

FAQ regarding the reopening of schools

BAY DISTRICT SCHOOLS · THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2020 · 6 MINUTES

FAQ (updated 7/14/20)

We know that there are many questions at this time and we're doing our best to provide as much information as possible. Please read the documents and follow the links below and know that we will update this as often as possible. We know that difficult decisions are going to have to be made by our families and there's definitely no "one-size-fits-all" approach to something this complicated.

Please do ensure that you have an accurate phone number AND email address in your Parent Portal account. We are sending regular weekly updates via email and are calling the entire district as needed (when very important). We need your accurate contact information so we can get you the information you need.

1. Where can I find information about the proposal to reopen schools?

The School Board met on 7/14 and approved the district's proposal with two additional caveats (masks are mandatory per current CDC guidelines unless students/staff can social distance and all teachers will begin the year using canvas to store lessons electronically in case the DOE directs distance learning again). A copy of the materials presented to them at last week's workshop can be located here: <http://www.bay.k12.fl.us/school-reopening>
We will add the plan approved today ASAP.

2. Why are schools reopening on August 11th?

This week, DOE Commissioner Corcoran issued an executive order directing schools to reopen for full-time instruction for those students who want to attend. You can read the order here: <http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/19861/urlt/DOE-2020-EO-06.pdf>

3. What are the choices outlined in the workshop material?

- A. To return to traditional “brick and mortar” school (no action needed by the parent if this is your choice)
- B. To withdraw from traditional school and enroll in Bay Virtual School (must contact BVS)
- C. To withdraw from traditional school and enroll in home school (must contact BDS home school at 767-4100)

If your child is choosing to return to brick and mortar school you do not need to do anything. If your child is withdrawing and enrolling in Bay Virtual or home school, you'll need to contact Bay Virtual to withdraw and apply.

PLEASE NOTE: Students who begin the year at virtual school must complete the entire first semester there before asking to transfer back to a traditional school. That's to ensure that grades are assigned, credits are earned the coursework is complete to enable a seamless transition.

4. Where do I get more information about Bay Virtual?

You can find that here: <http://www.bayvirtualschool.com/> Please note that virtual school is nothing like the emergency distance learning that we did last year. Virtual school students withdraw from their current traditional school and enroll full-time in virtual school and follow that school's curriculum, teachers, processes and procedures. Virtual school is partly structured and partly completed at the student's own pace independently. Parents should be prepared to supervise the learning and assist as needed. Certified teachers are assigned to each student and are available virtually.

PLEASE NOTE: Originally we asked parents to select an option by 7/15. That deadline has been extended until 7/22 but BVS will reach maximum enrollment shortly and those unable to start at BVS will be referred to Florida Virtual School for virtual school options.

5. What about orientations and open houses?

Typically we share that information in mid-July but those events are currently being retooled in light of Covid. As soon as we have that information we will share. No doubt both of these events will be impacted by Covid-19 and will look different than they have in the past. We appreciate your support and flexibility as we try to work out the best approach.

6. Are masks mandatory?

The School Board voted today to follow current CDC guidelines which require masks when social distancing isn't possible. You can read more about the plan here:

<http://www.bay.k12.fl.us/school-reopening>

7. Will there be a dress code?

The School Board is currently advertising the same relaxed recovery dress code that we have had since the storm. The currently-advertised dress code includes some guidelines for masks.

8. What safety precautions will be taken?

You can find all of that information in our workshop materials from last week's workshop which can be located here: <http://www.bay.k12.fl.us/school-reopening>

9. I don't understand the difference between virtual and home school. Can you help?

Parents, we know many of you have questions about the differences between traditional, virtual and home school and so we've made a video. We also know that some of you are waiting for information to be discussed at Tuesday's board meeting before making a decision and so we're extending the deadline for BVS or home school registration to July 22. You'll note the original July 15 date is mentioned in this video, that is still our preference and we thank all of those who have already made decisions, but we hope the additional week will help those who are still undecided. These are unsettling times to be sure but we're positive we can get through this by working together as we always have in the past!

<https://vimeo.com/438008297>

10. I heard Governor DeSantis vetoed funds for virtual school. Is that true?

This article linked below has NOTHING to do with the funding for Bay Virtual School. We are getting lots of inquiries from people who have been told by others that Governor DeSantis just took away the funding for virtual school. That's incorrect ... please help us spread only accurate information 😊. The funds vetoed relate to some online programs but NOT virtual school. <https://www.politico.com/states/florida/story/2020/06/30/desantis-kills-online-learning-program-amid-virus-resurgence-1296178>

11. My student needs to ride the bus. What precautions will you take?

Masks will be required on our school buses since social distancing isn't possible. Based upon our current survey we expect about 30 percent of our students to ride buses to and from school.

12. What about lunch and recess?

Each school is developing school-specific plans for before- and after-school gathering places, lunch and recess (for elementary). Depending upon the school's enrollment and campus available space, schools may be staggering lunches and playtimes, they may be asking some grade levels to eat lunch in the classroom with supervision and they may be changing the places that are available to students before and after school. Please give your child's school a little more time to finalize their plans and they will share them via email, social media, Class DOJO and LINK.

ChartwellsK12 is working out more "grab and go" options for lunch so that students in secondary school can easily grab and lunch and take it outside or somewhere outside of the cafeteria that's approved. Students, of course, are welcome to bring their own lunches and all BDS non-charter students can eat breakfast and lunch at school for free this year.

13. What about school supply lists?

We are in the process of collecting those and will upload them to our website and social media pages as soon as possible.

14. Why did the survey ask about hybrid options if you're not offering those?

We know that the DOE, or DOH, may at some point require us to limit student contact even further and so we asked about the hybrid options in order to establish a preference for our planning purposes. The DOE has directed us to open school five days a week for the students who want/need that and so that's what we're doing effective August 11th.