



Blount County Schools Reopening Plan 2020-2021 Family Information

(Revision Two 6/23/2020)

Blount County Schools will revisit our reopening plan frequently and regularly communicate with stakeholders if changes occur. Thanks for your patience and flexibility as we make decisions to support our students in this ever changing environment.

- ★ Blount County Schools students will return to school on July 29, 2020. Our priorities are the health and safety of students and staff and providing academic instruction to prepare students for the challenges of the 21st century workplace.
 - Schools will open in a traditional manner with a virtual option for families. This choice must be made for planning purposes no later than Friday, July 17, 2020. Parents will declare their intent for learning using the following link:
<https://forms.gle/cQmPRHB8VZhW6PYo6>
 - BCS will **focus on making decisions that are practical and feasible with a student-centered approach**
 - Flexibility will be important as information related to COVID-19 changes daily. Instructional adjustments may need to be made over the course of the 2020-2021 school year.
 - Facts for Parents about school reopening will be communicated prior to the start of school.
 - Communication will occur regularly through the following methods: BCS email, Facebook, Twitter, and School Messenger for families.

Health and Safety Protocols

- ★ Precautions will be implemented including, but not limited to:
 - Hand-sanitizing stations in all classrooms and common spaces
 - Intensive cleaning throughout all buildings
 - Thoughtful group sizes will be established that are feasible and practical in a school setting
 - Face coverings for students are recommended but not mandatory
 - Signage will be posted in all buildings encouraging frequent handwashing and social distancing [Coronavirus disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) How To Protect Yourself](#)
 - Students and staff should remain home if they are sick
 - Parents are requested to complete temperature checks prior to sending children to the school building - temperature checks will be conducted at all schools. [Student Daily Self-Check](#)
 - Facts for Parents about school reopening [BCS Reopening Plan for Families](#)

Academic Instruction

- ★ **Traditional Instruction**
 - Daily instruction will be provided for all students in-person while adhering to additional safety guidance related to group sizes, handwashing, and cleaning.
- ★ **Virtual Instruction**
 - Virtual learning will be provided for families as an alternate option. Specific guidance about requirements for virtual learning including grading and learning expectations will be provided.



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★ Student Supports

Attendance modifications and virtual supports will be made as necessary to support immunocompromised students. Meetings will be conducted at the school level to determine specific supports for each student's unique needs.

- If another long term closure occurs, Blount County Schools will provide alternate learning options. [BCS Reopening Plan Options for Long Term Closure](#)

Operations

★ Visitors

- Visitors to buildings during normal operating hours will be limited by appointment only. All visitors will have a health and temperature screening.

★ Custodial Services

- enhanced daily and weekly cleaning protocols

★ Extended School Program

- continue operations at 13 elementary sites
- follow enhanced cleaning and safety protocols

★ Extracurricular Activities

- follow [Summer 2020 Student Activities Guidance](#)
- be prepared for updates as information becomes available from the TDOE, TSSAA and CDC

★ Health Services

- hand-sanitizer available in all classrooms and common spaces
- LPNs full-time for the first nine-weeks to assist with temperature checks of visitors and provide medical support to students
- handwashing breaks provided where feasible
- personal hygiene practices encouraged
- daily staff and student temperature checks

★ School Nutrition

- grab-and-go and pre-dished meals available
- spaced seating and alternate eating locations to limit group sizes where feasible
- enhanced cleaning protocols including the increased use of PPE

★ Transportation

- drivers will assign one student per seat for social distancing purposes where feasible and



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practical and adjust seating throughout route

- seating with family members will be encouraged
- provide training on new procedures and cleaning protocols with drivers and owners
- parents are encouraged to drop-off and pick-up students to lower bus capacity
- guest riders will be limited to emergency situations only as approved by the principal
- morning drop-off of middle and high school students at elementary schools will be prohibited
- buses will be cleaned daily

★ Procedures for a confirmed case of COVID-19

- If a positive test for COVID-19 occurs in a school building with a student or staff member, district and school administrators will work with local health officials who will take the lead on notifications and contact tracing.
- In accordance with state and local laws and regulations, school administrators should notify other staff while maintaining confidentiality in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA).
- Potential school closure will be based on the level of risk determined by the school/district. If the school is closed due to COVID-19, then virtual learning will be initiated.
- If a closure is needed for intensive cleaning, communication will be provided.
- The student/staff member with COVID-19 will not be allowed to return to school for a minimum of 14 calendar days and must be fever free for 72 hours immediately prior to returning.

Please submit any questions related to the BCS reopening plan to bcsreopens@blountk12.org