Half at School model, they will only see half their classmates at school.

Teachers will start the class with morning announcements, the Pledge of Allegiance, a class meeting/circle, a team-building exercise, warm-up activities, etc.

Teachers will engage students in explicit social, emotional learning instruction to support them in developing resilience, self-management, and responsible decision making.



Students will be reminded to take a hand-washing break several times throughout the day.

Students will engage in reading, writing, and discussing grade-level text and topics. They will read a number of new fiction and nonfiction texts (selected by teachers last year). Teachers will provide modeling for students, and then support them as they practice new skills. At least part of these lessons will be online so that students can develop their abilities to learn remotely as well as in person.

Students will eat lunch either in their classroom or the lunchroom. There may be more lunch periods per day so fewer students are eating lunch at a time. Students will have an opportunity to move outdoors, distance from each other, and take a mask break.

Students will engage in problem solving and mathematical thinking. They will think, write and speak like mathematicians. Teachers will provide modeling for students, and then support students as they practice new skills. At least part of the lesson will be online so that students develop their abilities to learn remotely as well as in person.



Students will engage in other content areas according to their schedule for the day (such as music, art, physical education, science, world language).

Students may move around the building much less often than in the past. They may attend four classes per day instead of the traditional seven, or their art teacher may come to their classroom rather than students moving to a different room.

Students will prepare to go home, making sure they have their Chromebook and any other materials they may need for learning from home.

Teachers will tell their students how much they will miss them until they see them again, remind them of their online assignments, and tell them to have a good evening.

Students will board the bus with their face cloth on and sit in their assigned seat until they reach their stop. Other students will walk or bike home, or get in their parent's car to go home.



