



Bennington Public Schools

Return to Learn Plan

Bennington Public Schools has developed the following plan for the 2021-2022 school year. This plan will allow our students to return to school in the safest way possible, even though we realize the COVID-19 pandemic and the proper responses to its challenges are continuously changing. The challenges presented by COVID-19 require flexibility and cooperation from everyone involved with Bennington Public Schools. We thank all of our stakeholders for working with Bennington Schools to promote safety.

School begins Monday, August 2nd, 2021.

School calendars are available in the school office.

Please contact Scot McCorstin (580-847-2310) if you have any questions about this Return to Learn Plan.

Screening protocol for entering school facility:

In an effort to ensure the safety of our students, faculty, and staff, and to prevent the spread of Covid-19, Bennington Public Schools will be implementing the following protocols:

Bennington Public Schools encourages parents, family members, and all school employees to self-screen at home. (A Covid-19 Screening Checklist is included in this Return to Learn Plan.) If a student or employee has a temperature of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, the student or employee should remain at home until the individual has been free of fever for 3 days without the use of fever-reducing medication.

All employees of Bennington Schools will be required to self-screen each morning.

Parents should ensure their children are fever-free and not experiencing respiratory problems other than normal allergies before sending their children to school.

Best practices for positive cases at schools:

POSITIVE CASE – ELEMENTARY CAMPUS

1. Consult with county Health Department to begin contact tracing
2. Communicate to staff
3. Communicate to applicable parents, depending on classroom arrangement
4. Thoroughly sanitize classroom
5. Determine which students/employees must quarantine

POSITIVE CASE – SECONDARY LEVEL CAMPUS

1. Consult with county Health Department to begin contact tracing
2. Communicate to staff
3. Communicate to applicable parents
4. County health departments will decide which students will have to be quarantined and go to distance learning, depending on exposure level as determined by the county health officials

Access to school facilities:

Due to COVID-19, and for the safety of our students, parents will not be allowed to enter school facilities during the regular school day. For assistance, parents are asked to call the office. Students will not be permitted to enter the buildings until 7:30 AM each morning.

Masks:

Students, faculty, and staff are allowed to wear masks; however, masks are not required.

Transportation safety:

Bennington Public Schools will continue transporting students to and from school each day. Parents who are able may bring their children to school each morning and pick them up each afternoon. Students are allowed but not required to wear a face covering while riding a school bus.

Parents should keep in mind that best practices for social distancing and ventilation are difficult to achieve on a school bus, but parents can choose whether or not to use school bus transportation.

Distance/Virtual Days:

In the event of school closure, Bennington Public Schools will implement distance learning days of instruction. Students, parents, and faculty members will be notified as early as possible regarding distance learning days.

Communication:

Bennington Public Schools will use text notifications, the school website, and Bennington Schools' Facebook page to communicate with parents and students.

Modifying facilities to allow physical distancing:

Social distancing will be practiced, when possible. All student desks will face the same direction and be spaced appropriately when possible. Seating charts will be required. Elementary students will remain separated from High School students when possible, including staggered release times at the end of the day and separate meal and P.E. times.

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette:

Students will receive instruction on proper hand washing techniques and guidelines for respiratory etiquette to assist in slowing the spread of COVID-19. Bennington Public Schools will ensure students have ample opportunities to wash their hands, and respiratory etiquette instruction will include the proper way to cover the nose and mouth when sneezing and coughing.

Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation:

Disinfecting wipes and hand sanitizer will be available for use in each classroom. Classrooms and facilities will be cleaned and sanitized periodically throughout the school day.

Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine in collaboration with state, local, territorial, or tribal health departments:

Bennington Public Schools will adhere to guidelines set by local, state, and federal authorities. Contact tracing will be conducted in cooperation with the Bryan County Health Department. Isolation and quarantine guidelines provided by health officials will be used to determine when a student can safely return to school.

Diagnostic and Screening Testing:

Bennington Public Schools encourages parents, legal guardians, and all school employees to self-screen at home. If a student or employee has a temperature of 100-degrees Fahrenheit or higher, the student or employee should remain at home until the individual has been free of fever for 3 days.

Bennington Schools will screen students for fever when appropriate. If any student exhibits a fever of 100-degrees or higher, that student will be separated from other students and sent home as quickly as possible.

Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities:

Bennington Public Schools will work cooperatively with local and tribal health officials to provide opportunities for all school district employees and eligible students to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies:

All students with disabilities will receive appropriate accommodations in accordance with their individual education plan developed by the IEP team. Student with disabilities will not be excluded from attending and participating in classroom activities.

Coordination with State and local health officials:

As COVID-19 continues to evolve, Bennington Public Schools will partner with the Bryan County Health Department and health officials from the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma to coordinate a response that is in accordance with the latest CDC guidelines.

Continuity of services:

All students will continue to receive education and instruction, including the delivery of the appropriate academic curriculum, meal delivery, and all associated special education services.

Attendance

Students who are enrolled in the traditional school setting ARE REQUIRED to attend school. Attendance requirements remain in place, and exceptions to these requirements will be considered only on a case-by-case basis.

Curriculum

Bennington Schools will offer two course paths when we return to school this year and **one** eventuality based on whether or not students must be quarantined.

1. **Traditional School**—This option is traditional “face-to-face” instruction, with the precautions already described in this plan and with traditional in-person instruction and homework.

- A. All on-site, traditional learning with a classroom teacher
- B. In-person learning and interaction with peers
- C. Immediate access to teachers and school facilities, including classrooms, computer labs, the gyms, the library, etc.
- D. Transportation offered to and from school for eligible students
- E. Students offered breakfast and lunch
- F. 24/7 access to student grades and digital learning platforms
- G. Participation in all events sanctioned by the OSSAA and all other extra-curricular activities for eligible students
- H. Distance learning will be used in the event of school closures, which includes but is not limited to: sickness, distance learning days, weather-related school closures, etc.

2. **Virtual Learning**--This is a fully online school program where students would remain at home, log in to a program **every instructional day as shown by the official school calendar**, and complete coursework as directed by the program.

NOTE- Parents desiring to enroll their child as a **virtual student** must complete the application connected to this plan AND schedule a time with the building principal to make arrangements.

Online Learning Platform--**Learning System to be chosen by Bennington Public Schools**

- A. Students may not arbitrarily switch back and forth between being Virtual Students and Traditional, on-site students.
- B. Virtual students will remain in good standing by logging on and completing required coursework during instructional days, based on the school calendar.
- C. Virtual Learning will NOT be an option for students who are failing virtually. A student's failure to complete required assignments/coursework will require Bennington Schools to change this placement to a placement which ensures the student's educational needs are being met.
- D. Students enrolled in virtual learning will not be eligible to participate in any extracurricular activities sponsored by Bennington Public Schools

3. **Distance Learning**--Distance Learning is to be understood as an at-home learning program which is an extension of the on-site curriculum. Distance learning will be utilized under the following conditions:

- A. Days that the school has already scheduled as “Distance Learning Days” on the school calendar
- B. Days a student is quarantined
- C. Days the District is forced to close due to circumstances which require a school closure
 - A. Teachers will assign and communicate assignments
 - B. 24/7 access to student grades and digital learning platforms

Bennington Virtual Learning Application

GRADE _____ PREVIOUS SCHOOL _____ DATE _____

STUDENT'S LEGAL NAME _____ GENDER _____

BIRTH DATE _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN NUMBER _____ EMERGENCY NUMBER _____

Parent's E-Mail: _____

1. What is the reason for choosing the virtual option?

_____ I am concerned about my student's safety.

_____ I am concerned about my family members in the "at risk" category.

_____ Other

2. Does the student have access to an electronic device that will support virtual education?

_____ Yes

_____ No

_____ I have a phone with network access only

3. Does the student have access to reliable internet connectivity to support virtual education?

_____ Yes

_____ No

_____ I have a phone with network access only

Student Acceptable Use Guidelines

1. Be aware of what you post online--social media venues are very public. What you post leaves a digital footprint for all to see. Do not post anything you wouldn't want friends, classmates, parents, teachers, or invited guests to see.

2. Follow the school's code of conduct when writing online. It is acceptable to disagree with someone else's opinions; however, do it in a respectful way. Make sure that criticism is constructive and not hurtful. What is inappropriate in the classroom is inappropriate online.

3. Never give out personal information, including, but not limited to, User IDs, passwords, last names, phone numbers, social security numbers, student identification numbers, home addresses, birthdates, and pictures. Do not share your User IDs and password with anyone other than your teachers and parents.

4. Linking to other websites to support your thoughts and ideas is recommended. However, be sure to read the entire article prior to linking to ensure that all information is appropriate for a school setting.

5. Do your own work! Do not use other people's intellectual property without their permission. It is a violation of copyright law to copy and paste other's thoughts. When paraphrasing another's idea(s) be sure to cite your source with the URL. It is good practice to hyperlink to your sources.

6. Be aware that pictures may also be protected under copyright laws. Verify you have permission to use the image or that it is under public attribution.

7. How you represent yourself online is an extension of yourself. Do not misrepresent yourself by using someone else's identity. Using someone else's credentials to login will result in a termination of your login privileges.

8. All posts should be well written. Follow writing conventions including proper grammar, capitalization, and punctuation. If you edit someone else's work, be sure it is in the spirit of improving the writing.

9. If you encounter inappropriate material that makes you feel uncomfortable, or that is not respectful, inform your teacher immediately.

Parent Signature: _____

Bennington Virtual Learning Application

Student Agreement:

I am indicating that I have read the Acceptable Use Guidelines. I understand and agree to follow the Terms and Conditions for technology use. I understand any violation of the Acceptable Use Guidelines may result in the loss of my user account privileges, may result in other disciplinary action, and may result in the revoking of all network privileges and the possible referral to legal authorities. I agree to report any misuse of network resources to my teacher or a school administrator. I understand any violation may result in being removed from the Bennington Public School virtual program.

Testing Requirement

All students, enrolled in Bennington Public Schools--including virtual students--must take all state mandated tests. Parents are responsible for providing transportation to Bennington Public Schools for multiple days of testing.

Student Responsibility

Bennington Public School virtual students should plan to commit at least 5 hours per week per class/subject (30-35 hours per week). It is the responsibility of the student to login every instructional day. It is the responsibility of the student to complete their assignments within the allotted deadlines. It is the responsibility of the student to contact their teachers via email if they have any questions.

Parent Responsibility

Parents must monitor student progress and maintain communication with teachers. If an address, email, or phone number changes, parents must notify the school office to update this information, as well as update any online profiles.

