

Blended Learning Academies Return to In-Person Instruction & Continuity of Services Plan

November 14, 2023 Discussion:

- Continuing plan as identified.

Return to In-Person Instruction & Continuity of Services Plan:

Return to In-Person Instruction & Continuity of Services Plan Under the American Rescue Plan: Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief III (ARP: ESSER III) local districts are required to develop and maintain a Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan. This plan outlines and details the district's plan for a safe return to, or maintenance of, in-person instruction and must include information regarding the district's implementation of the Center for Disease Control's (CDC's) most current guidance at the time of development.

Blended Academies' may adjust this plan in response to information learned regarding current and future variants of COVID-19 or other communicable disease and transmission rates within the county or if the risk of severe illness, hospitalization, or death increases. If such adjustments are needed, the plan will be shared again for public input. The plan will also be reviewed every six months during the life of the ARP ESSER III grant and updates will be completed if needed. The plan will be shared for public input during those intervals as well.

Blended Academies' will comply with all local, state, and federal mandates/orders.

Continuity of Instruction:

Blended Academies will prioritize and offer, to all students, full in-person teaching and learning. Blended Academies will also offer a virtual learning option to students and families in need of a virtual mode of instruction. Families shall have the option to opt-in to the virtual option after meeting with the School Leader.

Key Components:

Mental Health Services for Students and Staff:

Blended Academies works to continuously support the social-emotional and mental health needs of students, families and staff. Blended Academies will work to increase support in the areas of mental health, social emotional learning, trauma informed practices and health and wellness for students and staff.

Along with academics, social emotional needs will be addressed with the integration of Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) and strengthening

connections with students. Blended Learning Academies will continue to implement a mental health screening for all students. Blended Academies will provide to all staff timely, responsive, and ongoing training/professional development as well as the needed tools, resources, and implementation support, focused on a variety of topics, including: social-emotional learning, trauma-informed best practices, identification of students at risk, proper local referral protocols, and self-care to promote holistic wellness and resilience and to prevent burnout and vicarious trauma.

Instructional Design and Curriculum Specialist:

Blended Academies will work to revamp current standards-aligned curricula within a learning management system to better meet the needs of our individualized self-paced approach for both our in-person and virtual learners. Blended Academies will focus on individualized teaching and learning and include best practices that promote student engagement, consistency, and differentiation. We have set an instructional vision that ensures every student will start the year with access to grade-level instruction and high quality, standards-aligned instructional materials in every subject. Every student will be assessed on their understanding of prerequisite skills and grade-level proficiencies using formative assessments, screeners, or diagnostics.

Students at Blended Academies will receive an individualized approach including Graduation Audits performed for each student to identify gaps, credit recovery opportunities and interventions to ensure all students are on track or reengaging to become on track for graduation.

After School and Summer Programing:

Blended Academies will offer after school instructional, one-on-one, support to all students. Support may also include social emotional learning and mental health and wellness resources. Both in-person and online.

Blended Academies will provide summer school programming to all students enrolled, to ensure students are on-track or reengaging to become on-track for high school graduation.

Health and Safety:

- **COVID-19 Testing** Testing will not be required but test kits may be offered to families.
- **Face Coverings (Masks)** Staff, students, volunteers, and visitors may wear a face covering regardless of the current level of community transmission and are supported in doing so. Face masks will be available to all staff and students.

Blended will abide by all laws, lawfully executed order, regulations, etc. pertaining to facial coverings.

- **Facilities: Cleaning, Disinfecting, Ventilation** Blended will follow regular cleaning and disinfection procedures. Additional cleaning and/or disinfection procedures within a classroom, school, will be implemented as needed based on local conditions. Blended Academies will utilize classroom air filters to improve ventilation in classrooms.
- **Food Services** Normal food service operations will occur. Additional health and safety protocols may be implemented as required by the health department or recommended by Bath Community Schools (food service provider).
- **Hand Hygiene & Respiratory Etiquette** Proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette are encouraged and expected. Supplies, including hand sanitizer, will be maintained in order to facilitate proper hand hygiene.
- **Health Screening & Student Illness** Parents/guardians are encouraged to conduct a daily wellness check to ensure students are well enough to attend school. Students should not be sent to school when they are ill. A child who has had a fever or is vomiting cannot return to school until they are healthy for 24 hours. Parents/guardians should follow medical professional and/or health department guidance regarding exclusion periods for communicable diseases.
- **Isolation & Quarantine** Blended Academies will follow current mandates/orders from federal, state, or local health agencies. In the absence of health department orders. Blended Academies will encourage parents/guardians to follow current medical professional and/or health department guidance regarding exclusion periods for communicable diseases.
- **Vaccinations** Blended Academies does not require staff or students to be vaccinated against COVID-19. OCHD, MDHHS, and CDC recommend COVID-19 vaccination as the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic as well as keep schools, extracurricular activities, and sports safely operational and in person.