

Good morning and welcome to the Reopen BCS Webinar.
I am joined today by Mrs. Kai Byrd, Director of Special Services, Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment and
Mr. Tom Reed-Swale, BCS Principal, along with Sue Carpenter BOE Executive Assistant who is hosting this webinar and will control the PowerPoint and questions at the end.
This is our first time using this type of technology, so please be patient while we navigate our way through.
Recognizing that 10 am is not a convenient time for some of our families, this webinar is being recorded and will be sent out to all families as well as being posted to the District website.
Questions that were submitted ahead of time, I hope to answer throughout the presentation.
Your microphone and video is turned off to allow just the panelists to respond. There will be an opportunity for Q&A at the end of the presentation. You will need to use the chat feature to ask your question. Sue Carpenter will field the questions to our panel.
I've planned for about an hour for the presentation including questions and answers, but I recognize there is quite a bit of information to share. If you must log off that is fine, you can pick up where you left off when it gets posted to the Website.
If we can't get to all questions today, we will create a Q&A document and post it to the District website, as well.

I want to begin by saying that I recognize that these are incredibly stressful times with high levels of anxiety and uncertainty for so many of us including our students, families and staff, including myself.

I'd like to thank those that recognize the amount of work that is going into the plans to reopen BCS safely and responsibly for your words of appreciation and encouragement.

For those that may not be so pleased with district decisions, please know that we are working hard to get it right often sacrificing our own self-care and family obligations. Will we make mistakes? Will there be oversights? Are there times we wish we could hit the do over button? Of course, we are human.

While some might think that the race to educational recovery is a priority – it is not for our district administrators.
The safety, health and wellness of our students and staff is our number one priority.

We are in this together and we will prevail . We are BCS Strong!

REOPEN BCS PLAN - 2020

Closing Schools

- Bethany Community School closed on March 12, 2020.
- Governor Lamont's Executive Order 7C closed all Connecticut schools effective March 17, 2020.
- On May 5, 2020, the Governor closed all Connecticut schools for the remainder of the academic school year.

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As you recall, like any of us would every forget, BCS closed its doors on March 12th with little forewarning due to COVID-19.

On March 17th, the Governor closed all CT schools and declared a State of Emergency.

This sent districts scrambling to deploy devices, clean buildings, purchase Distance Learning technology platforms, plan remote learning lessons, learn how to use digital technology in new ways, and return staff and student belongings while families and staff were thrust into the roles of parents and educators, often trying to work from home simultaneously. It wasn't easy for anyone.

On May 5th, the Governor closed in-person school for the rest of the academic school year.
Just when we were getting the hang of Distance Learning and improving our delivery of instruction, the school year came to an end, and we were trying to offer our traditional end-of-the year events in creative remote ways.

REOPEN BCS PLAN - 2020

Opening Schools

- On June 25, 2020, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) and the Governor announced that CT schools should plan to **reopen** their doors in the Fall, **full-time for all students**.
- On June 29, 2020, the CSDE provided Superintendents with a guidance document, Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together, outlining the requirements and recommendations districts must follow in order to create their individual District reopen plans.
- All districts were informed that their reopening plans must be submitted to the CSDE by July 24, 2020.

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In conversations with my Superintendent colleagues it has been said, "If you think closing schools was stressful, reopening them is going to be far more challenging."

It is important to keep your eyes on the fast and furious timeline that was set up for Superintendents and school districts.

On June 25th, the SDE and the Governor announced that ALL CT schools should plan to reopen their doors in the Fall for full time instruction for all students.

On June 29th, Districts received the State's 50+ page guidance document outlining requirements and recommendations that MUST be followed in order to reopen schools.

We were informed that Districts had to submit their plans by July 24th. That gave Districts 18 working days, with a 4th of July holiday thrown in there, and with limited access to staff because of the summer break.

REOPEN BCS PLAN - 2020

Opening Schools

- The Commissioner of Education, Dr. Miguel A. Cardona, and the Connecticut Board of Education gave temporary authorization for local Board of Educations to waive up to a maximum of 3 days from the 180 day requirement set forth in Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-15 for an unavoidable emergency, to provide staff and families with additional time to build capacity to safely transition back to **in-person** classes. Such waiver, is limited to instances whereby a school district uses the days prior to the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year and must adhere to 177 per school calendar. (CSDE Memo July 14, 2020)

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In the midst of our 18 day planning period, on July 14th, we learned that local BOE were given temporary authorization to waive up to a maximum of 3 days from the 180-day requirement in the beginning of the school year to provide families and staff with additional time to prepare for the reopening. Our district is using those days for staff professional development, setting up classrooms that maximize social distancing and to provide student orientations for back to school.

REOPEN BCS PLAN - 2020

Opening Schools

- "Any plan submitted to the Connecticut State Department of Education on July 24, 2020 that does not include a full reopening option as one of the three models, where all public school students have the opportunity to access school in-person 5 days a week, will not be in compliance with current state law regarding the number of school days, or the expectations of State leadership." (CSDE Memo July 21, 2020)

- School districts should make every effort to provide a comprehensive remote learning experience to students whose families voluntarily and temporarily opt them out from in-person learning. This voluntary family choice for home learning is not intended to be the same as the opportunities provided when classes are canceled for a broader population. School districts should develop models that take into consideration educator input and avoid setting unreasonable expectations for staff. School districts should notify families of the implications of their choice to temporarily participate in remote learning. (CSDE Memo July 22, 2020)

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While rumor had it that some districts were not adhering to the SDE orders to reopen in full with all students at the beginning of the year, the top bulleted memo was sent to Superintendents on July 21st. The directive was quite clear: in-person, 5 days a week, for all students.

Being the rule follower that I am, the Bethany plan states just that.

With so many questions being asked by district leaders, educators and families regarding remote learning, and rightfully so, the second bulleted memo was sent to Superintendents on July 22nd, 2 days before plans needed to be submitted. I'll give you a moment to read this excerpt.

Given that the guidance provided by the SDE related to learning from home has been so vague and not timely, the submitted Bethany Plan was likewise vague, raising quite a few questions. Later in the presentation, I hope to provide more information to you on this topic, so you can make responsible decisions for your child's learning.

REOPEN BCS PLAN - 2020

Opening Schools

- On July 24, 2020, the DRAFT Bethany plan was submitted to CSDE and shared with all Bethany stakeholders.
- On July 27, 2020, during a press conference the Governor and Commissioner announced that school districts will be provided flexibility to reopen their doors, based on ongoing local health data as provided by the Quinnipiack Valley Health District (QVHD) Director of Health, QVHD Medical Advisor, and Bethany School Medical Advisor.

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The DRAFT Bethany Reopen Plan was submitted to the SDE on the due date, July 24th and shared with all stakeholders. I submitted this plan with a DRAFT watermark because based on my experience with the SDE over the last month I was certain that revisions would need to be made.

Three days later, without prior notice to Superintendents, during a press conference, the Governor and Commissioner announced that school districts will be provided flexibility to reopen their doors based on ongoing local health data. Mind you this announcement was made at a 4pm Governors call to the general public and came as a quite surprise to all Superintendents who happened to tune in, and a bigger surprise to those that missed the unannounced broadcast. In a later broadcast, the State officials said that perhaps they were misunderstood.

Are you feeling our frustration yet?

Even as late as this morning, we are receiving guidance on preschool programs and decisions to transition in and out of learning phases.

REOPEN BCS PLAN - 2020

Opening Schools

- On July 28th, additional guidance was received from CSDE
  - Bring back as many students in-person as possible utilizing multiple mitigation strategies in the areas of health and safety as outlined in your return to school plans, with approval of local health officials.
  - Make every effort to have consistent and coherent **regional** hybrid models.
  - To ensure the highest quality remote learning programming possible, CSDE recommends 50% synchronous and 50% asynchronous at a minimum, for learning at home students.

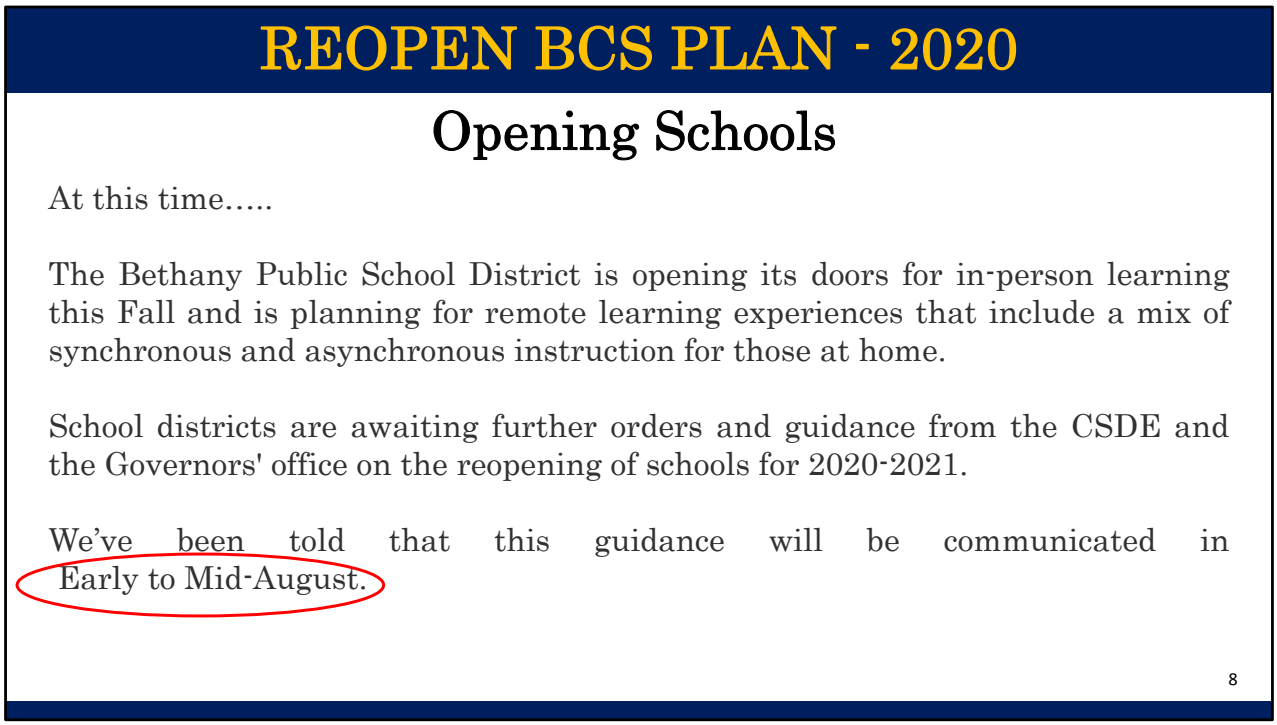
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Just one day after the surprise press conference, on July 28th the following guidance was released:

Flexibility to reopen schools is defined as having local health official approval based on data related to cases and rates of transmission.

Recognizing that plans submitted with various versions of hybrid models, was going to pose a problem with staffing and inconsistency across the region, districts are now asked to try to regionalize their hybrid models. So what this means is, that the Hybrid Model currently in the Bethany Plan might need to be revised after consulting with our regional neighbors.

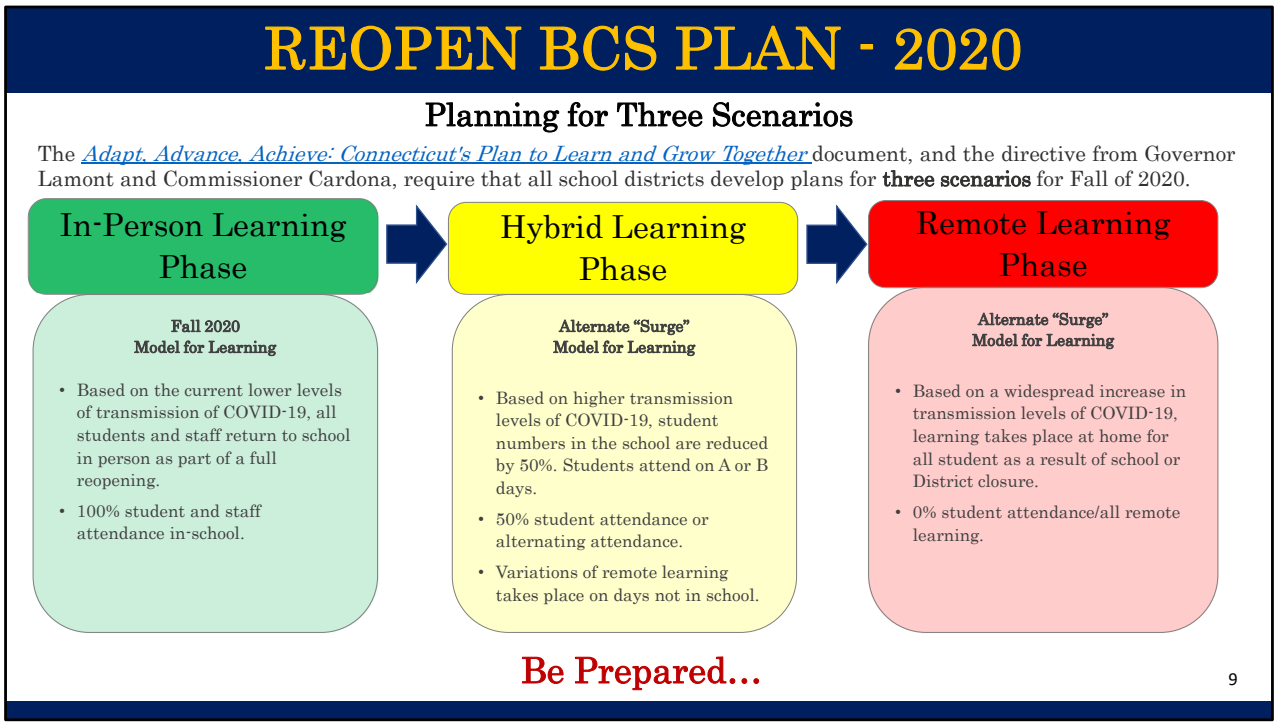
Additional information was provided on remote learning here. Highest quality of remote learning as possible, with a recommendation of 50% synchronous (Live, real time instruction and interaction) and 50% asynchronous (recorded or post and respond lessons) at a minimum.



With all that was just said,

AT THIS TIME...

BCS is opening its doors in the fall for in-person learning and plans to provide remote learning experiences that include a mix of synchronous and asynchronous instruction for those that temporarily choose to learn from home. Our intentions are to provide the highest quality of remote learning that we possibly can, with our educators' input while not setting unrealistic expectations for our staff. We are currently looking at a variety of technology platforms and instructional models to offer our students learning from home during the temporary period when we will be trying to juggle in-person and home learning simultaneously.



The Bethany Plan

- Provides for in-school instruction *for all students on a full-time basis,* unless a family voluntarily opts into temporary remote learning or if a students requires a medical exemption or accommodations;
- Provides both in-person and remote learning support options in a Hybrid Model accessing instruction and curriculum online resulting in limited student population on school premises at any given time; *and*
- Provides a total remote learning model for the potential of future cancellations of school

IMPORTANT: Parents and staff MUST be prepared for each of these scenarios in the event we need to transition in and out of these phases at any given time.



Unlike when a district is developing a Strategic Plan which involves many stakeholders at all levels soliciting feedback, identifying strengths and areas of improvement, establishes goals and allows for decision making over the course of a year or more, the BCS Reopen Plan had 18 days to comply with State guidelines.

If you've read the plan closely, there was very little decision making required.

Each of the focus area committees on the slide were chaired by one or more of our 12-month department heads. Each focus group had a subcommittee of composed of volunteers from certified and non-certified staff. Outside consultants brought their expertise to the table including, Dr. Namita Wijesekera, our school medical advisor, Dr. Amir Mohammad, medical advisor from QVHD, our local health department director and sanitarians, Dr. Ryan Loss from Connecticut Behavior Health, Attorney Rebecca Santiago from Shipman and Goodwin, Peter Ferrara representing Chartwells Food Service, Beth Cohen, President of B&B Transportation and Dr. Marie Alcock, Learning Systems Associates for her expertise in curriculum design.

Other advisory groups were given the opportunity to provide feedback on the Plan prior to submission including the Bethany BOE, Town Officials, Police and Emergency Management, Parks and Recreation, Community Organizations, Parent Teacher Organization and the

Bethany Educators Association, the Teachers' Union.

We worked in collaboration with our Bethany, Orange, Woodbridge and Amity (BOWA) neighbors to stay as closely aligned as possible since we share students with the middle school and high school.

A series of parent surveys were administered with high rates of responses which I will highlight later in the presentation.

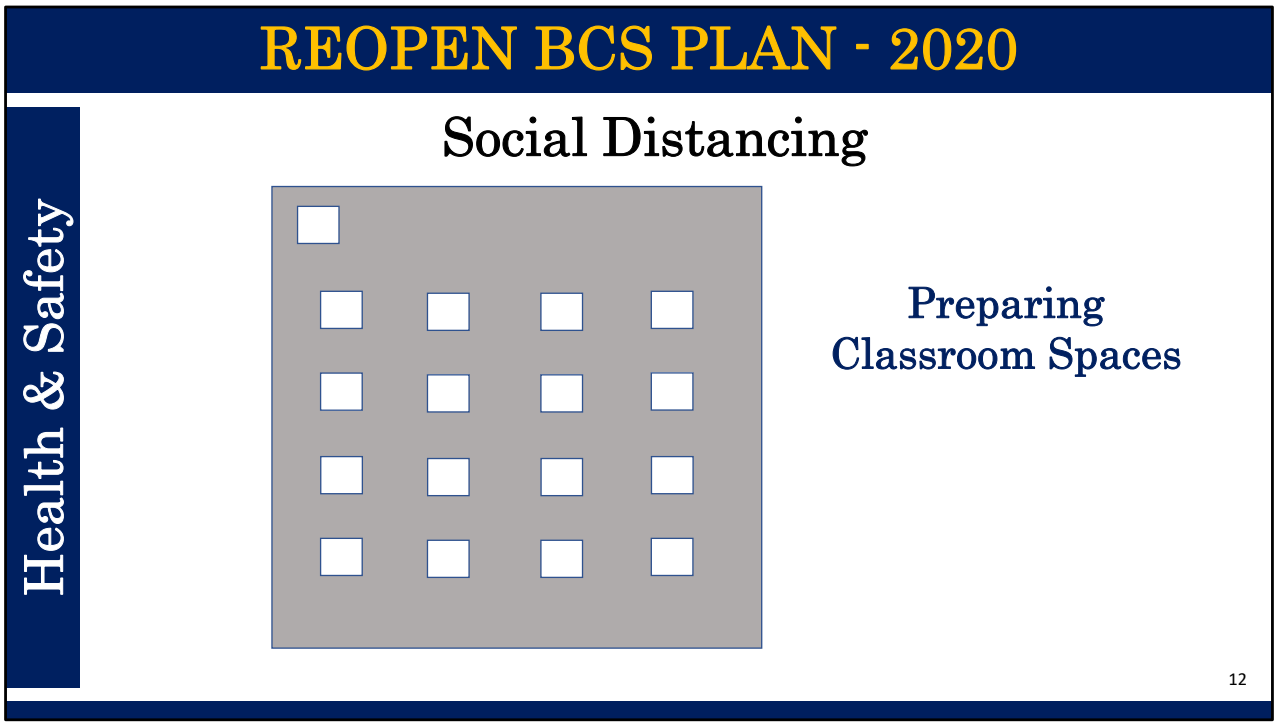
REOPEN BCS PLAN - 2020

Guiding Principles

- Prioritize health, safety, and wellness for all.
- Provide high quality instruction.
- Adhere to all executive orders and guidance.
- Respond to available information we have at the time.
- Foster two-way communication between all stakeholders.

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Slide is self explanatory.



Our Director of Facilities, Fred Bartolini, Sue Carpenter and I conducted a Space Audit in our building earlier in July.
Plans are set for all non-essential furniture to be removed from classrooms and put into storage.
Our next survey to parents will ask them to commit, as best they can, to in-person or remote learning for the Fall.

Quite a bit of consideration went into the make up of class lists back in the Spring and we hope to keep those intact, as best as we can.
Once we have a more solid number of students planning on returning in-person per classroom, the rooms will be arranged, maximizing social distancing.

Tables in the Kindergarten, Grades 1 & 2 as well as Grade 6 Science, have been removed and replaced with desks and chairs.
Our desks have storage wells inside them so that students' individual supplies will be kept separated and not mingled with others.

If all students return to in- person, we will be able to maintain 4 – 6" distance between workstations, (depending on class size and room dimensions) and if some students choose to learn from home, then those distances between workstations will be wider.

The district has also purchased trifold desk shields for every student and staff member for further protection.



Other mitigating strategies, either required or recommended by the SDE include:

Cohorting – Cohorting is when the same group of students spend the whole day together and do not mix with any other students. For example, Ms. Sniffin's Kindergarten students come into the classroom in the morning and stay together in that classroom all day long. They eat lunch in the classroom, travel to an assigned bathroom together without mixing with other students from other classrooms. This is a strong recommendation from the health officials, and easily obtainable at the elementary level.

Special Area Teachers – PE and Music classes have stricter social distancing requirements and need larger spaces to conduct lessons, so the gym will be divided into 2 sections and students will traverse outside from their classrooms to the gym doors for these two specials. PE activities will be limited to those that can be done individually (fitness, mindfulness) as opposed to a group sport.

Art, Spanish and Library will be on a cart going from classroom to classroom. Recognizing that these teachers will meet with the entire student body, Principal Reed-Swale is toying with a specials' rotation, whereby a special might be assigned to a few classrooms for several weeks, then rotate to another cohort. This would help with contact tracing, but we are not sure it will work with the schedules without sacrificing something else.

There will still be book check out from the library, but it will be done electronically, and materials will be delivered to the classrooms. Once returned, books remain off shelves for 72 hours.

Hallways, walkways, and stairs will be clearly labeled for directionality. We are very fortunate that most classrooms have an outside door to help traffic flow in, out and within the building. Grades 3 and 4 do not have the advantage of outside doors, but we have designated one set of stairs to go upstairs and the other for down traffic.

There will be hygiene signage throughout the building, in bathrooms and in classrooms reminding students to wash their hands, sanitize, and to cover their mouth and nose when sneezing and coughing.

Expecting larger numbers of students being dropped off or picked up, Principal Reed-Swale is working on a traffic flow pattern for the morning and afternoon and will communicate that with families in his Back to School notices.

Students will enter and exit the building maintaining social distancing in small groups with directionality prompts like the grocery stores.

Cohorts will be assigned bathrooms and those bathrooms will be cleaned throughout the day.

We will be assessing before and after school activities. If an activity can be done virtually then we would strongly encourage it to continue.

The school is in the process of purchasing individual supplies for students. There will be no sharing. I know most kids love to go Back to School shopping and enjoy picking out their own supplies. They can certainly bring in their own, but they will not be able to share them with others.



There will be no visitors or volunteers allowed in the school unless they are pre-approved by administration and only for the purpose of pre-arranged meetings. Visitors with pre-approved access will have their temperature checked, need to sanitize their hands, wear a mask and fill out a questionnaire if they have any symptoms, or if anyone in their household has traveled outside CT in recent weeks.

Building use by outside organizations is restricted until further notice.

Districts are required to have a containment plan. If a child or staff member presents with virus symptoms during the day, they will be monitored in an isolation room by the school nurse, or their designee, until their parent can pick them up. Per State guidelines, Fred Bartolini has created an isolation room in the existing nurse's room with clear monitoring access, and a dedicated bathroom. Please note, not every runny nose or cough would send a child into the isolation room, but a temperature will.

To eliminate traffic in the hallways, Nurse Jen will become mobile and visit classrooms when called and will check in with students, if necessary.

For this reason, we are looking to hire an additional health support staff to man the nurses' room or isolation room or to help with data filing when Nurse Jen is out and about.

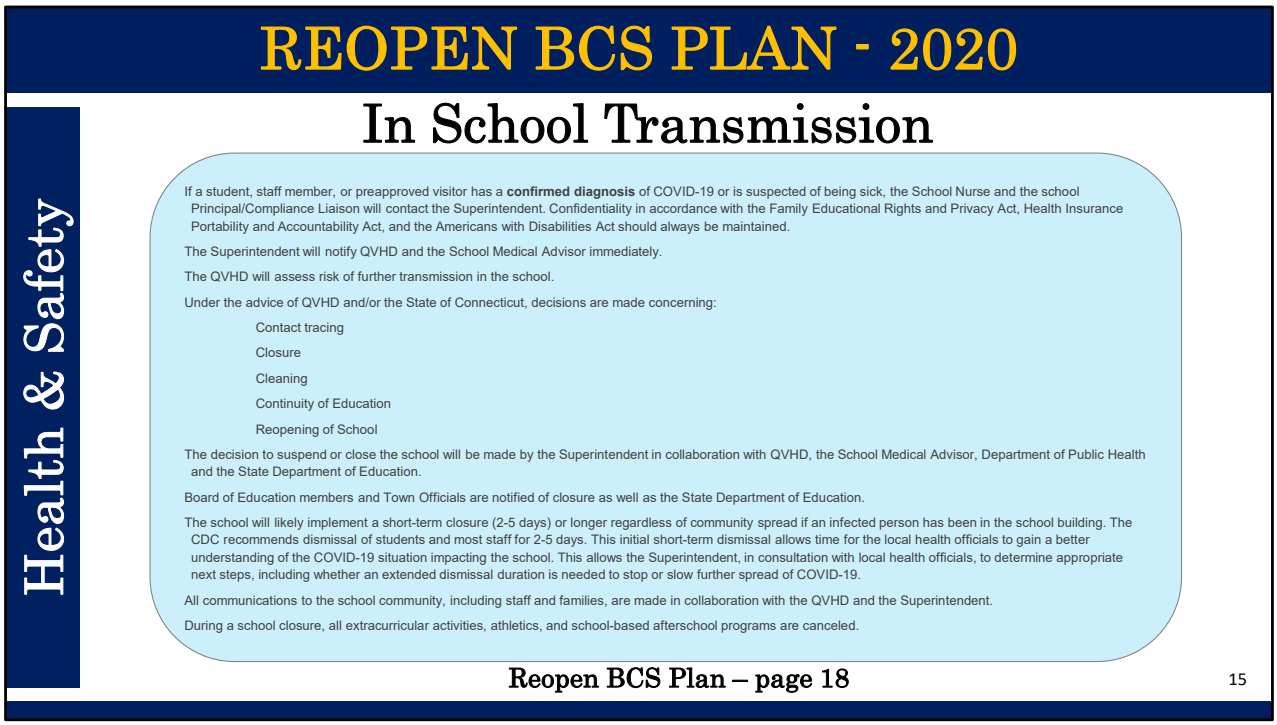
I mentioned that we purchased desk shields for every student and staff member as well as for the main office.

The guidelines do not recommend that schools take students and staff temperatures upon arriving at school. What they do recommend is that staff self monitor symptoms and temperatures at home before leaving for work and that parents do the same with their children. It is recommended to take 2 readings 10 minutes apart. Please do not send your child to school with a fever or on Tylenol for a fever.

With that said, the district did purchase 2 temperature kiosks for an added precaution. This is a relatively new piece of technology and we are not sure how effective it will be in detecting someone with a temperature within a larger group.

The district has purchased $25,000 worth of PPE including face masks (cloth and disposable masks, clear masks, face shields for students and staff, disposable gloves, touchless thermometers, eye protection, isolation gowns and N-95 masks for our nurses)

Everyone needs to do their part to keep themselves and others safe, PLEASE.



Superintendents, School Medical Advisors, and QVHD Directors and Medical Advisors meet and talk among ourselves often to establish clear protocols to follow in the event of a report of a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19.

When a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 is reported, the school immediately reports it to QVHD and the School Medical Advisor.
If QVHD learns about a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19, they immediately contact the school.

QVHD reports the case to the Department of Public Health.
In collaboration, with all parties, contact tracing begins by QVHD.

BOE, Town officials, SDE and the school community are notified of the confirmed case.

At the present time, local health officials and Superintendents are waiting for further guidance from the Department of Public Health as to how and when school districts will decide to move into a hybrid model or remote learning phase following the report of confirmed cases.

REOPEN BCS PLAN - 2020

Health & Safety

Face Coverings/Masks

- Face coverings or masks are required by all students and staff (bus stop, bus transit, inside building).
- Waiting for guidance on face covering/mask exemptions.
- Students are not required to wear face coverings/masks during outdoor activities as long as social distancing can be maintained.
- Students and staff are encouraged to provide their own face coverings/masks; however, the District has purchased a reserve supply for those that require them.
- Mask breaks will be scheduled into the school day.
- Training videos and practice.

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Face masks or face coverings are required by all students and staff at bus stops, bus transit and inside the building.

We are waiting on guidance as to what constitutes a medical exemption.

The school will increase social distancing for anyone with a medical exemption or provide an alternative face covering if approved by all parties.

Students are not required to wear a mask outside as long as social distancing can be maintained, and we will be encouraging teachers to take learning outside whenever possible.

Survey results revealed that 96% of parents said they would provide their children with their own masks. With that said, the district has purchased over 17,000 masks for anyone that needs one. Masks, like other items of clothing might become and extension of our personalities. Some will choose a Vera Bradley print mask others their favorite sport team, these are all acceptable if they cover the nose and mouth.

We know that wearing a mask will be very difficult, especially for our younger learners, so teachers plan on scheduling regular mask breaks throughout the day, and masks do not

need to e worn outside.

Staff will be creating some training videos for kids to watch on the proper use of their mask. We hope to get those videos out to families prior to the start of school.

We strongly encourage parents to practice with their children during August by increasing the time wearing a mask each day.



The district has purchased touchless fixtures for throughout the school (toilets, sanitizers, paper towel dispensers, water faucets)

Disinfecting protocols have been established for desks, bathrooms and all high touch points.

Our building is CDC ventilation compliant, DPH water system compliant and while our drinking fountains will be shut off, water filling stations are available as well as sinks in the classrooms.

We are hiring additional custodial staff to cover the increased cleaning needs.

Our custodians have been trained and will only use CDC and DPH approved cleaning products.

REOPEN BCS PLAN - 2020

Health & Safety

Food Service

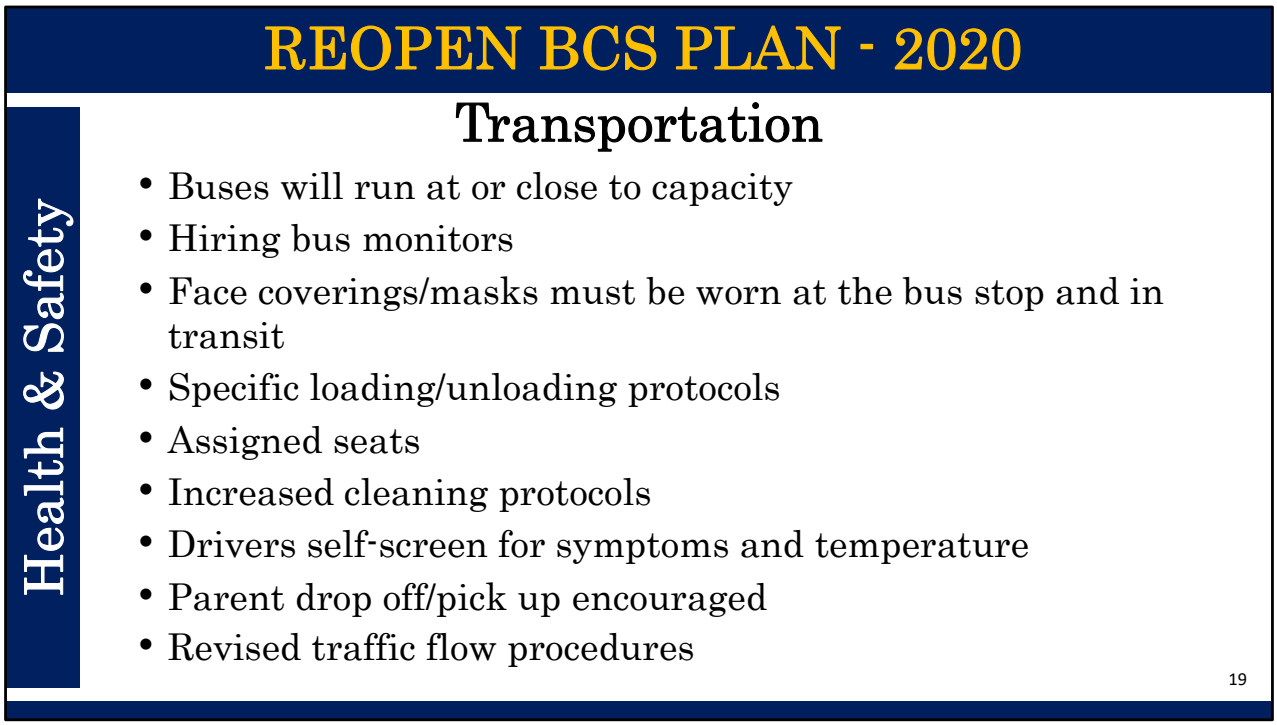
- Teachers will take the students' lunch orders at the start of the day.
- Through September, at a minimum, four bagged cold lunch options will be served.
- Lunch will be delivered to the classrooms.
- Handwashing required before and after lunch.
- Students will eat lunch at their desks in their classrooms.
- The classroom desks will be sanitized after lunch when the children are at recess.
- The District will continue to comply with all USDA, NSLP, and CSDE requirements.
- Free or reduced school lunch compliance plans.
- The District requests that lunch payments continue to be made through MyPaymentsPlus to reduce the exchange of money.
- Hiring of lunch monitors.

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Read slide:
Students eligible for free and reduced lunch will be provided their meal in-person or can be picked up each day at the school if they are learning from home.

The District requests that lunch payments continue to be made through MyPaymentsPlus to reduce the exchange of money. If necessary, the school will accept checks and cash, but it is not the safest method.

Lunch monitors are needed so that our teachers can get a duty-free lunch break.



Guidelines say that in the in-person phase, buses can run at close or to capacity. On a good day, before COVID-19, BCS buses never ran anywhere near capacity. With more parents driving their children to and from school, there will be additional room on our buses for social distancing.

We are hiring bus monitors for the first week of school to meet the kids at bus stops, help with masks and seating, and to go over bus protocols.

Face masks or coverings are required at bus stops and in transit.

Students will be loaded back to front and unloaded front to back. This will require a seating arrangement so they can be socially distanced and to keep families together.

Our bus drivers will follow the same self check for symptoms and temperatures as students and staff and their will be increase cleaning protocols.

Parents are encouraged to drop off and pick up, if possible, to reduce the number of students on a bus.

Mr. Reed-Swale will create new traffic flow procedures for the morning and afternoon and

communicate it out to families before the start of the school year.



While much uncertainty surrounds how and when school will reopen, we know that social and emotional learning will be critical to re-engage students, supporting adults, rebuilding relationships, and creating foundations for academic learning. This unprecedented shift to a new type of learning experience may have a lasting and profound impact on our young people.

For that reason, while educational recovery is important, we are committed to the social and emotional wellbeing of our students, staff and families as a priority.

The staff is planning various opportunities for students to reconnect with staff and prepare them for their return to BCS.

A half hour has been built into the school day first thing in the morning for all staff to push into classrooms and conduct morning meetings with kids focused on social emotional learning. This will be available to those learning at home as well.

Our SEL committee is working on the structure, materials, lessons and resources to be used during morning meetings and are drawing from multiple sources including, Second Steps, Ruler, PBIS, CASEL, and Advisor/Advisee models.

We know that students are not the only ones at risk. Our staff will conduct student and family check-ins, as well.

We've hired an additional school psychologist and paraprofessional in anticipation of increased student needs.

We have also contracted with Connecticut Behavior Health to provide targeted professional development for our staff focused on social and emotional learning and trauma informed instruction.

It is our plan to extend this training out to parents either at parent workshops or via recorded webinars.



In the area of technology, we've revised the Acceptable Use Policy to allow for 1:1 devices. Once a parent/guardian completes the AUP int eh beginning of the school year, their child will be assigned a device.
We will be offering families multiple device insurance options, as well.

This time around during remote learning, all students must use district provided technology.

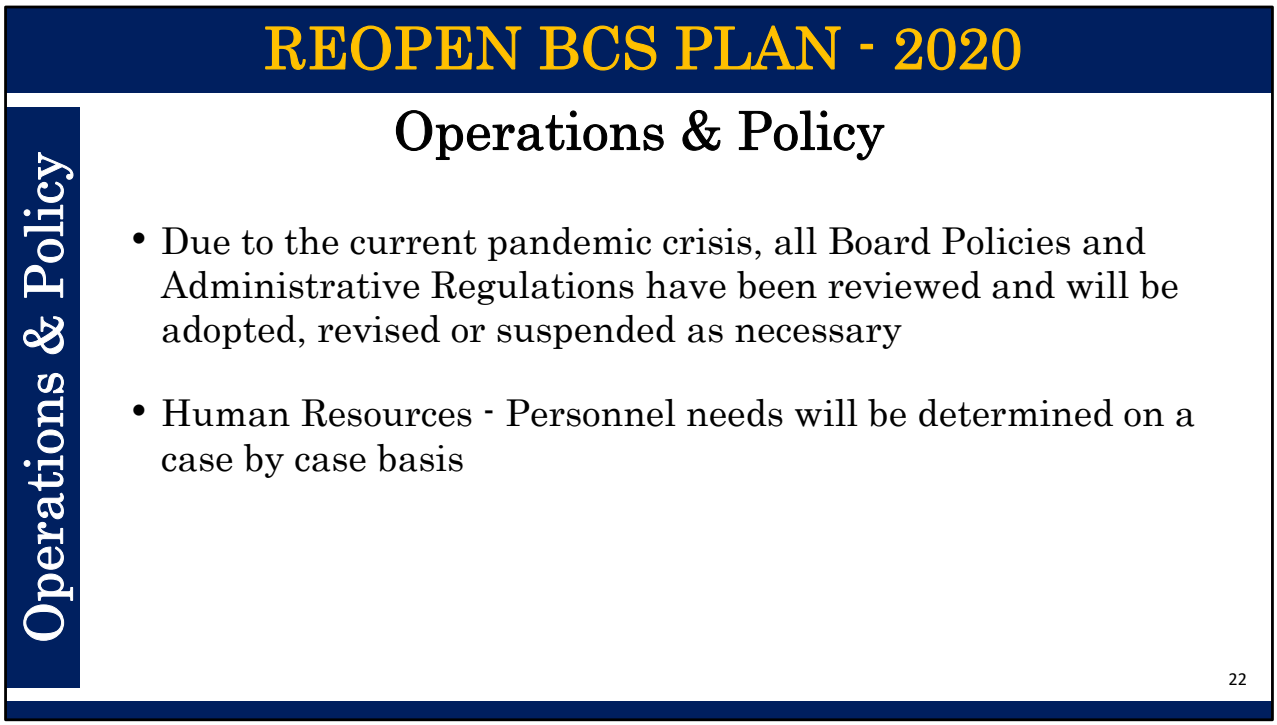
Our IT department is exploring a variety of remote learning platforms that will allow our teachers to interact better with students at home.
In order to effectively deliver instruction and monitor student activity, it is necessary for the students to work on a district-owned device.

K-2 students will leave their devices in school but will be mobile on the moment if we need to transition to a hybrid or remote learning model.
Grades 3 – 6 students will have access to their devices 24/7 and will be able to take them home.

There will be an online help desk created for families and staff.
We will focus on student training and practice the first week of school.

Staff will be provided professional development on new platforms and digital technology for instruction.

The IT Department is also working on a Family Resource Hub on our website to access recorded technology related instructional videos as an additional support.



Read Slide:
Revise the following:

Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings
Policy 4131 – Staff Development
Policy 5124 – Reporting to Parents
Policy 5133 – Use of Private Technology Devices by Students
Policy 6141.3291 – One-to-One Electronic Device Program
Bylaw 9321 – Time, Place, and Notification of Meetings
Bylaw 9323 – Agenda Construction/Meeting Materials
Bylaw 9325 – Meeting Conduct

Adopt the following:

Policy 1317 – Health and Safety Protocols
Policy 4000.1 – Title IX (Staff)
Policy 5141 – School District Medical Advisor
Policy 5145.44 – Title IX (Students)
Policy 6114.8 – Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness
Policy 6114.81 – Pandemic/Epidemic Emergencies
Policy 6172.61 – Remote Learning



Throughout the spring and summer, Dr. Marie Alcock worked with our curriculum department and staff to prioritize curriculum standards for the return to school.

Our goal is to provide high quality instruction in all settings. We've reflected on the feedback we received from families from the Distance Learning Climate Surveys back in the spring and have made improvements to the delivery of instruction plans for the remote learning phase where there will be an increase in real time learning opportunities. It's important to note, however, that depending on a family's circumstances, some families requested more real time, live instruction while others appreciated the recorded lessons that they could access after their own workday. We strive to strike a balance.

While assessment will not be a priority when we return to school, the SDE has provided districts with sensible assessment practices and recommendations moving forward.

The SDE continues to develop the CT Learning Hub, as a resource for students, teachers and families with standards, curriculum, lessons, videos, assessments and resources to assist in home learning.

The BCS schedule has been reviewed and changes made for all three phases of learning.

Interventions, special education support and related services will be provided in all three learning phases.

Staff will engage in several days of professional development in August to train and practice on new digital platforms and instructional practices.

Depending on how COVID affects our staff and their families, we might need to hire additional staff as substitutes or to support remote learning.

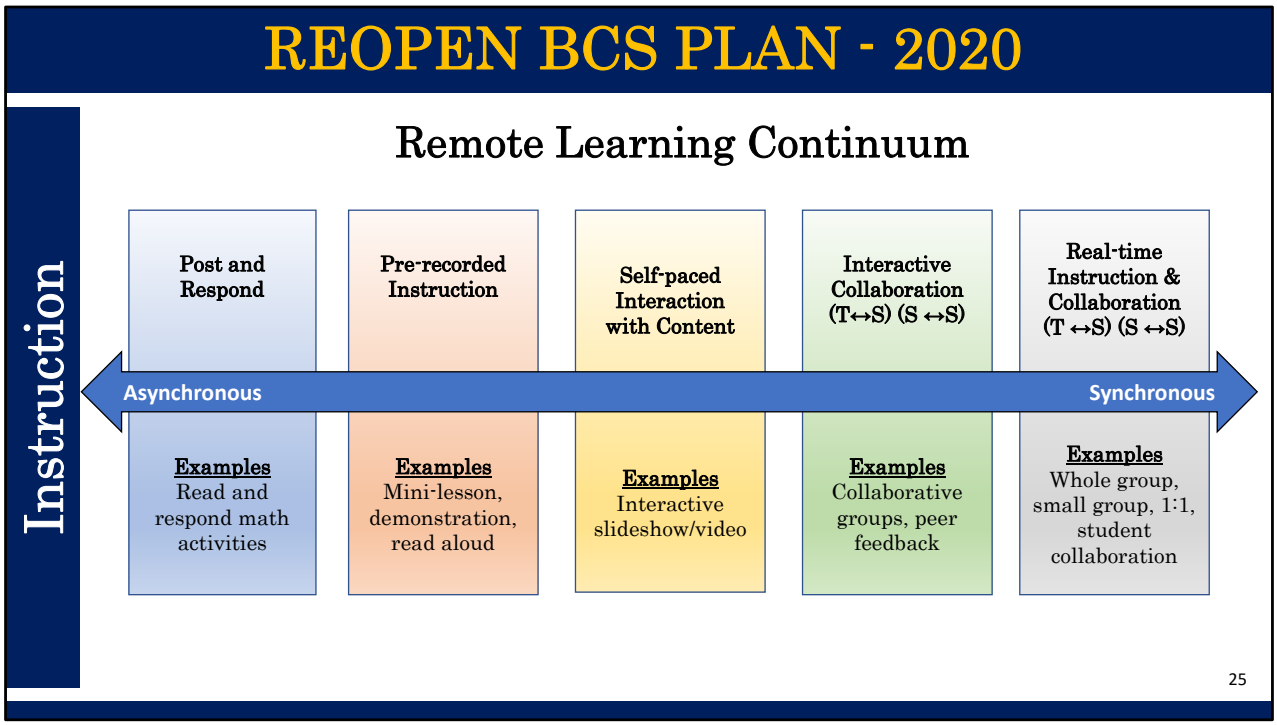
In August, our teachers are going to create “Go Bags” for our students that will contain work packets, reading material, math manipulatives and such in the event we need to transition to a remote learning phase, rather quickly.



The added three days to the beginning of the school year for teachers will be filled with setting up socially distanced classrooms, creating Go Bags, receiving mandated professional development and training on a variety of topics related to the epidemic. As you can see the list is long.

Mid year, before we closed our doors for the year, the BCS Steering Committee identified (3) goals for the 2020 – 2021 school year, which we vow to maintain:

- Social and Emotional Learning
- Digital Technology and Instruction
- Equity, Anti-Bias and Diversity



We get a lot of questions related to the remote learning continuum. Synchronous vs. Asynchronous.
I believe this chart provides a clear illustration of the continuum.



The SDE expects Districts to explain to stakeholders the considerations and limitations for each of the Learning Phases.

In the In-Person Learning Phase the challenge is proving a quality learn from home program while not putting unreasonable expectations on our teachers. To teach live to students in-person and to monitor and interact with students at home is challenging, if expected to do it simultaneously. Districts, including Bethany are exploring a variety of different technology platforms from web cams to live streaming, Zoom, Google Meet just to name a few. Each of these options have limitations whether it is cost, availability, audio and visual capabilities, interaction, privacy, monitoring, and teacher control. Our district is considering a new module of our existing Go Guardian program and will provide a demonstration for a group of teachers next week, before selecting a technology platform.

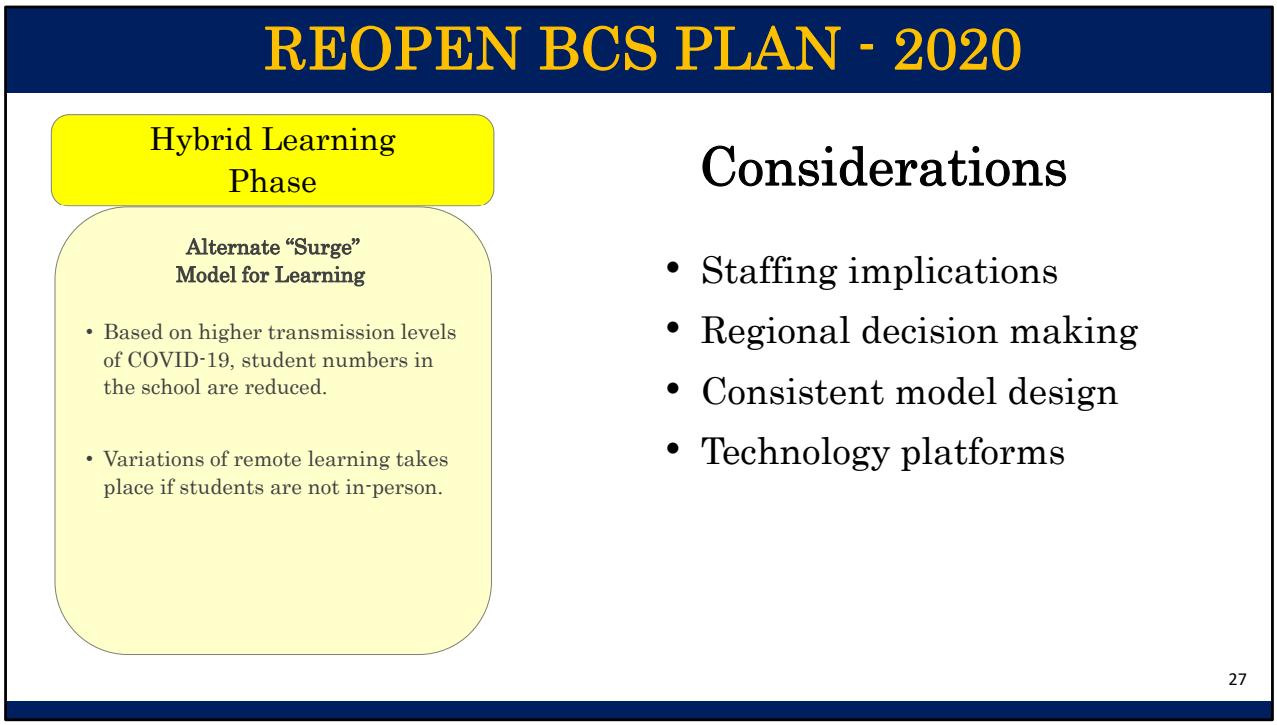
The manpower to provide both in-person and at home learning is also a challenge. We could hire additional staff to take over the learn from home program, but to be fiscally responsible, we would need to hire 7 additional staff members, or group students at home with students from other grades and assigned fewer teacher to oversee their learning. Not only is this not fiscally responsible, students would miss the opportunity to interact with their age appropriate peers and teachers.

We could use our existing staff (reading and math interventionists, gifted and talented teacher, reading consultant and math coach) to oversee the learn from home program but then our students needing support would lose out.

If we get a high number of students that opt out of in-person learning, we might be able to restructure the class assignments and designate one teacher on each grade level as the at home support teacher. This all gets very confusing if students transition in and out of school.

Right now, we are looking into the technology packages available and will select the best one to meet our needs. I need to remind families who opt out of in-person learning that the remote learning we will be able to offer may not have that higher level of interaction as we would see if all students were receiving remote learning and the teachers were focused only on the distance learning.

We may lose staff along the way to illness or childcare, as well. We will do our very best with the resources available to us at any given time.



The Hybrid Model causes the most confusion. This is when based on a higher transmission levels of COVID-19 the number of students in the school are reduced. There is an example of this model in the Reopen BCS Plan on page 15.

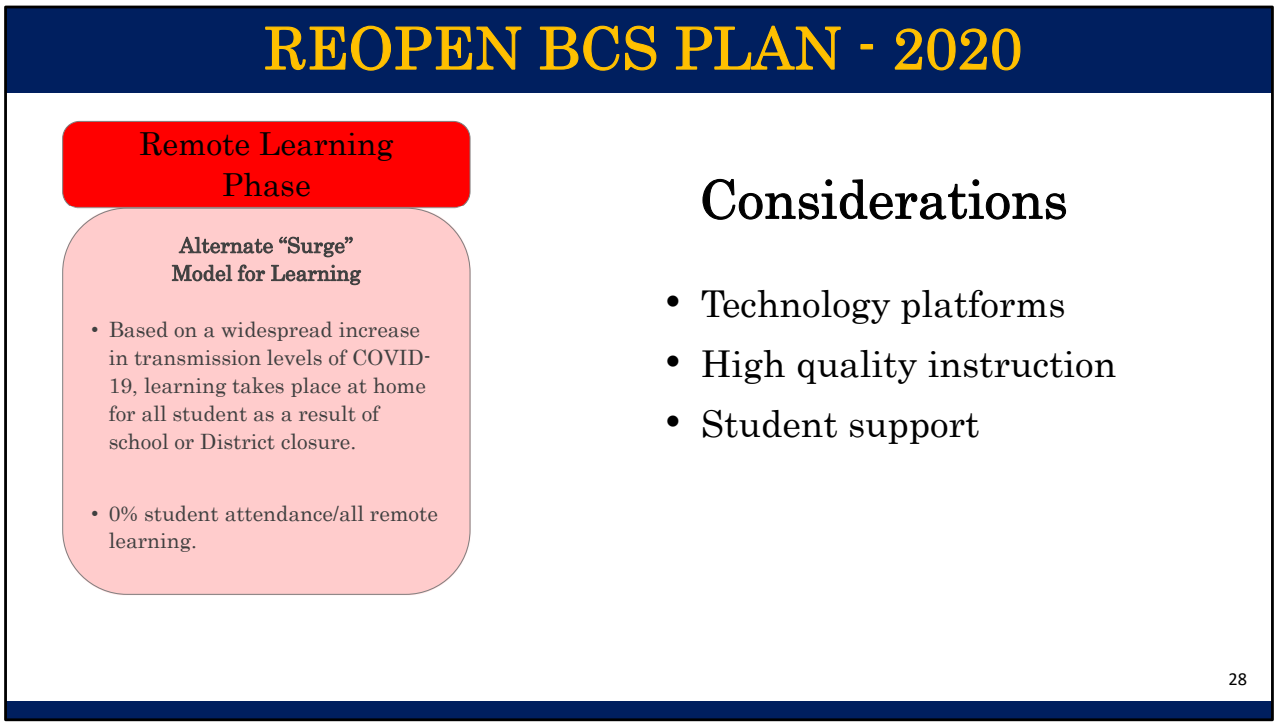
Approximately 50% of students (Group A - Last names A-K) are taught in-person on one day, while the other 50% (Group B - Last names L-Z) are learning from home with some support simultaneously. The next day Group B reports in-person and Group A learns remotely from home. Wednesday becomes a flex day where in the morning all students learn remotely, and teachers prepare and conduct virtual meetings in the afternoon.

There are staffing concerns with this model. If a teacher lives in another town and their school district is using a different hybrid model, then they will have their own childcare issues, making it difficult for our district to cover classes.

We also recognize that with last name grouping there might be scheduling changes needed. We did it this way to stay in alignment with Amity in case families need older siblings to provide childcare.

The SDE is now recommending that regional school districts get together to design a consistent hybrid model. Regional Superintendents are meeting on Friday to discuss this

further.



Finally, the remote learning phase is when there is a widespread increase in transmission of COVID-19 and all learning takes place from home.

The downside is that we all go into isolation again.
The focus for teachers in this phase will be to provide high quality instruction with student support.
The challenge of juggling both in-person and remote simultaneously would be eliminated.

REOPEN BCS PLAN - 2020

Opening Days of School

AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2020				
Monday	**Tuesday**	**Wednesday**	**Thursday**	**Friday**
17	18	19	20	21
			Staff Professional Development	Staff Professional Development
24	25	26	27	28
Staff Professional Development	Staff Professional Development	Staff Professional Development	Staff Professional Development	
31	1	2	3	4
In-Person Orientation Student Last Name A-K Early Dismissal Day PM Teacher Preparation/Meetings	In-Person Orientation Student Last Name L-Z Early Dismissal Day PM Teacher Preparation/Meetings	In-Person Learning All Students Early Dismissal Day PM Teacher Preparation/Meetings	In-Person Learning All Students Early Dismissal Day PM Teacher Preparation/Meetings	In-Person Learning All Students Early Dismissal Day PM Teacher Preparation/Meetings
7	8	9	10	11
Labor Day No School	In-Person Learning All Students Full Day	In-Person Learning All Students Full Day	In-Person Learning All Students Full Day	In-Person Learning All Students Full Day

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Given the (3) previously scheduled PD days for teachers and the additional (3) days granted by the SDE, our teachers will have (6) days in August for classroom setup, professional development (as explained in a previous slide) and to create Go Bags.
To test a hybrid with smaller groups of children and to test our new systems and protocols like face masks, bus transportation, drop off/pick up/ lunch…we are offering (2) Back to School Orientation Days with early dismissal. This schedules students and staff to ease back into the routine, albeit a new one and allows staff the opportunity to trouble shoot any problems that occurred during the morning. Then on September 2, 3 and 4, all students report to school ½ days, break for Labor Day and return full time on September 8th.

I am working with Parks and Recreation to see if they can extend camp opportunities longer to provide for childcare if needed. More information should come out to you from P&R if it hasn't already.

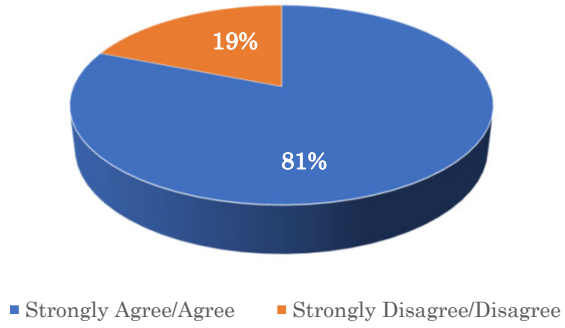
There were quite a few questions regarding Kindergarten Orientation. I believe Mr. Reed-Swale and Kindergarten teachers are planning something, but I will ask Tom to confirm that in a parent communication soon to our Kindergarten families.

REOPEN BCS PLAN - 2020

Distance Learning Climate Survey

Parents were surveyed in May regarding their experiences as it related to distance learning during the school closure. The survey was anonymous and had a 47% response rate.

Overall, I am satisfied with the BCS distance learning program.



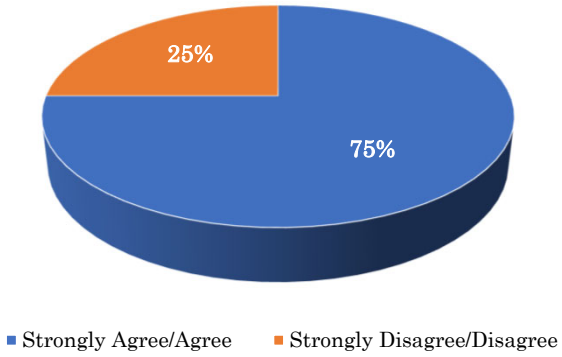
30

I would like to share with you the opportunities families have been offered to provide feedback and the results.

REOPEN BCS PLAN - 2020

Distance Learning Climate Survey

I was able to manage and support my child's distance learning program.

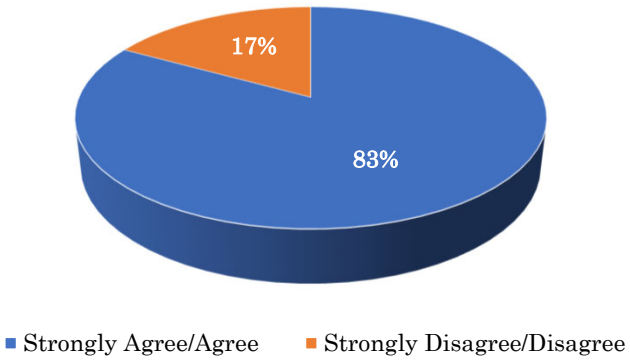


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REOPEN BCS PLAN - 2020

Distance Learning Climate Survey

BCS has supported parents during distance learning.



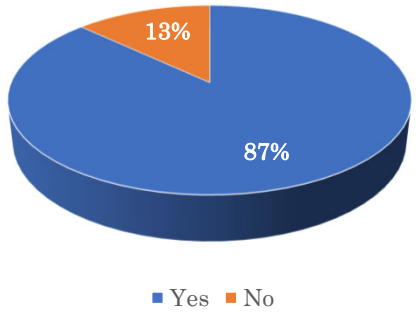
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REOPEN BCS PLAN - 2020

Reopen BCS Survey 1

Parents were surveyed on July 7, 2020 about their intentions for sending their child back to school in-person this Fall. With limited details provided, at that time, the response rate was 94% and the results are as follows.

Are you planning to have your child return to BCS in the traditional in-person setting in the Fall?

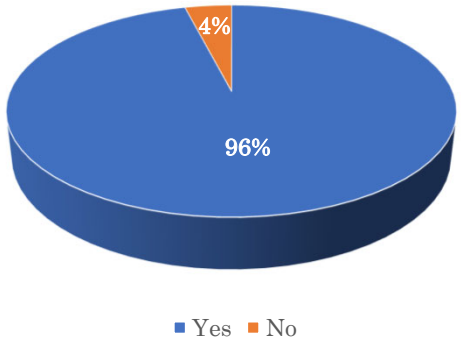


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REOPEN BCS PLAN - 2020

Reopen BCS Survey 1

Will you be able to provide your child with a required face covering (mask) to wear on the bus and during school?

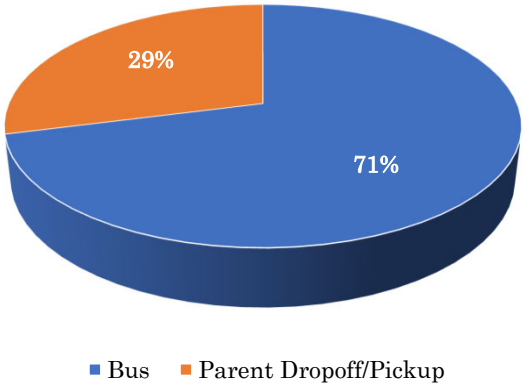


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REOPEN BCS PLAN - 2020

Reopen BCS Survey I

What method of transportation are you planning to use for your child this Fall?



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REOPEN BCS PLAN - 2020

Request for Webinar Questions

On July 24th Family received the Reopen BCS Plan and were invited to submit questions prior to this webinar. 53 questions were submitted.

I tried to answer almost all the questions posed and may have to revisit some of them in a FAQ document, which we will post to our District Website.

REOPEN BCS PLAN - 2020

Reopen BCS Survey II

- First week of August
- Sample Questions:
  - If the District is open for in-person instruction this Fall:
    - My child will attend in-person
    - My child will learn from home with remote learning support
  - Transportation preference (primarily):
    - Bus am only, pm only, am & pm
    - Dropoff/Pickup

Commitment through October 16, 2020 greatly appreciated.

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REOPEN BCS PLAN - 2020

Special Meeting of the BOE
Agenda: Reopen BCS
Tuesday, August 4, 2020
6:30 PM
Via Zoom

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Notice will be sent out announcing a Special BOE meeting on August 4th at 6:30 PM. The one agenda item is Reopen BCS and will be conducted electronically. More information to follow on how to access this meeting

REOPEN BCS PLAN - 2020

Q & A

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Questions that we can't get to or that I don't have an answer for at this time will be posted in a FAQ document on our District website following this webinar.