

BPS Doc. v1.16

Based on Guidelines of:



# Bridgeport Public Schools

## Reopening Plan: Fall 2020

### **"Welcome Back Bridgeport!"**

Michael J. Testani  
Superintendent of Schools



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# A Message from the Superintendent of Schools

Welcome Back Bridgeport Public Schools,

Due to positive containment efforts in Connecticut, Governor Lamont has announced a plan for reopening schools in the fall. Reopening schools in-person can be successfully achieved based upon current health data. Connecticut has determined it is appropriate to plan a consistent approach to the school schedule, but we will be prepared to modify plans as necessary. Maximizing in-person instructional time after the current period of disruption is critical to the academic and emotional well-being of our students. It is important to mention that schools will not be as we once knew them for a period of time, but the education and well-being of our students has not changed. BPS will be prepared to modify our reopening model to support a partial reopening if the public health data changes.

The BPS is committed to ensure the health and safety of our students and staff as we plan our return to school buildings. We will take strong mitigation strategies to reopen our schools in a safe and responsible way. We examined our school facilities and made all necessary changes in order to meet all of the established health and safety guidelines. We will implement every necessary measure to protect our students, staff, and families as we begin to return to school.

**As Bridgeport Public Schools plan to reopen, considerations are grounded in the following guiding principles:**

1. Safeguarding the health & safety of students and staff.
2. Allowing all students the opportunity to return into the classrooms full time starting in the fall.
3. Monitoring school populations and making any necessary adjustments to our schedule if public health data changes.
4. Emphasizing equity, access, and support to our students and community as we emerge from a significant disruption to our students' education.
5. Fostering strong communication with all of our families, educators, and staff.
6. Making decisions about reopening considering all the challenges to the physical safety and social-emotional well-being of our students when they are not in school.

I understand there is a lot of anxiety surrounding the safe reopening of schools in the fall. It may seem like a daunting task at this time, but I am confident that BPS will be prepared to welcome our students, families, and staff back to a safe and positive learning environment. Schools will certainly be different than they were prior to March 12, 2020 when we closed for the remainder of the school year. We convened a Fall Reopening Task Force to develop a plan that will provide all students with a meaningful instructional and social emotional program. The Fall Reopening Task Force was thoughtful and deliberate in their planning knowing that we have an enormous responsibility to ensure the health and safety of over 24,000 students and staff. I am confident that we achieved our goal with our "Welcome Back Bridgeport" plan.

**Michael J. Testani**

**Superintendent of Schools  
Bridgeport Public Schools**

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# Reopening Our Schools – Fall of 2020



In planning for the reopening of the Bridgeport Public Schools, it has been essential to envision the safest environment and the highest quality instruction for the school community. Based on guidelines provided to school districts from the Connecticut State Department of Education and the State of Connecticut, the **Bridgeport Public Schools are currently planning for a “full, safe, and appropriate” reopening of our schools in the fall of 2020.**

A “full” reopening refers to the desire to have all students and all staff return in the fall for a traditional full day of school with all necessary modifications given the pandemic.

A “safe” reopening refers to adherence to expectations and guidelines from the State of Connecticut, the CDC, the local health officials, and other sources that will be in place to ensure that the schools’ environments support learning during this time of COVID-19.

An “appropriate” reopening refers to high standards of teaching and learning along with social and emotional support that are expected to be in place for all schools and all students.





A core belief in reopening our schools is that the children of Bridgeport need to be connected in-person once again to our schools’ academics, activities, arts and music, and athletics led in person by their teachers and coaches. As our schools reopen in the fall, the plan is to phase in all aspects of school life in the safest and most appropriate manner.

In order to reopen, the Superintendent of Schools and the Bridgeport Board of Education have tasked the **2020 Fall Reopening Task Force** with the charge of reviewing all reopening guidelines from the State of Connecticut and developing expectations for the schools to assist each school in their efforts to plan for the fall of 2020. This document “Welcome Back Bridgeport” is available to the entire Bridgeport Community including staff, parents, and community members.

As the Bridgeport Public Schools value the contributions and suggestion of parents, families, and students in the decision-making process, the **2020 Fall Reopening Task force** will continue to play an active role in the reopening process in order to build trust and credibility for the plans that are to be implemented. Parents and community members are invited to give regular feedback and suggestions concerning the plan to reopen and phase in school life.

# Bridgeport Public Schools Priorities

The Bridgeport Public Schools and the 2020 Fall Reopening Task Force have identified priority areas that must be in place to reopen, including: (1) the safety of the students and staff; (2) the development of appropriate educational opportunities; (3) the awareness of social and emotional well-being of students, families, and staff; and (4) the expectation that all children will grow and achieve by June 2021.

	<p><b>Safety of Students and Staff</b></p> <p>Our schools will be prepared to reinforce healthy practices among our staff and students, take preventative actions to prevent the spread of all respiratory illnesses, and prepare for any potential cases or increased transmission of COVID-19.</p>
	<p><b>Development of Appropriate Educational Opportunities</b></p> <p>Our schools will reopen with instructional schedules and model options that are flexible and based on current transmission levels, understanding that we may start the school year with one model, and as new information becomes available about health and safety, may transition to different models.</p>
	<p><b>Awareness of Social and Emotional Well-Being</b></p> <p>Our schools will reopen knowing that the COVID-19 pandemic has created different types of traumatic experiences and high levels of stress for many of our staff, students, and families. The pandemic has shown the importance of social/emotional well-being for all. In addition, there is a growing body of research proving that social/emotional learning (SEL) is fundamental to academic success.</p>
	<p><b>Growth and Achievement by June 2021</b></p> <p>Our schools will implement initial, mid, and end of year assessments (formative and summative assessments) in order to inform instruction and support student learning.</p>

In addition to our own priorities, the Bridgeport Public Schools are expected to follow the guidelines of the State Department of Education - *Adapt, Advance Achieve: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together*, published on June 29, 2020. The guidelines of the state may change prior to the school reopening in the fall.

The document from the state is “intended to be a fluid document that will evolve based on the public health data trends as well as the understanding of the best way to mitigate spread. As we proceed toward the fall, we will continue to receive input from our educational partners, students, and families and will continue to work toward providing the best opportunities for our greatest resource—the students in the State of Connecticut.”

# State of Connecticut Guidelines & Expectations



*from ADAPT, ADVANCE, ACHIEVE: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together*

Due to positive containment efforts in Connecticut, reopening schools in-person can be successfully achieved based upon current data. Connecticut has determined it is appropriate to plan a consistent approach to the operating model (schedule), but be prepared to modify plans as necessary. Maximizing in-person instructional time after the current period of disruption is critical. However, given the uncertainty planning for reopening months from now, schools must be prepared to modify their reopening model to support a partial reopening if the public health data changes.

**Schools should plan to have all students, in all districts, return to school for full-time instruction at the beginning of 2020-2021, so long as public health data continues to support this model. This model will be supported with more intensive mitigation strategies and specific monitoring, containment, and class cancellation plans.**

**As Connecticut schools plan to reopen, the guidance and considerations outlined in this document are grounded in six guiding principles:**



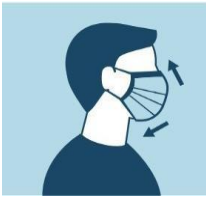
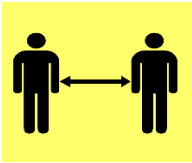

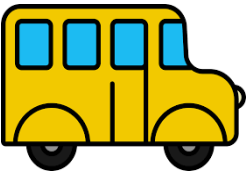
1. Safeguarding the health & safety of students and staff;
2. Allowing *all* students, the opportunity to return into the classrooms *full-time* starting in the fall;
3. Monitoring the school populations and, when necessary, potentially cancelling classes in the future to appropriately contain COVID-19 spread;
4. Emphasizing equity, access, and support to the students and communities who are emerging from this historic disruption;
5. Fostering strong two-way communication with partners such as families, educators and staff; and
6. Factoring into decisions about reopening the challenges to the physical safety and social-emotional well-being of our students when they are not in school

## Main Operational Considerations

	<p><b>Cohorting:</b> Emphasize grouping students by the same class/group of students and teacher (into a cohort) so each team functions independently as much as possible. Consider this methodology by grade levels. Placing students in cohorts is strongly encouraged for grades K-8, and encouraged where feasible for grades 9-12.</p>		<p><b>Transportation:</b> Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) should plan for buses to operate close to capacity with heightened health and safety protocols, including requiring all students and operators wear face coverings. Plans must be developed to activate increased social distancing protocols based upon community spread.</p>
	<p><b>Social Distancing and Facilities:</b> Review building space and reconfigure available classroom space, such as gymnasiums and auditoriums, to maximize social distancing, consistent with public health guidelines in place at that time.</p>		<p><b>Face Coverings:</b> All staff and students will be expected to wear a protective face covering or face mask that completely covers the nose and mouth when inside the school building, except for certain exceptions including when teachers are providing instruction.</p>




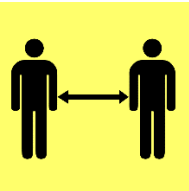



# Bridgeport Public Schools Student Expectations

	<p><b>Stay home if feeling sick.</b> Students must stay home if they are feeling sick, have any symptoms consistent with COVID-19, or have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19.</p>
	<p><b>Morning health check by parents required.</b> In order to prevent transmission among the school population, parents are instructed to screen students before leaving for school. Check to ensure temperature is below <b>100.4 degrees</b> Fahrenheit and observe for symptoms associated with COVID 19 outlined by public health officials.</p>
	<p><b>Face coverings or masks required.</b> Students must wear face coverings or masks that completely cover the nose and mouth while inside the school and on the bus, with exceptions only for those students for whom it is not safe to do so due to medical conditions. "Mask Breaks" will be provided during the day. Parents will be responsible for providing students with face coverings or masks. Schools will have backup disposable masks available for students who forget them.</p>
	<p><b>Social distancing required.</b> Students must maintain social distancing to the greatest extent possible. Students are expected to practice social distancing when entering and exiting the building, in classrooms, and moving throughout the school. Sharing of school supplies and materials will not be allowed.</p>
	<p><b>Frequent hand washing or hand sanitizing expected.</b> Students must engage in frequent hand washing or sanitizing upon arrival, before and after meals, after bathroom use, and after coughing or sneezing.</p>
	<p><b>Students may not change buses.</b> Students will be expected to ride the same bus to school in the morning and the same bus to home in the afternoon every day. Face coverings or masks should be in place prior to entering the bus.</p> <p><i>Parents are strongly urged to drive their children to school each day.</i></p>



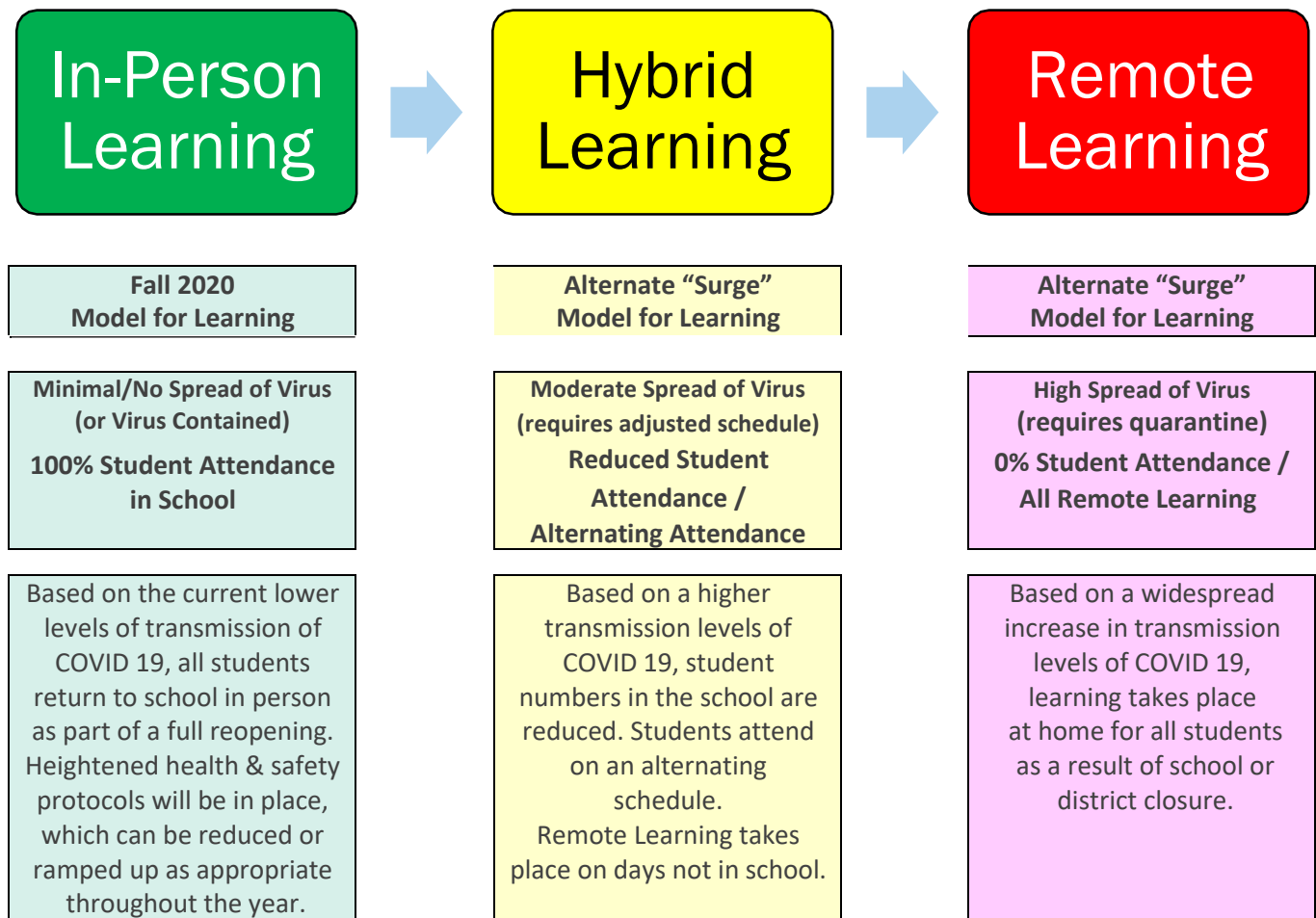
# Bridgeport Public Schools Adult Expectations

	<p><b>Stay home if feeling sick.</b> Teachers and staff must stay home if they are feeling sick, have any symptoms consistent with COVID-19, or have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19.</p>
	<p><b>Morning self-screening required.</b> In order to prevent transmission among the school population, teachers and staff are instructed to self-screen before leaving for school. Check to ensure temperature is below <b>100.4 degrees</b> Fahrenheit and observe for symptoms associated with COVID 19 outlined by public health officials.</p>
	<p><b>Face coverings or masks required.</b> Teachers and staff must wear face coverings or masks that completely cover the nose and mouth while inside the school, with exceptions only for those for whom it is not safe to do so due to medical conditions. "Mask Breaks" will be provided during the day. Teachers will be allowed to remove masks during direct instruction with permission and greater social distancing. Schools will have backup disposable masks available for teachers and staff.</p>
	<p><b>Social distancing required.</b> Teachers and staff must maintain social distancing to the greatest extent possible.</p>
	<p><b>Frequent hand washing or hand sanitizing expected.</b> Teachers and staff and staff must engage in frequent hand washing or sanitizing upon arrival, before and after meals, after bathroom use, and after coughing or sneezing.</p>

# Teaching/Learning Models

The Bridgeport Schools are committed to in-person learning which means a full reopening of school, following all guidelines and expectations of the State and maintaining health standards in accordance with the Health Department. However, if there is surge of COVID 19, an increase of local cases, or the occurrence of in-school cases, the learning models may need to be adjusted as a result. Learning models that include Hybrid Learning and/or Distance Learning will only be utilized by the Bridgeport Schools if required by the State of Connecticut or the Health Department.

## Bridgeport Public Schools Learning Continuum:



When our students return to school with our In-Person Learning Model, the Bridgeport Public Schools will do everything possible to make the school experience similar to what has been in the past. While some aspects of school will look different when students and staff first return this fall. Our goal will be to achieve a sense of normalcy over the course of the school year as the situation allows and safety concerns are alleviated.

Throughout the year, the Bridgeport Public Schools will be prepared to adjust plans based on health indicators and guidance from state and local health officials (see chart below).

In-Person Learning



Hybrid Learning



Remote Learning

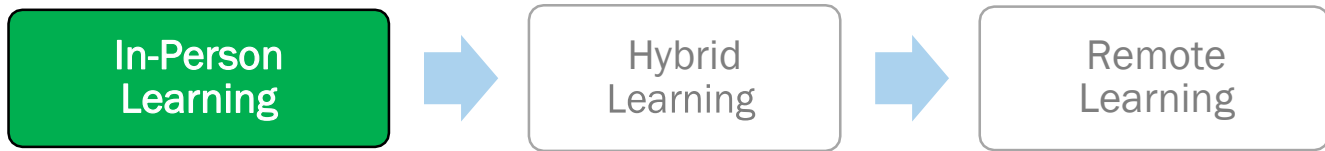
Minimal/No Spread of Virus (or Virus Contained) 100% Student Attendance In-School	Moderate Spread of Virus (requires adjusted schedule) Reduced Student Attendance / Alternating Attendance	High Spread of Virus (requires quarantine) 0% Student Attendance / All Remote Learning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schools operating up to 100% capacity, students/staff with underlying medical conditions may consider remote learning</li> <li>Buses up to full capacity with face coverings/masks in place during transit, controlled loading/unloading of riders</li> <li>Face coverings/masks for students and staff while inside school buildings</li> <li>Identification/isolation of sick students/staff</li> <li>Cohorting of students used, particularly in Grades K-8, restrictions on group activities</li> <li>Maximize spacing of seating as feasible</li> <li>Increased cleaning and sanitization protocols</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schools operating at reduced capacity, with reliance on hybrid model.</li> <li>Buses at reduced capacity, face coverings/masks in place during transit, controlled loading/unloading of riders, spaced seating for riders</li> <li>Face coverings/masks for students and staff while inside school buildings</li> <li>Identification/isolation of sick students/staff</li> <li>Cohorting of students used, restrictions on congregating, staggered start/stop times</li> <li>Maximize spacing of seating up to six feet or more when feasible with reduced class sizes</li> <li>Specific and increased cleaning and sanitization protocols</li> <li>Indoor extracurricular activities suspended</li> <li>Sports and other outdoor activities may continue with restrictions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schools closed, 100% Remote Learning</li> <li>Bus transportation suspended</li> <li>All extracurricular activities, including sports suspended</li> </ul>

See accompanying charts on Monitoring COVID 19 and Pandemic Planning in this guide.

The State of Connecticut is expecting all schools to have **all students**, in all districts, return to school for full-time instruction at the beginning of the 2020–2021 school year. At the same time, school districts must be prepared to modify planning to support a partial reopening or to allow for scaling back even further to a full closure at a future date if the public health data changes.

Priorities and requirements identified in **Adapt, Advance Achieve: Connecticut’s Plan to Learn and Grow Together** serve as the basis for the Bridgeport Public Schools - “Reopening our Schools” planning guide.

# Fall 2020 Teaching/Learning Model



The in-person model of learning that will be in place for the reopening of the schools is described below:

**IN-PERSON LEARNING** Traditional Schedule with Health & Safety Expectations – All students attend every day.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Students and teachers attend every day with all State guidelines and expectations in place. Classroom learning and instructional activities are adjusted to provide the</b>				

**\* REMOTE LEARNING PARALLEL TRACK – Some students learn at home due to medical concern, illness, quarantine, or other reasons with support from the school.**

Students with health concerns, illness, or quarantine order will participate in a **Remote Learning Parallel Track** in which the student learns at home **with parent support in place**. This track aids in a return to school at the appropriate point after illness, quarantine, or when families decide to re-enter. In order to smoothly re-enter school after an extended time out and begin participating in the traditional schedule, it is strongly encouraged for students and parents engage in Remote Learning provided or some other plan approved by the Principal of the school. The State of Connecticut has designed a Remote Learning Hub (<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Academic-Office/CT-Learning-Hub>) for students who do not return right away. Students on this track will be allowed to enter school at any point in time.

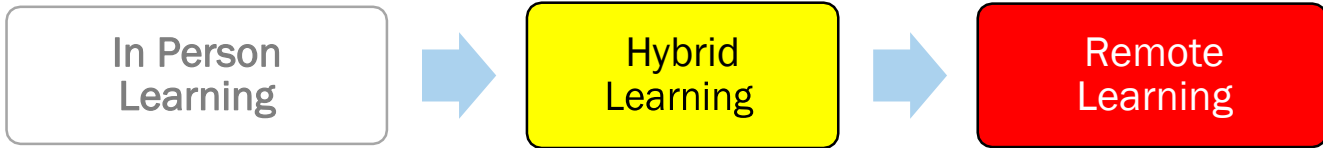
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Students and parents engage in Remote Learning with materials and support from the school. Classroom learning and instructional activities are shared through contact with the State’s remote hub.</b>				

**\* HOME SCHOOLING – Parent/Guardian led instruction at home with no direct support from the school.**

Students may participate in **Home Schooling**, in which the parent chooses all instructional materials and is solely responsible for student learning. **This model is appropriate for families who do not wish to continue with computer-based learning at home or those who do not feel the Remote Learning model provided by the State of Connecticut to be an appropriate model for their child.** This model does not necessarily prepare students for a return to school without possible gaps in learning. Parents who wish to keep their students out of school for an extended portion of the year or the entire year may consider this model.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Students and parents engage in learning at home with <b>NO materials and support</b> from the <b>Bridgeport Public School District</b>.</b>				

# Alternate Models for Learning



In recognition of uncertainty, the Bridgeport Public Schools are prepared for different scenarios:

**HYBRID LEARNING** REDUCED SCHOOL POPULATIONS – As a result of surge in COVID 19, smaller groups of students are returned to school (alternating students).

Alternate school schedules that could be used if the State of Connecticut and/or local health officials place limits on student access to schools/busses due to surge of COVID 19 are listed below. When students are not in school, they are working at home with materials provided from the teacher and school.

**A-B Days (Students go to school on alternate days)**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Student Group A in school	Student Group B in school	Student Group A in school	Student Group B in school	A & B Groups Remote Learning with Teachers

**A-B Weeks (Students go to school on alternate weeks)**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Student Group A in school	→			
Student Group B in school	→			




**REMOTE LEARNING** Short Term Closure or Long-Term Closure

Students and parents engage in Remote Learning with materials and support from the school. Classroom learning and instructional activities are shared through contact with Teacher. This is the Remote Learning model from the spring of 2020 with a blend of synchronous and asynchronous learning.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Remote Learning 100% of Students	Remote Learning 100% of Students	Half day of Remote Learning (Teacher Prep)	Remote Learning 100% of Students	Remote Learning 100% of Students

# Monitoring COVID 19

The Bridgeport Public Schools will follow a traditional schedule of school while monitoring the level of transmission of COVID 19 with the assistance of the Health Department. Ideally, the City of Bridgeport will remain in the “green” level with little or no community transmission. School schedules and/or protocols may be adjusted if the community enters a “yellow” level with minimal or moderate community transmission. If there is a substantial surge in local cases, based on guidance from the State of Connecticut and/or the Health Department, the school will likely revert to a Remote Learning Model similar in nature to the spring of 2020.

		
<b>LITTLE or NO COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION</b> Minimal/No spread of Virus (or Virus Contained)	<b>MINIMAL OR MODERATE COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION</b> Moderate Spread of Virus (requires possible adjusted schedule and adjusted transportation)	<b>SUBSTANTIAL COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION</b> High Spread of Virus (requires quarantine)
Instruction is 100% in-person	Instruction is 100% in-person or a possible Hybrid	Instruction is 100% Remote Learning
Daily attendance rates monitored	Daily attendance rates monitored and shared with local health officials	Attendance for Remote Learning is monitored based on participation from home
Teaching and reinforcing of healthy hygiene	Concentrated reinforcement of healthy hygiene	Communication to home on healthy hygiene practices
Prevention measures in place	Heightened prevention measures in place	Strict prevention measures in place for essential personnel
Social distancing in place	Heightened social distancing in place with limitations in activities/events	Quarantine measures in place
Group gatherings/events limited; all events require approval	Group gatherings/events postponed	All group gatherings/events canceled
Remain prepared for Remote Learning while learning is in-person at school	Active Preparation for Remote Learning and/or short-term school dismissals resulting in possible Distance learning for two-week periods	Continued engagement in Distance Learning during extended school dismissals and/or closures for long periods
Cleaning and disinfecting in place	Intensified cleaning and sanitizing in place	Classroom and buildings sanitized and shut down
Regular communication with local health officials	Coordination of closure with local health officials	Order of closure from local health officials and/or Executive Order for closure from Governor’s Office

Note: All plans are subject to change/adjustments as appropriate.

# COVID-19 Cases in School



**IN SCHOOL  
TRANSMISSION**

If a student, staff member or visitor has been present in school and has a **confirmed diagnosis** of COVID- 19, the School Nurse and/or the building Principal will contact Central Office and the Superintendent of Schools in accordance with FERPA, privacy expectations, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The Superintendent of Schools notifies the local health officials immediately.

The City of Bridgeport Health Department will assess risk of further transmission in the school.

**Decisions are made concerning:**

- CONTACT TRACING
- CLOSURE
- CLEANING
- CONTINUITY OF EDUCATION
- REOPENING OF SCHOOL

The decision to suspend or close a school (or the entire school district) will be made by the Superintendent or designee based on information and recommendation from local health officials. Board of Education members and town officials are notified of closure as well as the State Department of Education.

Schools will likely implement a short-term closure regardless of community spread if an infected person has been in a school building. The District will follow the recommendations of the City of Bridgeport Health Department and the CDC to determine appropriate next steps. This initial short-term dismissal allows time for the local health officials to gain a better understanding of the COVID-19 situation impacting the school. This also allows the Superintendent, in consultation with the local health officials, to determine appropriate next steps, including whether an extended dismissal duration is needed to stop or slow further spread of COVID-19.

All communications to the school community including staff and families are made through the Office of the Superintendent.

During school closures all learning and instruction will occur using the **Remote Learning** method.

During school closures, all extracurricular activities, athletics, and school-based afterschool programs are canceled.

**A confirmed case in the school building:**

**Assess risk with local health officials.**

**Plan for closure to clean, disinfect, and contact trace in consultation with the Health Department.**

# District Reopen Task Force

## **Task Force Members**

- Michael J Testani, Superintendent
- John Weldon, BOE Chair
- Hernan Illingworth, BOE Member
- Joseph Sokolovic, BOE Member
- Dr. Victor Black, Executive Director of Secondary Education and Magnet Programs
- Herminio Planas, Executive Director of Elementary Education and Mathematics
- Dr. Selena Morgan, Executive Director of Elementary Education
- Dr. Melissa Jenkins, Executive Director of Early Childhood Education
- Marlene Siegel. CFO
- Denise Altro-Dixon, Executive Director of Human Resources
- Dementred Young, Director of Social Work
- Robert Arnold, Interim Executive Director of Specialized Instruction
- Ana Sousa-Martins, Director of Bilingual Education
- Jeffrey M. Postolowski Sr., Director of Information Technology Services
- Dan Shamas, City of Bridgeport Mayor's Office
- Tony Pires
- Eric Graf, CHS Principal
- Dane Brown, WHHS Principal
- Luisa Wolfe, Johnson Principal
- Charmaine Worthy, Tisdale Principal
- Lizette Earley, Nursing Supervisor
- Lt. Paul Grech, Bridgeport PD
- Robert Hammond, Director of Facilities
- Lisa Morrissey, Director of Health
- Scott Appleby, Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
- Teachers
- Keith Taylor, High School (High School perspective)
- Ana Batista, Elementary (Elementary School perspective)

## **Staff**

- Steven Douglas, BCAS President
- James Meszoros, NAGE President
- Sherrie Weller, AFSME President

## **Parents**

- Tatiana Urena, High School Parent
- Patty Roberts, High School Parent
- Tony Bermudez Elementary Parent
- Chaila Robinson, Elementary Parent



# District Reopening Committees

## Health & Safety

<b>Chair</b>	<b>Scott Appleby</b>			<b>Lisa Morrissey</b>			<b>Lizette Earley</b>	
Members	James Meszoros	Dr. Melissa Jenkins	Bobby Hammond	Alan Wallack	Lt. Paul Grech	Hernan Illingworth	Tatiana Urena	

## Calendars and Daily/Weekly Schedules

<b>Chair</b>	<b>Steven Douglas</b>				<b>Luisa Wolf</b>		
Members	Dane Brown	Herminio Planas	PJ Karaffa	Chaila Robinson	Ana Batista		

## Educational & Programmatic Supports

<b>Chair</b>	<b>Jeffrey Postolowski</b>			<b>Sherrie Weller</b>		
Members	John Weldon	Tony Pires	Dr. Charmaine Worthy	Dr. Selena Morgan		

## Contracts & Budgets

<b>Co-Chairs</b>	<b>Joseph Sokolovic</b>			<b>Marlene Siegel</b>		
Members	Denise Altro-Dixon	James Meszoros	Sherrie Weller	Ana Batista		

## Teaching/Learning and SEL

<b>Co-Chair</b>	<b>Dr. Eric Graf</b>			<b>Dementred Young</b>		
Members	Tony Bermudez	Keith Taylor	Ana Sousa-Martins	Patti Roberts		
	Dr. Victor Black	Carrie Ramanauskas				

## Internal and External Communications

<b>Chair</b>	<b>Michael J. Testani</b>						
Members	Michael Testani	Dan Shamas	Tim Grasty	Rita Valle-Shastri			

# School Reopening



The purpose of this section of the document, “Welcome Back Bridgeport” is to articulate a [checklist for reopening](#). The checklist is meant to be shared with staff, families, and community members. The length of time for the various protocol will be adjusted based on expectations from the State of Connecticut and local health officials.

**Compliance Liaison:** The Superintendent of Schools will serve as COVID-19 Health & Safety Compliance Liaison and COVID-19 Response Leader.

- The Superintendent of Schools will engage with students, parents/guardians, faculty, staff, and administrators to answer questions about the health & safety requirements set out in this document and address questions about compliance.
- The Superintendent of Schools will support the implementation of these requirements, as well as the implementation of other school health & safety measures relating to COVID-19 and any additional guidance provided by the State of Connecticut and the Health Department.

Each school will be responsible for making sure the approved Reopening Plan is implemented as part of each building’s reopening procedure. The checklists on the following pages provide guidance for the 2020 Fall Reopening Task Force. Checklist items are categorized as follows:



# Mandatory Checklist - Health & Wellness



## Health & Wellness

The health and safety of students and staff is the top priority in planning for the Bridgeport Public Schools' reopening. Bridgeport Public Schools will work in collaboration with local health officials, the Connecticut State Department of Education, and the Office of the Governor in planning for health and wellness procedures, as well as making decisions regarding the status of school.

### Health expectations for reopening the Bridgeport Public Schools

<b>1</b>	<b>Conditions for reopening have been confirmed by the State of Connecticut and/or local health officials.</b>
	The State of Connecticut has lifted, adjusted, or removed any school closure or Executive Order allowing schools to physically reopen.
	The local health officials have determined that local conditions safely allow for schools to physically reopen.
<b>2</b>	<b>Planning guidelines for reopening have been issued by the State of Connecticut and Bridgeport plans have been developed and approved at the local level under the supervision of the Superintendent of Schools.</b>
	The State of Connecticut and State Department of Education have issued guidelines on which school reopening plans are to be based.
	The Bridgeport reopening plan, "Welcome Back Bridgeport!" has been developed in consultation with the Health Department.
	The Bridgeport reopening plan, "Welcome Back Bridgeport!" has been approved by the Bridgeport Public Schools District 2020 Fall Reopening Task Force.
	The Bridgeport reopening plan, "Welcome Back Bridgeport!" has been approved by the Bridgeport Board of Education.
<b>3</b>	<b>The Director of Nursing has confirmed that there is adequate protective equipment in place for reopening.</b>
	There is protective equipment (including masks) for students in the classrooms and throughout the facilities.
	There is protective equipment (including masks and PPE) for staff appropriate for each classification or duty.
	There is a plan for an ongoing supply of protective equipment.
	There is a sufficient number of no-touch thermal scan thermometers for symptom screenings.
	There is sufficient PPE for the staff of various populations of students with disabilities (i.e., for those requiring medical procedures, toileting, lifting and mobility assistance).
	There is a sufficient supply of school-appropriate cleaning supplies to continuously disinfect the school site in accordance with State of Connecticut & DPH guidance.
	There are sufficient supplies that include hand sanitizers, soap, handwashing stations, tissues, no-touch trash cans, and paper towels.

## Checklist - Health & Wellness

<b>4</b>	<b>The Superintendent of Schools has established a procedure should there be COVID-19 cases in the schools or in the community that could possibly impact the schools.</b>
	The City of Bridgeport has updated the Bridgeport Pandemic Response Plan that includes procedures for a cases or cases of COVID-19. This procedure includes the Superintendent communicating to the local health officials when a student, teacher, or staff member or a member of their household has tested positive for COVID-19 and has possibly exposed others at the school.
	The Principals and Director of Facilities have procedures for <b>isolating an area</b> of the school for a length of time based on (1) a positive COVID-19 case or cases in the school and (2) the risk level within the school/community as determined by the Health Department.
	The Superintendent of Schools has a procedure for the <b>closure of schools</b> for a length of time based on (1) a positive COVID-19 case or cases and (2) the risk level within the school/community as determined by the local health officials.
	The Board of Education has granted the Superintendent the authority to take any lawful actions necessary to ensure the continuation of public education, provide for the health and safety of students and employees, or to respond to direction form the State of Connecticut and/or the Health Department.
	The Board of Education has granted the Superintendent the authority to limit access to public school grounds and school buildings during school closures or elevated levels of transmission in the area.
	Under the supervision of the Executive Directors, the schools are able to provide for a continuity of instruction / remote learning, if necessary.
	Under the supervision of the Director of Special Education, the schools will be prepared for any special or unique needs for students with disabilities related to planned district or school wide procedures.
	Under the supervision of the Director of Food Services and the CFO, the schools are able to provide for continuity of meal service, if necessary.
<b>5</b>	<b>The Board of Education has authorized limited access and/or restricted access to the schools by the public.</b>
	The Board of Education has approved restricting access to the school buildings during the school day by nonessential visitors and minimal use of school buildings outside of school hours.
	Students, parents/guardians, caregivers, and staff are excluded from school facilities if showing symptoms of COVID-19 or if a member of their household has tested positive for COVID-19.
<b>6</b>	<b>The Director of Nursing and Principals have organized a screening procedure for students at home and to the extent possible, at school.</b>
	Passive Screening: Parents are instructed to screen students before leaving for school by checking to ensure temperatures below <b>100.4 degrees</b> Fahrenheit and to observe for symptoms consistent with COVID-19. Parents/guardians are asked to keep students at home if they are feeling sick, have any symptoms associated with COVID 19, or have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19.
	Active Screening: Schools will screen students as they enter school consistent with state and local health guidance, which includes visual wellness checks and any necessary follow-up temperature checks with no-touch thermometers (checking to ensure temperatures below <b>100.4 degrees</b> Fahrenheit). Students will be observed for illnesses including cough or respiratory distress. Students may be asked about COVID-19 symptoms within the last 24 hours and whether anyone in their home has had COVID-19 symptoms or a positive test. <i>NOTE: Screening procedures for all children are not required at the point of entry to the school. However, school staff will observe students throughout the day and refer students who may be symptomatic to the school nurse.</i> <i>NOTE: Temperature checks for all children at the point of entry will not be included due to the high likelihood of potential false positive and false negative results, but will be available in the school under the supervision of the school nurse.</i>

## Checklist - Health & Wellness

<b>6 cont.</b>	
	In screening students who appear ill, only the nurse shall use a thermometer requiring a touch method (under the tongue or arm, forehead, etc.). Caution will be taken by the nurse included wearing gloves, eye protection, and a mask.
	<b>Students with a temperature greater than 100.4 degrees <u>are not permitted into the school</u>. Students will be allowed to return 24 hours after a fever has broken, or with a note from their healthcare provider, or with a documented negative COVID-19 test.</b>
	The school nurse will monitor screening information / data of students while complying with relevant privacy and health laws.
	The school nurse will monitor symptoms in students and staff that could be related to COVID-19, with the goal of decreasing the risk of spreading or contracting the virus while complying with relevant privacy and health laws.
	The Principals will oversee procedures for all students to sanitize hands as they board buses.
	The Principals will oversee procedures for all students to sanitize hands upon entering schools.
	The Principals will oversee that upon entry to school large gatherings are avoided. Students will proceed directly to classrooms or small group designated areas.
<b>7</b>	<b>The Director of Nursing and Principals have organized a screening of staff at home and to the extent possible, at school.</b>
	Screening: Staff are instructed to self-screen before leaving for school by checking to ensure temperatures below <b>100.4 degrees</b> Fahrenheit and to observe for symptoms consistent with COVID-19. Staff are to stay at home if they are feeling sick, have any symptoms associated with COVID-19, or have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19.
	<b>Staff/Faculty with a temperature greater than 100.4 degrees <u>are not permitted into the school</u>. Staff will be allowed to return 24 hours after a fever has broken, or with a note from their healthcare provider, or with a documented negative COVID-19 test.</b>
	The school nurse will monitor screening information / data of staff while complying with relevant privacy and health laws.
	The school nurse will monitor symptoms in staff that could be related to COVID-19, with the goal of decreasing the risk of spreading or contracting the virus while complying with relevant privacy and health laws.
	The Principals will oversee procedures for all staff to sanitize hands upon entering schools.

## Checklist - Health & Wellness

<b>8</b>	<b>The Superintendent of Schools has developed a uniform procedure for all schools for symptomatic students.</b>
	Students who are symptomatic while entering school or become symptomatic during the school day will be separated from others right away by the school nurse.
	Students exhibiting symptoms will be required to continue to wear mask and wait in a supervised, designated isolated area through which others do not enter until student can be transported home.
	If more than one student is in the isolation area, physical distancing will be maintained.
	The school nurse will have a plan for triaging students in the health office, recognizing that not all symptoms are COVID-19 related.
	The school nurse will advise parents/guardians of sick students that students are not to return until they have met CDC criteria to discontinue home isolation. <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html">https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html</a> . Students will be allowed to return 24 hours after a fever has broken, or with a note from their healthcare provider, or with a documented negative COVID-19 test.
	There will be no COVID-19 testing of students at school. Local testing site information will be shared with families. The schools' nursing offices will monitor testing results of students once made available by parents/guardians, complying with relevant privacy and health laws.
	If a student has been present in school has a <b>confirmed diagnosis</b> of COVID-19, the School Nurse and the building Principal contact Central Office and the Superintendent of Schools will notify the local health officials immediately. In addition, the Superintendent will be notified by school personnel that a student is suspected of being sick, maintaining confidentiality in accordance with FERPA, privacy expectations, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
	Each school will maintain a response team coordinated by the Principal with designated responsibilities including monitoring of attendance, symptoms, and screening; communications to families; overseeing cleaning procedures; and responding to suspected confirmed cases.
<b>9</b>	<b>The Superintendent of Schools has developed a uniform procedure for all schools for symptomatic staff.</b>
	Adults who are symptomatic while entering school or become symptomatic during the school day will be sent home and advised to seek medical care.
	The school nurse will advise adults not to return until they have met CDC criteria to discontinue home isolation. <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html">https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html</a> . Staff will be allowed to return 24 hours after a fever has broken, or with a note from their healthcare provider, or with a documented negative COVID-19 test.
	There will be no COVID-19 testing of staff at school. Local testing site information will be shared with staff. The schools' nursing offices will monitor testing results of staff, complying with relevant privacy and health laws.
	If staff or parent/guardian has been present in school has a <b>confirmed diagnosis</b> of COVID-19, the School Nurse and the building Principal contact the Central Office and the Superintendent of Schools. The Superintendent of Schools notifies the local health officials immediately.

## Checklist - Health & Wellness

<b>10</b>	<b>Outside visitors and groups will have very limited or no access to schools during the school day.</b>
	Access to the buildings by visitors/parents/guardians will be extremely limited and only for specific educational purposes.
	<b>Each school will post a “No Visitors Policy” that includes the following wording, “Visitors will not be permitted into school facilities unless scheduled to enter, or required by law, or otherwise required by a student’s individualized educational plan.”</b>
	Screening: Visitors/parents/guardians with prior approval to enter the building are instructed to self-screen before leaving for school by checking to ensure temperatures below <b>100.4 degrees</b> Fahrenheit and to observe for symptoms consistent COVID-19. Visitors/parents are to stay at home if they are feeling sick, have any symptoms associated with COVID-19, or have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19.
	Each school’s Main Office will maintain a log for those visitors allowed into the building. The log will include name, contact phone number, and arrival/departure time of each individual.
	Principals and office staff will organize parent/guardian pick up / drop off of students, which will be modified at each building. The use of a face mask will be required of all parents who are picking up or dropping off students during the school day and required to enter the school office in the process. Pick up in the afternoon will be modified to ensure that parents have limited or no access to the interior of the school building.
	All use of school buildings for after-hours may require Board of Education approval.
	The Central Office and Superintendent of Schools will ensure that external community organizations (including those that sponsor before- or after-school childcare) that are allowed use of the facilities also follow the school’s health and safety plans, as well as the expectations of local health officials.

# Checklist - Health & Wellness

Wellness expectations for reopening the Bridgeport Public Schools	
<b>1</b>	<b>The Director of Nursing and School Nurses will oversee high standards of hygiene (handwashing / sanitizing) and training for all in each school.</b>
	School nurses will ensure, in accordance with CDC guidance, that handwashing/sanitizing includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunities for students and staff to meet handwashing/sanitizing frequency guidance.</li> <li>• Sufficient access to handwashing and sanitizer stations.</li> <li>• The availability of fragrance-free hand sanitizer (with a minimum of 60 percent alcohol).</li> <li>• Children under age nine use hand sanitizer under adult supervision.</li> </ul>
	The Director of Nursing and School Nurses will identify the training needs of staff related to health and safety protocols and work with the Executive Directors who will oversee such training prior to the first day of classes.
	The Director of Nursing will plan in-person or online training that includes: social distancing; cleaning protocols; and hygiene practices. Principals will ensure access for all students and staff, as well as for family members who are interested.
	Training will be provided to substitutes or others who may enter the school outside of the first day or typical calendar start.
	The Director of Nursing will designate, in addition to the School Nurses, an additional 1 to 2 people in each school to assist with training as needed.
	Principals and Teachers will review guidance/training and post signage on proper handwashing techniques with students, including the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scrub with soap for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not accessible.</li> <li>• Staff and students should dry hands thoroughly.</li> <li>• Wash/sanitize hands when: arriving and leaving home; arriving at and leaving school; after playing outside; after having close contact with others; after using shared surfaces or tools; before and after using restroom; after blowing nose, coughing, and sneezing; and before and after eating and preparing foods.</li> </ul>
	Principals and Teachers will ensure that students receive ongoing education in the expectations related to all public health policies and protocols. Students will be educated about how COVID-19 is spread, and how preventative actions help avoid the spread (for example, that masks keep droplets out of the air and hand hygiene keeps the virus out of one's mouth/nose/eyes).
	Principals will assess the best approach to communicating wellness information for each age group, and plan to set aside time at the beginning of the school year, as well as scheduling frequent reminders, to review the new policies and protocols. These practices include, but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• social distancing,</li> <li>• use of face coverings that completely cover the nose and mouth,</li> <li>• respiratory and cough etiquette, and enhanced cleaning/disinfection of surfaces.</li> </ul>
<b>2</b>	<b>All school employees will assist in the expectation from the State of Connecticut that face coverings /masks are in place during the school day by all</b>
	The following communication will appear in school email, website, and social media: <b>“For the safety of all students and all staff, the State of Connecticut guidelines for returning to schools and Bridgeport Board of Education require that all students must wear face coverings or masks that completely cover the nose and mouth while inside the school and on the school bus.”</b>



# Checklist - Health & Wellness

2 cont.	
	<p>The only exceptions for face coverings or masks are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For anyone who has trouble breathing, or anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance, face coverings and masks should not be required, per <a href="#">CDC guidance</a>.</li> <li>For anyone who has a medical reason making it unsafe to wear a face covering, masks should not be required.</li> </ul>
	<p>For students, face coverings/masks may be removed while eating, drinking or when students are outside and effectively practicing social distancing. Exceptions may also be necessary for certain special education students or other special populations.</p>
	<p>For students who have trouble breathing or for other medical reasons, reasonable accommodations will include a face shield with a cloth drape attached across the bottom and tucked into the shirt. <i>NOTE:</i> Face shields alone are not a sufficient alternative to the wearing of face masks, but rather both should be worn for additional protection.</p>
	<p>Parents/guardians will be responsible for providing students with face coverings or masks.</p>
	<p>Schools will have backup disposable masks available for students who forget them.</p>
	<p>Principals will establish "Mask Breaks" that will be provided during the school day. Breaks will occur when students can practice social distancing and/or when they are outside.</p>
	<p>Staff members will wear masks that completely cover the nose and mouth inside the schools and will be assigned all necessary PPE as required for their role.</p>
	<p>For teachers and staff, face coverings/masks may be removed while teaching if the following conditions are in place: Enhanced social distancing; remaining static behind a physical barrier of some sort; while eating, drinking, or when outside and effectively practicing social distancing.</p>
	<p>Face shields worn with face masks may also be used by staff who support students with special healthcare needs (who are not able to wear masks and who may need assistance with activities of daily living, such as toileting, eating).</p>
	<p>Staff working with students who are not wearing face coverings due to one of the exceptions and also cannot maintain social distancing will be provided increased protective equipment, including but not limited to medical-grade masks and disposable gowns.</p>
	<p>Schools will have backup disposable masks available for staff members who forget them.</p>
	<p>Staff members will receive guidance/training on proper use of PPE required for their role: <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/using-ppe.html">https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/using-ppe.html</a>.</p>
	<p>School Nurses and any staff member engaged in symptom screening will be provided surgical masks, face shields, and disposable gloves</p>
	<p>Front office and food service employees will be provided face coverings or masks and disposable gloves.</p>
	<p>Custodial staff will be provided equipment and PPE for cleaning and disinfecting:</p>
	<p>(1) For regular surface cleaning, gloves appropriate for all cleaning and disinfecting will be provided.          (2) Classified staff engaged in deep cleaning and disinfecting will be equipped with proper PPE for COVID-19 disinfection (disposable gown, gloves, eye protection, and mask or respirator) in addition to PPE as required by product instructions.</p>
	<p>Visitors and those making deliveries to the school must wear face coverings or masks that completely cover the nose and mouth.</p>
	<p>Information will be given to staff, students and, parents/guardians on proper use, removal, and washing of face coverings. <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html">https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html</a></p>

## Checklist - Health & Wellness

<b>3</b>	<b>All school employees will assist in the expectation that Physical Distancing / Social distancing is maintained as much as possible.</b>
	The school administration will be prepared to assist staff and students in determining and maintaining social distancing between individuals to reduce the transmission of the virus per the public health guidelines at that time.
	Principals will be prepared to communicate and adjust the approach to social distancing if guidance from the CDC or DPH changes due to shifting public health data or evolving understanding of COVID-19 disease, including transmission.
	Each school will plan for the number of people that can be in all school spaces (library, cafeteria, gymnasium) based on maintaining reasonable social distancing prior to use by a classroom or group.
	Even with social distancing expectations in classroom, school spaces, hallways, students and staff members will wear face coverings / masks in school and on the bus.
	To the extent possible the schools will create <b>student/teacher classroom cohorts</b> to minimize the mixing of student groups throughout the day. Consistent teams/cohorts will minimize cross-contamination of student groups.
	Schools will have plans to minimize movement of students and staff as much as possible and reduce The number of students and staff that move at the same time.
	Traffic patterns in hallways will be designed to promote social distancing during passing times. Strategies will include staggered passing times or one-way traffic in hallways.
	Classroom seating shall be assigned to students at all times during the day. Any alternate seating or shared seating in reading nooks, group centers, and other areas will not be allowed.
	Schools will utilize individual desk barrier shields at their assigned location to assist with social distancing in the classroom where appropriate as identified.
	Schools will restrict the sharing of educational materials between individuals. These materials include such items as books, manipulatives, computers, calculators, writing utensils, and art supplies. No two individuals should use the same materials in a given school day without appropriate cleaning / disinfecting in between uses.
	Backpacks will be used to discourage the use of lockers as much as possible.
<b>4</b>	<b>The Superintendent of Schools will oversee school activities/athletics, which will be allowed in a limited capacity on a case by case basis.</b>
	The school district will follow all CIAC (Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference) guidelines for high school sports after approval of such activities by the Superintendent of Schools. <b>Athletic guidance and expectations will be provided in a separate document by the CIAC.</b>
	After school clubs, activities, and events will be approved in advance by the Superintendent of Schools. Approval will be based on the ability to meet the safety expectations of students and staff members involved.
	Recess time and use of playgrounds will be supervised and scheduled to ensure physical distancing. Recess time will be adjusted for specific classroom and/or cohorts.
	Physical Education Teachers will adapt curriculum and activities to be in line with guidance found in <i>Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together</i> . In general, activities will be limited to those that do not involve physical contact with other students or equipment until advised otherwise by state/local public health officials.
	The Director of Performing Arts will work with the Art and Music Teachers in adapting curriculum and activities to be in line with guidance found in <i>Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together</i> .
	Courses and activities that may involve any potential risk to students and staff will be approved in advance by the Superintendent of Schools.

## Checklist - Health & Wellness

<b>4 cont.</b>	
	School assemblies, concerts, and other programs with a larger number of students will be limited at the start of the school year and require approval of the Superintendent of Schools. Decisions will be made based on size of activity, ability to maintain proper distancing, and safety expectations.
	Field trips and off campus experiences will be limited at the start of the school year and require approval of the Executive Directors and the Superintendent of Schools. Decisions will be made based on ability to maintain proper distancing and safety expectations. Virtual field trips will be encouraged.
<b>5</b>	<b>The Director of Nursing and School Nurses will oversee and monitor changes and updates to the State of Connecticut Requirements for Immunizations and Health Assessments</b>
	<b>Immunizations:</b> <a href="#">Guidance from the Department of Public Health was issued dated June 17, 2020</a> emphasizing the importance of protecting students by staying up to date on immunizations.
	<b>Health Assessments:</b> <a href="#">Guidance from the CSDE was issued dated June 26, 2020</a> outlining the requirements for Health Assessments prior to students enrolling in school.
	<b>If the State of Connecticut adjusts social distancing guidelines due to COVID-19:</b>
	The schools will determine the student and staff capacity of classrooms and school spaces based on state of local guidelines limiting existing class groups/sizes in every classroom.
	The classrooms will be arranged in a manner that minimizes face-to-face contact and increases the space between desks and/or providing barriers between children at tables. Desks/tables will be separated and turned to face in the same direction (rather than facing each other).
	Other spaces in the building may be used for instructional activities to allow for appropriate distancing including gyms, cafeterias, libraries, larger rooms, outdoors.
	<b>The schools may need to limit the number of students present in classrooms and/or limit the number of students physically reporting to each day based on guidelines issued from the State of Connecticut.</b>
	<b>The <u>school schedule</u> may be adjusted to meet the needs of social distancing (in classrooms) based on adjusted guidelines issued from the State of Connecticut.</b> Adjusted State Guidelines may result in an extended period of Remote Learning by all students.

# Checklist - Facilities & Operation



## Facilities & Operations

Policies and protocols related to facilities and operations will be reviewed regularly by the Board of Education, the Superintendent of Schools, and the School Administration with the understanding that schools may need to react quickly to changing conditions. Given the possibility of changes in public health data, there may be an increase or a relaxation of restrictions throughout the school year to respond effectively to health concerns.

Facility expectations for reopening the Bridgeport Public Schools	
<b>1</b>	<b>The Director of Facilities and School Administrators will ensure that schools meet <u>high cleanliness standards</u> prior to reopening and maintain a high level of cleanliness during the school year.</b>
	The Director of Facilities will oversee the reopening for each school building that specifically addresses high standards of cleanliness for all classrooms, bathrooms, hallways, and offices in the school.
	The Board of Education staff will do a walkthrough of all buildings prior to reopening with the Superintendent of Schools, the building Principal, and the Director of Operations to review cleanliness expectations as well as conducting a review of reopening plans specific to each building.
	The Director of Facilities and School Administrators will communicate cleaning and hygiene protocols as recommended by the State of Connecticut and the CDC to staff and families.
	Building plans for disinfecting high touch surfaces will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Door handles</li> <li>• Handrails</li> <li>• Sink handles</li> <li>• Restroom surfaces</li> <li>• Instructional materials that cannot be supplied to a specific student</li> <li>• Playground equipment</li> </ul>
	Frequently touched surfaces and other equipment will be cleaned throughout the day. Desks and classroom equipment should not be shared; however, those that are used by more than one group will be cleaned in between usage.
	Buildings will have a plan for disinfecting the following between uses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Desks that are shared during the day</li> <li>• Tables that are used throughout the day</li> <li>• Chairs that are shared during the day</li> <li>• Classroom/office items, such as phones, headsets, copy machines, etc.</li> </ul>
	Schools will work to enable no-touch usage of items such as doors, trashcans, and bathroom fixtures, where possible. (Where no touch technologies are not available, prop open doors in accordance with fire and safety codes, and remove trash lids.)
	Schools will maximize use of disposable towels in lieu of hand dryers, due to ventilation considerations. Where possible, schools will turn off and avoid use of hand dryers.
	As appropriate by age, schools will place a trashcan and paper towel roll by the bathroom door to allow students and staff to use in order to prevent the touching of door handle with hands.
	Principals will work with teachers to assess ways to minimize exposure from playground and fitness Equipment. Limiting use to team cohort use all equipment at the same time.

## Checklist - Facilities & Operation

	Bathrooms should be sanitized at least twice a day. Where possible, schools will consider designating separate bathrooms for different classes or establishing shifts for classes to use the bathroom.
	The Director of Facilities will use products that are approved for the State of Connecticut that are labeled to be effective against emerging viral pathogens, following label directions for appropriate dilution rates and contact times.
	Cleaning logs will be used in each building to track cleaning frequency of areas including bathrooms.
	The Director of Facilities will ensure that the schools comply with DPH guidelines including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting of Schools</a> during COVID-19</li> <li>• <a href="#">Return to Service Guidance</a> for Building Water Systems</li> <li>• <a href="#">Guidance for School Systems for the Operation of Central and non-Central Ventilation Systems</a></li> </ul>
<b>2</b>	<b>The Director of Facilities and School Administrators will ensure that schools meet <u>distancing expectations</u> by adjusting the set up in all classrooms.</b>
	The Director of Facilities will oversee a reopening plan for each building that specifically addresses social distancing for all classrooms, bathrooms, hallways, and offices in the school. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximize social distancing between student workstations, achieving 6 feet if feasible (not required) when determining the classroom layout. Desks should face in the same direction (rather than facing each other) or students should sit on only one side of tables, spaced apart.</li> <li>• Where necessary, assess other spaces that may be repurposed for instruction in the school.</li> <li>• Maximize space between the teacher and students due to the risk of increased droplets from teachers during instruction. If a teacher removes face covering or mask during instruction, spacing should be increased beyond six feet. For teachers who stay seated, a physical barrier may be considered an option.</li> <li>• Floor markings throughout classrooms and the school may be included to illustrate social/physical distancing.</li> </ul>
	The Board of Education will do a walkthrough of all buildings prior to reopening with the Superintendent of Schools, the building Principal, and the Director of Operations to review distancing expectations as well as conducting a review of reopening plans specific to each building.
	The Director of Facilities and Principals will work together to ensure that classroom furniture besides desks are adjusted to create the maximum amount of space between students.
	Classroom bookcases, reading nooks, storage cabinets will be removed/repositioned to create the maximum amount of space between students.
	The Director of Facilities and Principals will work together to ensure that a dedicated medical isolation room has been identified in every school building.
<b>3</b>	<b>School Administrators will ensure that schools restrict the shared use of materials.</b>
	Principals will work to ensure that staff restrict the sharing of educational materials between individuals (including such items as books, manipulatives, computers, calculators, writing utensils, and art supplies). Teachers will ensure that there is a procedure for disinfecting any electronic devices, toys, books, and other games or learning aids that must be shared during the same school day.
	When shared space is used by multiple cohorts of high school students or students not in cohorts, disinfecting of materials must occur in between the times when cohorts of groups of high school students use the space/materials.
	Any alternate seating or shared seating in reading nooks, group centers, and other areas will not be allowed. Items that cannot be cleaned and sanitized (such as shared stuffed animals in classrooms) will not be allowed in classrooms.

## Checklist - Facilities & Operation

<b>3 cont.</b>	
	Each student's belongings/school supplies will be separated and in an individually labeled storage container, cubby, locker, or other designated area depending on the grade level and/specific course. Students will be encouraged to take home belongings each day to be cleaned. Belongings such as personal stuffed animals and other toys will not be allowed.
<b>4</b>	<b>The Director of Facilities will ensure that handwashing and sanitizing stations will be readily available.</b>
	Each school will ensure that staff, students, and visitors have access to soap and water and/or hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol at all times.
<b>5</b>	<b>The Director of Facilities and School Administrators will oversee a rapid response plan for suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19.</b>
	Each building will have a plan to close off areas used by any sick person and not reopening those areas or using areas before cleaning and disinfection. The Director of Facilities will oversee the proper cleaning of any such area.

<b>Operations expectations for reopening the Bridgeport Public Schools</b>	
<b>1</b>	<b>The Supervisor of Nursing will oversee staff training on the physical protection of the school community.</b>
	<p>The schools will provide required staff training on the following as part of the reopening prior to the start of school:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical distancing of staff and students</li> <li>• Proper use of protective equipment</li> <li>• The correct use of cloth face coverings / masks</li> <li>• Cough and sneeze etiquette</li> <li>• Keeping one's hands away from one's face</li> <li>• Frequent handwashing and proper technique</li> <li>• Confidentiality around health recording and reporting</li> <li>• Training on trauma-informed practices and suicide prevention</li> </ul>
<b>2</b>	<b>Staff training on the mental health wellness of students will be available throughout the year.</b>
	<p>The schools will provide staff training on the following (in addition to Social/Emotional Learning expectations):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training on trauma-informed practices and suicide prevention.</li> <li>• Confidentiality around health recording and reporting.</li> </ul>
<b>3</b>	<b>Signage in will be posted in school that is highly visible as well as being accessible for students with disabilities.</b>
	<p>The Director of Facilities and Principals will work together to ensure the distribution of information and regular communication about the actions school communities can take to stop the spread. Signs will be posted in highly visible locations (e.g., school entrances, staff areas, and restrooms) that promote everyday protective measures and provide instruction related to properly washing hands and properly wearing a cloth face coverings or masks. <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/index.html">https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/index.html</a></p>

# Checklist - Facilities & Operation

<b>Food service expectations for reopening the Bridgeport Public Schools</b>	
<b>1</b>	<b>The Director of Food Services will ensure compliance with federal guidelines and local health official guidelines and any additional guidelines introduced regarding child nutrition.</b>
	The Director of Food Services will actively promote the District’s universal free meal and free milk to all students.
	The Director of Food Services will comply with the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) regulations and policies for school meals and milk including the meal pattern requirements.
	The Director of Food Services will ensure that the schools claim meals/ milk provided to all students using accurate counting and claiming methods. This is required for reimbursement purposes and must have adequate documentation on file to support the claim.
	The Director of Food Services will proactively plan and be prepared at all times throughout the year for expedited meal access during including a short period and/or longer period of closure.
	The Director of Food Services will oversee PPE for food service operations such as masks, gloves, physical barriers in serving areas, etc.
<b>2</b>	<b>Food service in each school will be designed to promote social distancing.</b>
	The Director of Food Services working with Principals will determine the appropriate meal distribution method (Cafeteria Pick-up Model, Classroom Delivery Model, or a Hybrid Delivery Model) of meal service based on social distancing, physical location, student traffic, space, staffing, etc.
	Each school will communicate age-appropriate and school-appropriate strategies to families about school meal service and options. Meals service communications will communicate social distancing requirements and include any additional school options as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• additional lunch waves to separate classroom cohorts;</li> <li>• staggering cafeteria use throughout the late morning/early afternoon;</li> <li>• increasing the number of meal service access points;</li> <li>• serving meals in cafeteria and then returning to classrooms or alternate locations;</li> <li>• serving meals in classrooms and alternate locations;</li> </ul>
	The Principals will arrange for smaller lunch waves in each school. For all grades, more than one classroom cohort may be in the cafeteria with another cohort, but groups must remain separated from each other by a distance that is recommended to be at least 14 feet.
	School cafeteria and meal service plans will be adjusted based on level of concern of transmission.
	There will be no “share tables” or self-service buffets for food and condiments.
	Physical barriers, such as sneeze guards and partitions, at point of sale and other areas will be installed where maintaining physical distance of 6 feet is difficult.
	If meals are provided in classrooms or alternate locations, sufficient trash removal and cleaning will be in place.
<b>Communications expectations for reopening the Bridgeport Public Schools</b>	
<b>1</b>	<b>The Superintendent of Schools will oversee communications regarding planning and reopening.</b>
	Families, staff, and the community will receive weekly updates via email, website, and social media during the school year directly from the Superintendent of Schools regarding the most up to date policies and protocols related to all considerations and aspects of this plan and future COVID-19 planning.
	Families, staff, and the community will be invited to the monthly round table meetings for updates, discussions, input, and suggestions on reopening and the ongoing status of school. These meetings will also take place over the summer prior to the opening of the school year.
	Changes to planning, changes in the status of the schools’ schedules, and any school closures will be communicated directly from the Superintendents or his designee to the school community.

# Checklist – Delivery of Instruction



## Instruction

The Classroom Cohort Model will be used predominantly in Grades K-8. A Cohort is a stable group of students and educators with consistent members that stay together throughout the school day to help mitigate the risk of spreading the virus. It is still expected that students & individuals within the cohorts maintain as much physical distance as possible. The classroom cohort will spend as much of the day together as a group as possible with a single teacher or with teachers of different subject areas meeting the cohort in the cohort's assigned classroom(s).

Instructional expectations for reopening the Bridgeport Public Schools	
<b>1</b>	<b>The instructional day and building schedules may be modified to meet the current health situation.</b>
	The Superintendent of Schools will communicate to staff and families any class cancellation (or adjustment in schedule) and subsequent reopening in the event that the State cancels in-school classes for all or restricts attendance requiring employing the school's plan for a Hybrid Model.
	The Superintendent will base single closure, multiple school closure, or district closure using the most up-to-date information on specific cases in the community or in a school with the consultation of local health officials and the district medical supervisor.
	The Superintendent will notify the State Department of Education should a local decision be made to close under the guidance of local health officials and/or the district medical supervisor.
	Principals will review current instructional schedules in each school and make any modifications necessary to reopen and best meet the needs of students and staff members for a full return to school.
	Principals will be prepared to amend schedules as necessary due to increased transmission in the school and/or the community. Alternate Models will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hybrid Models for a moderate increase in transmission including A-B Student Cohorts of alternating days or alternating weeks, or</li> <li>• Remote Learning for a large increase in transmission</li> </ul>
	The Principals and Teachers will proactively plan and be prepared at all times throughout the year for an expedited shift to Remote Learning instruction during a required short period and a longer period of closure.
	The Principals and Information Technology Services will proactively plan and be prepared at all times throughout the year for expedited technology access/support for a required period of Remote Learning including a short period and a longer period of closure.
	The Executive Directors/Directors will consult and share resources for teaching in a Remote Learning environment that is both synchronous and asynchronous which can be found in the <a href="#">Plan to Reimagine CT Classrooms for Continuous Learning</a> and the <a href="#">CT Remote Learning Hub</a> .
	The schools will evaluate and adapt any revised models of instruction throughout the year with all educational partners and staff.
	The Superintendent of Schools and Principals will review teacher rosters and develop a substitute plan and, along with the Board of Education, discuss changes in collective bargaining agreements required to support the needs of the students and schools.



<b>2</b>	<b>Principals will group students in Classroom Cohorts in Grades K-8 as much as possible.</b>
	Classroom cohorts will be established and use the same classroom every day and for the most part utilize the same hallways, bathrooms, and other area of the school as much as possible. Cohorts will be assigned a team of teachers and support personnel.
	Principals and Teachers will educate students, families, and staff on the value of cohorts, ensuring they understand that other health and safety guidelines remain important to minimize the risk of infection.
	Principals and teachers will restrict the mixing of cohorts for the start of the school year as much as possible.
	Teachers will push into the cohort classroom as much as possible for academic courses and special courses including Art, Music, Library, & Technology resulting in teachers of specific content areas rotating through the building, instated of student groups. Physical Education classes will take place in the cohort classroom and/or outdoors to the greatest extent possible.
	Students in each cohort will have assigned seating in the cohort classroom as much as possible.
	Students in each cohort will have assigned materials in the cohort classroom as much as possible.
	Principals will create schedules as possible that stagger passing in hall by adjusting schedules to ensure students change rooms, if necessary, at different times.
<b>3</b>	<b>All learning experiences will be reviewed in order to ensure safe and appropriate instructional practices.</b>
	The Executive Directors and Directors will oversee all learning experiences and any curricular modifications in order to provide safe environments for students and teachers.
	The Executive Directors and Directors will oversee all learning experiences and any curricular modifications in order to provide an appropriate, high standard of learning for students and teachers.
	Courses and activities that may involve risk to students and staff (singing, playing instruments, food production and consumption, etc.) will be approved in advance by the respective Director of Curriculum for the content area and the Superintendent of Schools.
	School assemblies, concerts, and other programs with a larger number of students will be suspended. If such decisions need to be made, they will be made based on size of activity, ability to maintain proper distancing, and safety expectations in conference with their Executive Director.
	Field trips and off campus experiences will be limited and require approval of the Executive Directors and the Superintendent of Schools. Decisions will be made based on ability to maintain proper distancing and safety expectations. Virtual field trips will be encouraged.
<b>4</b>	<b>Building Principals will work with their Executive Directors to identify learning gaps, learning barriers, and find innovative ways to meet the needs of children.</b>
	Diagnostic assessments will be used to identify specific areas where instruction or intervention may be needed to improve student learning.
	Formative assessments and progress monitoring will take place during lessons and provide actionable information about students' learning status relative to the desired lesson goal.
	Teachers will use data from formative assessments immediately to adjust their instruction and ensure students' progress towards learning goals.
	School teams will develop common diagnostic, formative, and summative assessment tools across the district/school for comparative analysis to identify specific targeted student learning needs.
	Principals will refine each school's multi-tiered system of support and include guidance for implementing Tier 1 strategies before offering Tier 2 interventions and when and how to offer Tier 2 and Tier 3 supports.
	District and Building Administrators will identify and plan for grade level/subject level/team improvement cycles including reviewing student assessments, planning instructional shifts and strategies based on data, establishing clear outcome goals, debriefing the lesson as a team, and repeating the process.

	Special Education Teachers will oversee appropriate accommodations for students and share innovative ways to meet unique student needs.
<b>5</b>	<b>The State of Connecticut will develop a Remote Learning Model for learning at home due to medical concern, illness, quarantine, or other reasons.</b>
	BPS will conduct a survey to find out which students will participate in In-Person Learning or choose Remote Learning with school support.
	Central Office will oversee school support for students in the Remote Learning Model: The <b>CT Remote Learning Hub</b> ( <a href="https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Academic-Office/CT-Learning-Hub">https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Academic-Office/CT-Learning-Hub</a> ) will provide high quality, high impact resources from experts in the field for academic content, social, emotional health and well-being.
<b>6</b>	<b>District Teachers proficiency with District Remote Learning Platform</b>
	Teachers will be required to complete a series of Computer Based Training (CBT) on the proper usage and implementation of the approved District technology platforms. Teachers will be required to take an assessment to ensure a baseline proficiency demonstrating proper knowledge of the learning platforms.
<b>7</b>	<b>ITS Academic Support Team for Academic and Instructional Support</b>
	The District will maintain a permanently staffed certified teacher team for the purposes of providing technical and academic support for District students, families, faculty and staff.
<b>8</b>	<b>Virtual Classroom Code of Conduct and Digital Citizenship</b>
	Teachers will be required to teach and implement the District's "Virtual Classroom Code of Conduct" and additionally ensure students are observing Digital Citizenship appropriate to grade band.
<b>9</b>	<b>The schools will base assessment practices for 20-21 on the Connecticut Department of Education model found in: <i>Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together.</i></b>

## Sensible Assessment Practices in 2020–21 and Beyond

**1. Summer 2020**

★ **Review Available Information**

In lieu of a separate assessment, what can we already know about our students from existing data/information?

**Vertical Teams for Teachers, Interventionists, Instructional Specialists, and Related Service Providers**

- What standards were taught in-person pre-COVID and during distance learning?
- How does the previous teacher describe the student's strengths and weaknesses?
- How well did the student engage in distance learning?

**Longitudinal Data (Non-Assessment)**

- Early Indication Tool support level (Low-Medium-High), attendance, discipline, mobility, course failures, etc.

**Longitudinal Data (Assessment)**

- K-Inventory, Smarter Balanced, NGSS, Alt. Assessments, LAS Links, IAB, F-IAB, Fall/Winter Benchmark, IEP Progress Reports

★ **Plan the First Unit and Support Professional Learning**

The first unit should not only engage students but also ensure that students will have a high probability of success. Teachers will need professional learning on topics such as assessment/data literacy, formative assessment practices, differentiated instruction, learning progressions, blended learning approaches/tools.

*\*Students new to CT public schools will likely need a screening and/or overall assessment such as the ICA or a local benchmark assessment.*

**2. Start of the School Year**

★ **Build Community with New Class While Delivering the First Unit**

Acknowledge and address social-emotional learning needs and family/health/trauma issues due to pandemic. Start with a unit that is engaging and has high probability of success. Review key prior grade content if necessary.

- **Deliver differentiated instruction** by starting with engaging on-grade unit with high probability of success; review if necessary.
- **Use formative assessment practices** to gauge impact and adjust instruction.
- **Embed Tier 2 supports** in the classroom based on review of available information in the summer.

**3. Rest of the School Year**

★ **Shift Fully to On-Grade Instruction with Scaffolds and Supports**

If the first unit incorporates review, then the shift fully to on-grade instruction should occur within 2–3 weeks. Districts should identify prerequisite content for each instructional unit and the corresponding diagnostic assessment.

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graph TD
    A((Use diagnostic assessments to identify strengths/weaknesses, especially in the prerequisite skills for on-grade content)) --> B((Deliver differentiated instruction covering grade-level content and personalized to needs and interests of students))
    B --> C((Use formative assessment practices to gauge impact and adjust instruction))
    C --> D((Offer Tier 2 supports based on formative assessment info. that are either embedded in the classroom or provided separately))
    D --> E((Optional: Administer aligned, on-grade IAB or district-determined assessment to evaluate mastery of learning))
    E --> A
  
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**4. End**

★ **Administer End-of-Year Summative Assessment**

Administer an on-grade summative assessment (which may be the state assessment for students in Grades 3–8 and 11) to evaluate overall achievement on state standards

<b>10</b>	<b>The Director of Special Education, Special Education Coordinators, and Support Staff will oversee programming and transition back to school for all students with IEPs.</b>
	The schools will oversee programming for the fall with the understanding that there has been no waiver of requirements under the IDEA for provision of a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment (LRE). During the spring of 2020 closure, the schools may not have been able to provide all services in the same manner that they are typically provided. Federal disability law allows for flexibility in determining how to meet the individualized needs of students receiving special education services.
	The schools will treat students eligible for special education and other special populations as general education students first. Guidance and policies related to school reopening plans apply to all students, including students with special needs who qualify for individual education programs under the IDEA and accommodation plans for eligible students under section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If students with disabilities are unable to access the reopening plan as designed, facilitate individualized and alternative means of re-entry based upon student need, present levels of functioning, developmental levels, and student/parent/guardian input. Consider remote learning schedules if needed.
	Programming decisions will not be based on a student’s disability category. However, the nature and/or severity of a student’s disability may require unique considerations. Protocols should consider the student’s developmental level and skills.
	Special Education Teachers and Support Staff will communicate with families of students with a high level of need to develop transition plans to assist special population and special education students in their return to the school building.
	The Director of Bilingual/ESL will work with EL students assuring the provision of a free and appropriate public education (FAPE).
<b>11</b>	<b>Central Office and Principals will oversee the safe implementation of Physical Education, Art, and Music courses and extracurricular activities.</b>
	All educational programming in PE, Art, and Music will be expected to adhere to all CDC, state, and local guidelines related to social distancing and disinfecting areas & equipment.
	Central Office/Principals will work with Teachers to plan for physical education, fine arts, and music curricula that consider the needs of all students, including focusing on activities, adaptations, and modifications of all education activities to ensure the full inclusion by all students.
	PE at all levels will focus as much as possible on activities, fitness, exercises, and sports that are teacher led but performed individually and focus on lifetime fitness, utilizing alternative environments, land-based activities, and individual sports/activities
	PE activities will assist as much as possible in the support of social-emotional learning.
	<p>Music and Art courses will strive to maintain current program of studies and course offerings, utilizing the following safety precautions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain proper spacing of at least 6 feet when students are singing or performing wind instruments by scheduling large ensembles in auditoriums, outdoors, cafeterias, gyms or other large spaces. Focus on maximizing distancing for instruments that require blowing or for singing, compared with string and percussion instruments.</li> <li>• Schedule large ensembles into smaller groups throughout the day. Shift curriculum focus to solo and small ensemble work and create virtual performance experiences and assessments.</li> <li>• Continue full access to beginning instrumental music. Maintain small homogeneous groupings of instruments for lesson instruction.</li> <li>• Use of District approved online platforms for student art work.</li> </ul>

# Checklist - Social/Emotional Growth



## Social/Emotional Growth

While much uncertainty surrounds how and when school will reopen, we know that social and emotional learning (SEL) will be critical to re-engaging students, supporting adults, rebuilding relationships, and creating a foundation for academic learning. This unprecedented reopening to a new way of teaching and learning may have a lasting and significant impact on our student's academic and social-emotional well-being. Bridgeport Public Schools must bring our entire school community together to provide all students with a nurturing and supportive learning environment.

Social/Emotional expectations for reopening the Bridgeport Public Schools	
<b>1</b>	<b>The SEL Coordinator will work with the school-based SEL Teams and School Counselors to ensure the inclusion of Social/Emotional Learning (SEL) to benefit the entire school community.</b>
	Plan for experiences that ensure that the schools place adult and student wellness first to establish a positive, safe, and supportive learning environment. Identified strategies will be accessible to engage all populations- including targeted support for specific students that have been disengaged.
	Plan to implement district-wide programming designed to help children and adults in the school community to manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions. BPS district-wide SEL programming includes: the RULER Approach (online platform access, adult PD, pre-K-12 Curriculum and parent engagement resources), Restorative Practices training (in-person and virtual training), ACEs/Resilience training and Cultural Competence building throughout all SEL offerings.
	Plan for SEL that is integrated into academic content through building essential self-management skills, resilience, and connections.
<b>2</b>	<b>Coordinate SEL activities prior to the reopening and integrate SEL activities into the reopening process.</b>
	Communicate to the school community that SEL is foundational to the holistic success of the school community and a necessary aspect of a highly functioning school community. A SEL tab will be available on the district website and school websites with SEL information, resources and links for students, staff and families.
	Utilize district SEL Task Force to seek the voices of perspectives of students, families, educators, and community partners to develop proactive and responsive reopening plans.
	Assess the social and emotional support needed by the students during the initial reopening period as a result of the Distance Learning period. Encourage that all parties reflect on the students' ability to navigate the unprecedented challenges of the alternative learning contexts during Remote Learning.
	Engage the staff in reflecting on what they have learned from the spring of 2020 and how this experience will shape the coming years for them and their students.
	Provide ongoing virtual and in-person SEL professional development throughout the summer and during the 2020-2021 school year.
	Staff will plan regular check-ins with students and families; counselors, social workers, school psychologists, and nurses will connect with students and families during the reopening process.
	School-based SEL Teams will intentionally build structures that promote supportive adult-student relationships and a sense of belonging. Staff will ensure every student has at least one caring adult at the school who checks in regularly with them and whom they can reach out to.




<b>2 cont.</b>	
	Staff will utilize resources provided to create exercises/lessons on the various ways to communicate feelings given that wearing masks may alter the understandings of how individuals are feeling.
	Staff will create exercises/lessons on positively communicating the need for physical distancing in the classroom as children naturally hug, touch, etc. when playing.
	Staff will communicate the best ways to assist students who need additional support to physically distance or who may not be able to wear a mask due to a manifestation of their disability or underlying health condition.
	Staff will encourage safe movement activities to ensure children are expending adequate energy. As student movement from classroom to classroom or recess activities are restricted, there may not be as many opportunities for physical activity during the school day. Staff will collaborate to identify creative transition activities in their buildings to that allow for movement.
	Staff will weave in opportunities for students to practice and reflect upon social and emotional competencies throughout the day during academic and nonacademic time.
	Staff will engage students in developmentally appropriate conversations and lessons provided to them by ruler online to discuss past, current, and future impacts of the pandemic on themselves, their families, their communities, and the broader world. Include discussions that will elevate racial consciousness as students were not present together in school during recent events in the U.S.
<b>3</b>	<b>Integrate SEL practices into instructional planning.</b>
	<p>The Bridgeport Public Schools has established a district goal for 2020-21 that is based on the expectation that the <i>“school community takes collective responsibility for the intellectual, physical, social, and emotional well-being of each student”</i> and <i>staff members can demonstrate how each student is safe, seen, and celebrated.</i> (From the New England Association of Schools and Colleges Standards for Accreditation – Principle 1.3.)</p> <p><i>To that end, the Bridgeport school community</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>(1) has put plans and services in place to identify and support the social and emotional needs of students;</i></li> <li><i>(2) will ensure that all classroom educators and support staff share responsibility of all learners including struggling learners;</i></li> <li><i>(3) and will maintain and support high expectations for all students.</i></li> </ol>
	<p>Teachers will create routines and rituals that build community and develop positive relationships. Some examples may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating a class charter</li> <li>• Developing small learning groups and one-on-one meetings to support social, emotional, and academic learning (SEAL)</li> <li>• Using affective statements and questions</li> <li>• Implementing Fair Process</li> <li>• Explicitly teaching strategies to overcome challenges-positive self-talk, mindful breathing and reframing</li> </ul>

The coming months will mark continued transitions for everyone in our school community as they prepare for a school year that offers new ways that we relate with each other, learn, and operate. These transitions may bring excitement, anxiety, concern, and other complex emotions as students wonder what the return to classrooms will look like. Students are excited about reconnecting with peers and teachers, and look forward to engaging in person, supportive learning environments. Reopening schools will also call upon educators to plan for a school environment that will foster emotional and physical safety and a sense of belonging throughout our school community.

# Checklist -Transportation



## Transportation

 <p><b>CONNECTICUT SAFE STATUS</b> Vaccine available or effective treatments for COVID-19</p>	 <p><b>CONNECTICUT LOW STATUS</b> Low transmission risk in the community of COVID-19</p>	 <p><b>CONNECTICUT MODERATE STATUS</b> Moderate or more severe spread of COVID-19</p>
<p><b>Full Capacity on Bus</b> Bus transportation can operate with no restrictions</p>	<p><b>Up to Full Capacity on Bus</b> Bus transportation can operate up to full status with face coverings / mask requirements and loading and unloading restrictions</p>	<p><b>Limited Capacity on Bus</b> Bus transportation can operate with seating and spacing restrictions, face coverings / mask requirements, and loading and unloading restrictions.</p> <p><b>Reduced Number of Students</b> and seating based on strict social distancing guidelines</p>

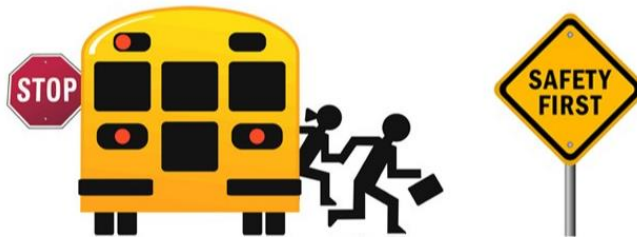
<b>Transportation expectations for reopening the Bridgeport Public Schools</b>	
<p><b>1</b></p>	<p><b>Transportation status will be determined by the State of Connecticut and/or DPH.</b></p>
	<p>In the “<b>low status</b>” currently determined to be the status of Connecticut, student passengers will be required to wear a face covering or mask that completely covers the nose and mouth while riding the bus. The passenger’s face covering must be in place prior to boarding the bus and must be kept in place until they are completely off the bus. Passengers should load into the bus from the back row to the front and then unload the bus in a controlled manner upon arrival at the school from front to back by seat. This will reduce the number of people passengers walk by as they get on the bus and will prevent crowding in the center aisle when the bus arrives at the school.</p>
	<p>If the state determines that we are in a “<b>moderate status</b>” student passenger density will be significantly reduced because schools will be employing a hybrid model of learning. Bus passengers should be spaced with family members sitting together and non-family members should be spaced 6 feet apart utilizing alternating diagonal seating. Passengers will be required to wear a face covering or mask that completely covers the nose and mouth while riding the bus. The rider’s face covering must be in place prior to boarding the bus and must be kept in place until they are completely off the bus. Students should load into the bus from the back row to the front and then unload the bus in a controlled manner upon arrival at the school from front to back by seat. This will reduce the number of people passengers pass by as they get on the bus and will prevent crowding in the center aisle when the bus arrives at the school.</p>

<b>2</b>	<b>Transportation to and from by parents/guardians will be encouraged.</b>
	<b>Parents/guardians are encouraged to transport their children to school to avoid possible exposure on the bus.</b>
	Principals will conduct a survey to find out which students will be driven by parents at the start of the school year.
	Principals will assess if a staggered arrival and drop off of buses and cars will enhance safety protocols in place.
	Principals will plan vehicle flow and logistics particularly if there are more family transport vehicles.
	Principals will develop arrival/departure procedures that limit unnecessary entrance of parents and guardians into the building. Each school will allow for minimal contact of parents with school personnel and students while dropping off and/or picking up students during the day.
<b>3</b>	<b>Proper healthy hygiene habits will be practiced on the bus.</b>
	Parents/guardians of students will be asked to assist in social distancing at bus stops and during pick-up and drop-off.
	Parents/guardians of students will be asked to secure masks on students at bus stops prior to students entering the bus.
	<b>Students will be required to wear a face covering or mask that completely covers the nose and mouth While riding the bus.</b>
	Hand sanitizer will be available on the bus for students to use upon entry.
	Seating arrangements will be adjusted on buses to prevent students from passing one another while loading/unloading as much as possible. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First students to load on bus sit in back, filling seats toward the front of bus</li> <li>• Students in front unload first</li> </ul>
	Bus cohorts will be implemented in all grades. Stable and consistent groups help to mitigate the risk of spreading the virus. Students will only be permitted on the bus to which they have been assigned in order to minimize cross-contamination of student groups. Students will be expected to ride the same bus to school in the morning and the same bus to home in the afternoon every day.
<b>4</b>	<b>Bus drivers will follow the expectations for school employees regarding health and screening.</b>
	Passive Screening: Drivers are instructed to self-screen before leaving for school by checking to ensure temperatures below <b>100.4 degrees</b> Fahrenheit and to observe for symptoms outlined by public health officials. Drivers are to stay at home if they are feeling sick, have any symptoms associated with COVID-19, or have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19.
	<b>Drivers with a temperature greater than 100.4 degrees are not permitted to drive. Drivers will be allowed to return 24 hours after a fever has broken, or with a note from their healthcare provider, or with a documented negative COVID-19 test.</b>
	All drivers will sanitize hands upon entering buses.
	Bus Drivers must wear face masks. These must always be worn when children are in the bus.
<b>5</b>	<b>Numbers of students on each bus will be confirmed by the State and/or by local health officials.</b>
	Schools will adjust schedules when possible to meet transportation requirements. Bus routes will not be based on survey results from parents on whether they will drive students to school. This information will be important if the State indicates that the number of students on buses must be reduced.

<b>6</b>	<b>If the State of Connecticut adjusts social distancing guidelines due to COVID 19:</b>
	<b>The number of students on each bus may be adjusted.</b>
	The schools will limit the number of students on buses based on guidelines issued from the State of Connecticut. Seating options include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seat one student to a bench on both sides of the bus.</li> <li>• Seat one student to a bench on both sides of the bus, skipping every other row.</li> <li>• Seat one student to a bench, alternating rows on each side, creating a zigzag pattern on the bus.</li> </ul>
	Bus populations will depend on the number of students attending in person school and where parents are unable to drive students to school. Bus capacity may be adjusted to meet all health and safety guidelines. These adjustments may result in a significant increase in transportation cost. There may also be a tremendous impact on classes with students arriving/departing at different times.
	Reduced size bus runs will result adjusted bus routes resulting in “double runs” or “triple runs” resulting in staggered arrival times and dismissal times for students.
	A bus monitor will ride on the bus at all times and will ensure that students practice social distancing on buses. <i>This requirement may impact the school’s ability to hold in-person schooling.</i>
	<b>The <u>school schedule</u> may be adjusted to meet the needs of social distancing (on buses) based on guidelines issued from the State of Connecticut.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If numbers are limited the schedule may result in an altered schedule for students.</li> <li>• Adjusted State Guidelines may result in an extended period of Remote Learning by all students.</li> </ul>








# Transportation Scenario Plan



	Normal	Hybrid
<b>PPE</b> (masks, gloves, shields)	<p><b>Masks:</b> worn by driver, students and aides at all times</p> <p><b>Gloves:</b> only required for adults on SPED buses</p> <p><b>Shields:</b> Only required for adults on SPED buses</p> <p>District must supply back up masks for students who forget</p> <p>Transportation will be denied for students who do not have a mask</p>	<p><b>Masks:</b> worn by driver, students and aides at all times</p> <p><b>Gloves:</b> only required for adults on SPED buses</p> <p><b>Shields:</b> Only required for adults on SPED buses</p> <p>District must supply back up masks for students who forget</p> <p>Transportation will be denied for students who do not have a mask</p>
<b>Cleaning of Bus</b>	<p>Some windows will be open for ventilation</p> <p>Drivers given spray bottle of disinfectant, rags and paper towels to clean seats, hand rails and back of seats after morning route and afternoon routes</p> <p>(Due to timing of schools, may not be done in between routes such as charter, parochial, high school, elementary)</p> <p>Fogger system used at night</p>	<p>Some windows will be open for ventilation</p> <p>Drivers given spray bottle of disinfectant, rags and paper towels to clean seats, hand rails and back of seats after morning route and afternoon routes (Due to timing of schools, may not be done in between routes such as charter, parochial, high school, elementary)</p> <p>Fogger system used at night</p>
<b>Hand Sanitizer Machines/Bottles</b>	<p>None on bus due to mandates of CT Dept. of Transportation</p> <p>No bottles unless school district willing to pay for them</p>	<p>None on bus due to mandates of CT Dept. of Transportation</p> <p>No bottles unless school district willing to pay for them</p>
<b>Bus Monitors</b>	<p>Only supplied on SPED buses</p> <p>If needed on other buses, district will have to pay additional cost to hire, train and do background checks</p>	<p>Only supplied on SPED buses</p> <p>If needed on other buses, district will have to pay additional cost to hire, train and do background checks</p>
<b>Vehicles for Out of City Students</b>	<p>Cars will probably not be used</p> <p>Vans with extended cabs will be used</p>	<p>Cars will probably not be used</p> <p>Vans with extended cabs will be used</p>
<b>Social Distancing</b>	<p>Governor says students can ride as they have in previous years</p> <p>We will skip two seats to keep the driver safe</p>	<p>Governor says students can ride as they have in previous years</p> <p>We will skip two seats to keep the driver safe</p>
<b>SPED Buses</b>	<p>Distance between wheelchairs will be 3-4 feet</p>	<p>Distance between wheelchairs will be 3-4 feet</p>
<b>Bus Routes</b>	<p>Same territory, timing, as previous years</p>	<p>Same territory, timing, as previous years</p>

# Personal Protective Equipment Acquisitions

Item	District Quantity
<p data-bbox="358 262 716 296"><b>Disposable Face Masks</b></p> 	<p data-bbox="980 321 1284 457"><b>1.5 Million Units</b></p>
<p data-bbox="391 531 683 564"><b>Disposable Gowns</b></p> 	
<p data-bbox="367 955 708 989"><b>Reusable Face Shields</b></p> 	<p data-bbox="1036 1024 1192 1161"><b>4,000 Units</b></p>
<p data-bbox="302 1247 773 1281"><b>Sanitizing Stations/Dispensers</b></p> 	
<p data-bbox="407 1583 667 1617"><b>Sanitizing Wipes</b></p> 	<p data-bbox="1019 1640 1208 1776"><b>70,000 Packs</b></p>
<p data-bbox="383 1864 691 1898"><b>Plexiglass Partitions</b></p>	

# District Technology Deployment



## Technology

Technology expectations for reopening the Bridgeport Public Schools	
<b>1</b>	<b>Access to technology should be 1-to-1 for all students where possible</b>
	The District has created a strategy in which all students should have access to a mobile technology device based on their grade band. Scenarios where shortages occur will be reviewed for remediation.
<b>2</b>	<b>CARES Funding for technology has been used to purchase</b>
	The District has purchased new tablet Google Lenovo Android devices for younger learners.
	The District has purchased new Microsoft Windows 10S devices for intermediate and middle school students as per our District standard.
<b>3</b>	<b>CSDE Partnership Devices Deployment</b>
	The devices received will be deployed to all high school students, once all have been received from Dell. Equipment will be managed by the ITS Department of BPS in cooperation with all schools.
<b>4</b>	<b>Technology Deployment Strategy</b>
	<b>Pre-Kindergarten to 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:</b> will receive either Legacy Apple iPads or New Android tablets wherever possible, otherwise Legacy ChromeBooks.
	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Grade to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade:</b> will receive Legacy ChromeBooks or will use new/existing Windows 10S devices if schools have already purchased them.
	<b>6<sup>th</sup> Grade to 8<sup>th</sup> Grade:</b> will receive existing District HP/Lenovo Windows 10S or newly purchased Lenovo Windows 10S devices.
	<b>9<sup>th</sup> Grade to 12<sup>th</sup> Grade:</b> will receive new CSDE purchased Dell Windows 10S devices.
<b>5</b>	<b>Equitable and universal technology access</b>
	The District will make every effort to provide equitable access to technology for all students whenever possible <i>within the limitations of <u>budget and equipment availability</u></i> .
<b>6</b>	<b>Internet Access</b>
	The District <b>cannot</b> provide guaranteed Internet access to all students in their homes and will need Parents/Guardians to plan accordingly to meet this need.
	The District <i>is currently offering</i> the Sprint 1Million program in High schools and is investigating other opportunities to provide Internet to reduce the digital divide wherever possible, see options below.
<b>7</b>	<b>District Official Digital Platforms for all points of on-line presence</b>
	Bridgeport Public Schools uses only <b>Microsoft Office 365</b> and <b>Teams for Education</b> as our production, data, communication and collaboration platform. Other platforms <i>are not authorized</i> for usage.
	Bridgeport Public Schools uses <b>MyBPS</b> powered by <b>Classlink</b> as the single point of presence for access to <b>Office 365/Teams</b> and <i>all approved and managed</i> digital platforms in compliance with PA-16-189.
<b>8</b>	<b>Virtual Classroom Code of Conduct</b>
	The District has provided a virtual classroom code of conduct to provide students the expectation while in Hybrid and Remote Learning.
<b>9</b>	<b>Student Digital Citizenship Training</b>
	Teaching of Digital Citizenship will be a required curriculum content for all students.
<b>10</b>	<b>Digital Instruction Continuity Plan</b>
	The District is working on creation and deployment of a digital Instructional Continuity Plan which encompasses all the expectations and offerings for students and faculty for Fall 2020.

# City of Bridgeport Internet Offerings

## **Sprint 1Million Project Tablets**

The District has received approximately 750 additional, new Samsung smart phones through the 1Million Project (1MP) that can be used as hot spots for internet access. The phones are available to high school students through their schools' 1Million Project contact. The phones will be issued on a "first come first served" basis. High Schools students and/or their parents should contact their School Principal or 1Million Project coordinator at their school.

## **Optimum Hotspots**

Optimum WiFi hotspots are a network of over 2 million free WiFi internet access points that allow you to make high-speed internet connections on the go as easily as when you're connected at home. [<https://www.optimum.net/internet/hotspots>]

## **Economy Internet from Altice brought to you by Optimum**

You may qualify for Altice Advantage Internet if you or a member of your household is eligible for or participates in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP); or a Bridgeport resident and attends a Bridgeport Public School; or eligible for or receives Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and 65 years of age or older; or a veteran and receive state or federal public assistance. [<https://www.alticeadvantageinternet.com>]

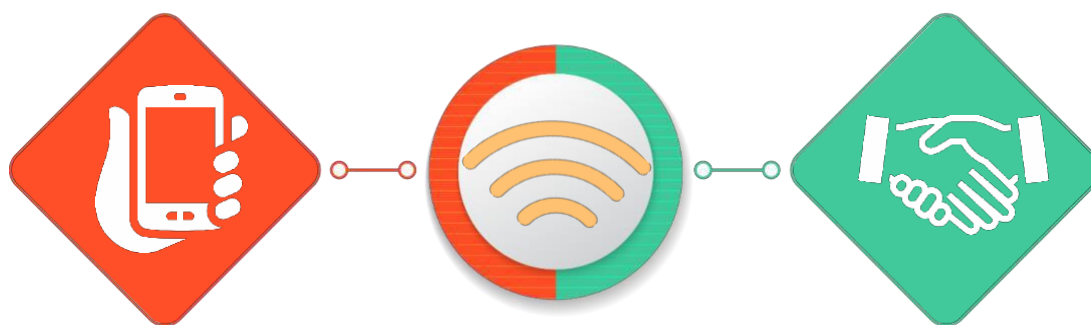
## **Frontier Lifeline Program**

If you have been living without phone service because you cannot afford it, you may be eligible for this government assistance program. Frontier is committed to helping qualified low-income individuals pay for telephone service or qualifying internet access services by supporting the principles of Universal Service. [<https://frontier.com/resources/discountprograms/lifeline-program>]

**Bridgeport Public Schools** *continues* to appeal at the local, state, and federal level to encourage Internet providers to open their WiFi networks to provide free internet access in our community.

## **State of Connecticut recommended offerings can be found:**

<https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/Information-For/Internet-Access>



# Reopening Our Schools: Sources

Please note that sections of this document have been taken from or based on the following sources:

- “Adapt, Advance, Achieve” Connecticut’s Plan to Learn and Grow Together - Connecticut State Department of Education
- “Reopen Connecticut” - Rules for operating Summer School during COVID 19 - State of Connecticut
- “Preparing for a Safe Return to Classroom Learning” - State of Connecticut
- “Instructional Continuity Plan 2.0” – Miami-Dade County Public School District

Please note that all plans and items included in this document are subject to change based on requirements and/or advice from the Governor or Connecticut, the Connecticut State Department of Education, and the Bridgeport Health Department.

Contact the Superintendent of Schools for additional information and/or questions:

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