



Woodbridge, CT School District Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan June 21, 2021

A Message from the Superintendent

Turning the corner from the 2020-21 school year to the 2021-22 school year builds on the strong foundation that has always characterized Beecher Road School. Proud of what our students and staff have accomplished within the very challenging prior year, we look forward with hope and faith toward our next steps as a community.

As always, the Woodbridge School District continues its commitment to providing a safe and healthy learning environment for each and every member of its community. As a guide to the opening of Beecher Road School for the 2021-22 school year, the attached pages present the implementation of that commitment within the current pandemic circumstances.

This “Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan” includes elements required by the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) of every public school district in the State. To review, analyze, and apply the parameters set forth by CSDE, the District reconvened the Reopening Committee that began in 2020. I owe significant gratitude to my fellow members of this Committee:

Lynn Piasczyk & Joyce Shavers, Woodbridge Board of Education
Sandy Stein, Town of Woodbridge
Cheryl Kiesel, Director of Special Services
Alfred Pullo, Jr., Director of Business & Operations
Analisa Sherman, Principal
Doreen Merrill, Acting Assistant Principal
Vito Esparo, Facilities Manager
Aisling Fagan, Nursing Supervisor
Jane Roddy, Food Services Supervisor
James Crawford, Technology Coordinator
Lisa Farnen, Kris Hart Rooney, & Mary Vincitorio, WEA (teachers)
Debby Pines, CSEA (teachers' assistant)
Lola Johnson, CILU (administrative assistant)
Dr. Mohini Ranganathan & Dawn Tomaszewski, parents
Beth Cohen, BOWA Transportation Coordinator
John Adamovich, Town Recreation Director
Dr. Shannon Martinello, WSD Medical Advisor
John Laudano & Karen Wolujewicz, Quinnipiac Valley Health District

With my colleagues, I am pleased to offer the following details to represent the Woodbridge School District's plan for the next school year. Please reach out [to my office](#) with any questions you may have at any time.

I. Health and Safety Strategies

Related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Woodbridge School District has currently enacted policies related to mask-wearing, as well as travel and self-quarantine. Policy review during Summer 2021 will assess the degree to which policies should be enacted and/or revised to include additional attention to health and safety strategies, including those outlined below.

For each of the following mitigation strategies, the Woodbridge School District will comply with relevant CDC guidelines, Connecticut DPH and CSDE guidelines, and State of Connecticut Executive Orders. Specific details follow.

Mitigation Strategy	WSD Response
Universal and correct wearing of masks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of the date of this document, mask-wearing within the school building will be required regardless of an individual's vaccination status. • Mask-wearing will also be required outside when students are in close proximity or in congregate groups.
Physical distancing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of the date of this document, 3 feet of physical distance will be required between individuals. • Students will stay in cohorts for classroom instruction, lunch, and recess. A cohort is determined by a regular pattern of interaction (e.g., a typical class section, a special education intervention group, an extended-day class, a school bus group).
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequent handwashing is expected and will be modeled and encouraged, particularly after one eats, touches one's face, or shares materials. • Hand sanitation stations will continue to be maintained throughout the school building. • Students and staff are encouraged to stay home if experiencing respiratory issues.
Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgraded ventilation systems will continue to provide high-quality air filtration at Beecher Road School, including continued use of MERV 13 air filters. External doors and windows should be closed to facilitate the best indoor air quality via the building ventilation system. • High-touch surfaces and objects (e.g., door handles, sink handles, drinking fountains) will be cleaned within the school building and on school buses at least once per day, and more often if needed (e.g., when visibly dirty). • Staff removing garbage bags or handling/disposing of trash will use gloves, and will wash their hands after removing their gloves.
Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact-tracing of positive COVID-19 cases in the school building will continue, along with quarantining per State and local health department guidelines.

State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing consultation between the WSD administration, Nursing Supervisor, DPH, and QVHD will ensure the most updated guidelines are followed. • All positive COVID-19 cases in the school building will be reported to the State of Connecticut per DPH protocols.
Diagnostic screening and testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students and staff are encouraged to follow health guidance and stay home if not feeling well. • Nursing staff will monitor all student absences and recommend to families when to follow up with a pediatrician for guidance on returning to school. • After experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, prior to returning to school, staff and students will be required to provide medical clearance.
Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WSD will offer coordination with State and local agencies to facilitate vaccination clinics as the COVID-19 vaccine becomes available to the student population. • Information on vaccine availability for all community members will be promptly disseminated to families.
Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff will continue to assist students in strategies to increase tolerance for mask-wearing, physical distancing, and handwashing. • Additional PPE will be made available to staff as needed.

II. Continuity of Services

Based on CSDE guidelines, all students of the Woodbridge School District will participate in full in-person learning for the 2021-22 school year, with the limited exceptions of those who must quarantine due to COVID-19 exposure and those with documented accommodations preventing in-person access to learning.

To address students’ academic, social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, the following services will be implemented:

July 2021 – August 2021:

- Academic and social-emotional support will be provided in a Learning Academy for identified students, with pre- and post-assessments to determine progress. Post-assessment results will be shared with students’ 2021-22 classroom teachers.
- BRS administrators will partner with the PTO to launch summer playdates encouraging students to gather informally and socially with peers.
- Students who were fully remote learners for the 2020-21 school year will be invited to visit Beecher Road School prior to the start of the 2021-22 school year.
- All BRS families will be provided an updated orientation video to introduce the school, classrooms, and protocols outlined in this document.

- All BRS families will be provided an online forum to ask questions related to the return to school, and a FAQ document will be generated.
- WSD administrators will host a town-hall session for the larger community focused on the return to school.

August 2021 –September 2021:

- Vertical conversations between sending and receiving teachers of students will review students' academic data.
- Students needing intervention support will be identified to ensure continuity of services.
- Telephone calls and Google Meets will be utilized for teachers and students to meet prior to the first day of school; in-person classroom meetings may also be utilized.
- Continued emphasis will be placed on social-emotional supports for all students and families.

September 2021 – ongoing:

- Technology staff will ensure that all students have access to Wi-Fi, appropriate devices, and materials for learning, including digital learning as necessary.
- Technology staff and classroom teachers will provide students ongoing opportunities to learn how to be effective digital citizens.
- Staff will continue to provide students outdoor opportunities for learning, mask breaks, and movement breaks.
- Nursing staff will continue to recognize psychosomatic symptoms of stress and anxiety, and will continue to work with school psychologists to determine appropriate supports for students experiencing stress-related physical symptoms.
- Nursing staff will collaborate with families, teachers, and support staff to develop plans to support in-school attendance.
- Introducing student cohorts back into the cafeteria on a rotating schedule will be considered to foster students' social connections and reintroduce them to the previous daily normal.

To address staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, the following services will be implemented:

- Administrators will utilize informal check-ins with all staff on an ongoing basis, formal meetings through the staff evaluation process, and regular visibility throughout the school building.
- Administrators will continue to provide staff opportunities for self-care and fun through celebrations, wellness activities, and whole school community-building activities.
- Administrators will continue to provide staff time to work together in professional learning communities, including to identify priority curricular standards, to ensure appropriate curricular resources, to review student assessment data prior to teaching units of study, and to continue to develop strategies for effective blended learning.
- Administrators will utilize the intervention process for students needing differentiated resources and support.
- Nursing staff will continue to recognize psychosomatic symptoms of stress and anxiety, and will continue to work with school psychologists to determine appropriate supports for staff experiencing stress-related physical symptoms.

III. Public Comment

The development of this Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan was accomplished by a committee of representative stakeholders. Public input on the Plan was accomplished via: a Google Forms survey; an open virtual forum for oral public input with members of the Reopening Committee; and meetings with district staff. Well over 100 individuals participated in one or more of these opportunities. Based on that feedback, sections of this document related to mask-wearing, vaccination clinics, and professional learning were clarified; further details will be clarified in the Frequently-Asked Questions document to be developed during Summer 2021.

IV. Periodic Review Process

Periodically through September 30, 2023, the Woodbridge School District will review and, as appropriate, revise its Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan, utilizing the Committee structure complemented by public input. By each of the following dates, an updated plan will be submitted to CSDE and publicized to the WSD community:

- December 23, 2021
- June 23, 2022
- December 23, 2022
- June 23, 2023

V. Understandable and Uniform Format

Consistent with federal regulations, this Plan has been written in an understandable and uniform format, to the extent practicable; is written in a language that parents can understand or, if not practicable, has been orally translated; and, upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability, will be provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent. Individuals requiring assistance with accessing or understanding the Plan should contact [the WSD Superintendent, Dr. Jonathan Budd](#), or [the WSD Director of Special Services, Cheryl Kiesel](#).

