



Woodbridge, CT School District Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan Updated June 23, 2022

A Message from the Superintendent

At this close of this 2021-22 school year, the strong foundation that has always characterized Beecher Road School continues to bolster us. Having returned 100% of Woodbridge's PreK-6 students to full in-person learning for this entire school year, we look forward with continued 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 we enter the summer prior to the 2022-23 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 continues to utilize the Reopening Committee that began in 2020. I owe significant gratitude to my fellow members of this Committee:

Maria Madonick & Lynn Piascyk, Woodbridge Board of Education
Sheila McCreven, Town of Woodbridge
Cheryl Kiesel, Director of Special Services
Richard Huot, Interim Director of Business & Operations
Analisa Sherman, Principal
James Sapia, Assistant Principal
Vito Esparo, Facilities Manager
Jane Roddy, Food Services Supervisor
Anthony Billings, Information Technology Manager
Lisa Farnen, Kris Hart Rooney, & Mary Vincitorio, WEA (teachers)
Lola Johnson, CILU (administrative assistant)
Dr. Mohini Ranganathan & Dawn Tomaszewski, parents
Catherine Salinardi, Extended-Day Director
Beth Cohen, BOWA Transportation Coordinator
John Adamovich, Town Recreation Director
Dr. Shannon Martinello, WSD Medical Advisor
John Laudano & Karen Wolujewicz, Quinnipiac Valley Health District
Nursing Supervisor

With my colleagues, I am pleased to offer the following details to represent the Woodbridge School District's implementation of health and safety strategies, and continuity of services, at this point. 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 suspended its policy related to mask-wearing, and continues a policy related to travel and self-quarantine. Policy review continues to assess the degree to which policies should be enacted and/or revised.

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 or on the school grounds is an individual's choice.
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.
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 expected to stay home if experiencing symptoms of illness.
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 State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on State and local guidelines, contact tracing has ended. 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.

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 COVID-19 vaccination clinics. Information on vaccine availability for all community members will be 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 continue to participate in full in-person learning. To address students’ academic, social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, the following services are implemented:

June 2022:

- Continued emphasis has been placed on social-emotional supports for all students and families.
- Technology staff 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 provide students ongoing opportunities to learn how to be effective digital citizens.
- Nursing staff continue to recognize psychosomatic symptoms of stress and anxiety, and continue to work with the school-based wellness team to determine appropriate supports for students experiencing stress-related physical symptoms.
- Expanding the cafeteria to full usage 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 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 provide staff opportunities for self-care and fun through celebrations, wellness activities, and whole school community-building activities.
- Administrators 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 utilize the intervention process for students needing differentiated resources and support.
- Administrators and nursing staff recognize psychosomatic symptoms of stress and anxiety, and work with the school-based wellness team 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. A Frequently-Asked Questions document was also developed in late Summer 2021. Public input on the current updated Plan was accomplished via continued dialogue with individual members of all constituent groups, as well as with their formal representatives. In relation to the District’s implementation of “Screen & Stay,” feedback was solicited 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 300 individuals participated in one or more of these opportunities. The Board of Education has maintained a Safe Return Update on each Regular Meeting agenda during the 2021-22 school year, and the Superintendent has issued regular community updates inviting feedback.

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, 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](#).

Our Mission

Beecher Road School is a caring, creative community that models and inspires the joy of lifelong learning, embraces diversity, and celebrates the unique qualities of each person.

Our Vision

To provide a dynamic educational environment that challenges and empowers students to persevere as innovators and collaborators in preparation for their role as responsible global citizens.