

**Ballston Spa CSD
DRAFT
Reopening Plan
Framework**

Revised August 16, 2021

Background

This *Reopening Plan Framework* is built utilizing the guidance documents and information listed in the *Resources* section at the end of this presentation; conversations with and guidance from the Saratoga County Public Health Services; conversations with and feedback from the BSCSD District Physician; conversations and planning with the WSWHE BOCES; input and communications from parents, caregivers, and staff that we continue to receive; and on the work of our BSCSD internal workgroups. Our Framework will continue to evolve based on conversations with those groups listed in the *Next Steps* section and any additional direction provided by New York State.

Reopening Planning Measures

Many of the *Key Elements* of our *Framework* will depend on the status of the virus in our schools, in the community, and in the Saratoga County region. As the status of the virus may change during the year, any changes to our plans will be informed by the following measures:

1. County transmission rates (*Low, Moderate, Substantial, or High*) as determined by the CDC.
2. Daily averages of positive cases in Saratoga County as determined by the NYS Department of Health.
3. Vaccination rates for students, staff, and the community as determined by the District reporting portal and the NYS Department of Health Vaccination database.
4. Assessment of School Environment
 - Number of positive cases in classrooms and individual schools as determined by the BSCSD COVID Coordinator and Saratoga County Public Health Services.
 - Screening testing results of students and staff if necessary/required (*parent permission required to test students*).
 - Student and staff absences due to quarantining/illness.

Reopening Goal

In-person learning for all students 5 days per week with minimal disruption.

- The District will take proactive steps to meet this goal including:
 - ***Maximizing vaccination*** availability for students and staff.
 - ***Minimizing quarantining*** for students and staff by:
 - ***Using masks*** TBD as determined by the Governor and/or our reopening planning measures. (see *Masking Plan* slide.)
 - ***Monitoring daily cases*** in classrooms and buildings through staff and parent reporting.
 - Quickly ***conducting contact tracing*** of positive cases.
 - ***Conducting screening tests*** of students (*with parent permission*) and staff as warranted by our reopening planning measures.
 - ***Encouraging students and staff who are not feeling well to stay home.***
 - ***Monitoring the overall wellness*** of students and staff
 - ***Encouraging handwashing*** and/or hand sanitizing, and good sneezing/coughing etiquette.
 - ***Maximizing ventilation*** in classrooms and on buses.
 - ***Frequently reevaluating*** our plan based on new information and changes to our reopening planning measures.
 - ***Continuously updating staff, parents, and the community*** and requesting feedback on proposed changes to our plans.

Current Vaccination Status⁽¹⁾

Group	First Dose	Fully Vaccinated
BSCSD Faculty and Staff ⁽²⁾	86%	85%
BSCSD Students 12+	60%	53%
Ballston Spa Zip Code ⁽³⁾	72.1%	67.8%
Ballston Lake Zip Code	81.1%	76.7%
Saratoga Springs Zip Code	74.1%	70.1%
Mechanicville Zip Code	67.0%	62.4%
Middle Grove Zip Code	60.6%	56.2%
Rock City Falls Zip Code	58.1%	52.8%

(1) Data is as of August 16, 2021.

(2) BSCSD Faculty and Staff rate is based on self-reported data

(3) Information retrieved from <https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/vaccination-rates-zip-code>

Masking Plan for Students

- ***Always required:***
 - On our buses for students and staff per CDC order. (See Resource page.)
 - *TBD by or before 9/1 based on additional requirements from the Governor and/or reopening planning measures.*
- ***Recommended but not required:****
 - *Hallway and classroom use TBD by or before 9/1 based on additional requirements from the Governor and/or reopening planning measures.*
- ***No requirement:****
 - While students are outdoors.
 - During athletic competitions (*pending decisions from Saratoga County Public Health, Section II, or the Suburban Council Athletic League*).

****Students may choose to wear masks at any time during the school day. By CDC rule, students who are exposed to an infected student will not have to quarantine, regardless of vaccination status, if they are wearing a properly fitted mask during the time of exposure.***

Key Elements based on CDC and AAP Guidance⁽¹⁾

- **Transportation** – In our current plan,
 - ***Masks** are required* on buses by federal rule for students and staff.⁽²⁾
 - ***Social distancing*** is not required, but will be done where possible.
 - ***Bus Schedule*** will be the same as in pre-pandemic years with similar number of buses and runs.
 - ***Student drop-off and pick up*** by parents/caregivers are encouraged to lessen the number of students on our buses.
 - ***Ventilation*** will be maximized as weather allows (windows and vents open).
 - ***Kindergarten students*** will be oriented to our buses and the rules before school opens.
- **Entering School** – In our current plan,
 - ***Masks TBD** by or before 9/1 based on additional requirements from the Governor and/or reopening planning measures.*
 - ***Social Distancing*** of at least 3 feet will be maintained between students wherever possible, and 6 feet between staff and students.

(1) See *Resource* pages on slides 8 and 9. As research continues to emerge, we will adjust our plans as necessary in consultation with medical professionals.

(2) See <https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/masks/mask-travel-guidance.html>

Key Elements based on CDC and AAP Guidance⁽¹⁾

- **In School** – In our current plan,
 - *Masks TBD by or before 9/1 based on additional requirements from the Governor and/or reopening planning measures.*
 - Students and staff will be encouraged to ***wash hands or sanitize often during the school day.***
 - ***Staff in classrooms*** will maintain at least 6 feet of distance between themselves and students.
 - ***Full-time Remote Learning*** will not be an option. Program options for students who are homebound due to documented medical issues will be provided as in prior years.
 - ***Classroom setups*** will look very similar to pre-pandemic rooms⁽²⁾. Additional details on science labs, group work, etc. will be addressed.
 - ***Schedules*** will be the same/very similar to those in pre-pandemic years (e.g., 60 minute periods at high school).

(1) Please see *Resource* pages on slides 8 and 9. As research continues to emerge, we will adjust our plans as necessary.

(2) Additional teachers have been hired to reduce class sizes at certain grades in K-5.

Key Elements based on CDC and AAP Guidance⁽¹⁾

- **In School** – In our current plan,
 - *Hallway Locker Use* details for middle and high schools will be shared by building principals.
 - *Cafeteria/Lunch time* details are still being developed based on distancing recommendations.
 - *Quarantining rules* for students and staff are still being finalized based on the CDC guidance which states that students who are properly masked during the entire time that they are exposed to an infected student do not have to quarantine. This does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.⁽¹⁾
 - *Symptomatic students and staff* will be sent home and may need to be tested for the virus before returning.

(1) Please see the definition of *Close Contact* and the exception at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/contact-tracing-plan/appendix.html#contact>

Key Elements based on CDC and AAP Guidance

- **After school Clubs and Athletics** – In our current plan,
 - *Meetings/games* will be the same/very similar to schedules in prior years.
 - *Masking TBD* for indoor clubs.
 - *Masking* will not be required for outdoor athletics pending decisions from Saratoga County Public Health, Section II or the Suburban Council Athletic League.
 - *Screening Testing* for the COVID virus *may* be required for student athletes (with parent permission) who are not vaccinated as warranted by our reopening planning measures.
- **Visiting the Schools/Attending Events** – In our current plan,
 - *School Visitors* *may* be limited and will be expected to follow the rules in place for indoor and outdoor settings. Rules may change based upon changes to our planning measures.
 - *Spectators* at athletic events and student performances will be expected to follow the rules in place for indoor and outdoor settings. Rules may change based upon changes to our planning measures.

Monitoring the Overall Wellness of Students and Staff

- **Utilizing additional federal funds, the District has added:**
 - A 2nd school counselor at our Title I school (Wood Road Elementary).
 - The *Primary Project* school adjustment program at Milton Terrace Elementary (currently in place at Wood Road Elementary).
 - Staffing including a social worker to support students and families enrolled in the Spa Academy program for certain students in grades 9-12.
 - Expanded counseling capacity at the high school.
 - A school-family liaison to support our homeless students and families (as defined by federal law).
 - Behavioral support coaches at the elementary and districtwide levels.
 - Additional support for K-12 students and families through *Parsons Family Services*.
- **The Office of Personnel Management and Development will continue to work to ensure staff have access to various employee assistance resources.**

Next Steps:

- Continue refining planning with administrative council, Saratoga County School Districts, Saratoga County Public Health Office, and the School District Physician. (*Ongoing*)
- Meet with union leadership groups to review Framework and get feedback. (*Ongoing*)
- Meet with Suburban Council School Districts to review options. (*Ongoing*)
- Video meeting with BSCSD staff to review revised Framework and get feedback. (Week of August 16)
- ~~Survey BSCSD parents and caregivers on revised framework for feedback. (August 6)~~
- Present revised Framework to the Board of Education. (August 18)
- Video meeting with the community with a Q and A video on the current Framework. (August 19)
- Finalize cafeteria and quarantining plans. (Week of August 23)
- Final Reopening Plan presented to the Board of Education. (September 1)
- Communicate changes to plans to all groups above. (*Ongoing*)

***Welcome all students, faculty, and staff to school on
Wednesday, September 8!!***

Resources:

Reopening:

- *Your Guide to Masks* <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>
- *Centers for Disease Control Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools* <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>
- *Centers for Disease Control Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People* <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>
- *Centers for Disease Control Appendices* <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/contact-tracing-plan/appendix.html#contact>
- *CDC Order for Masks on Buses* <https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/masks/mask-travel-guidance.html>
- *American Academy of Pediatrics COVID-19 Guidance for Safe Schools* <https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/>
- *NYS Education Department Health and Safety Guide for the 2021-2022 School Year* <http://www.nysed.gov/back-school/health-and-safety-guide-2021-2022-school-year>
- *Statement from New York State Department of Health Commissioner* <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/statement-new-york-state-department-health-commissioner-dr-howard-zucker>
- *NYS Department of Health Vaccination Tracker by Zip Code* <https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/vaccination-rates-zip-code>
- *NYS Department of Health Percent Positive Tracker* <https://forward.ny.gov/percentage-positive-results-county-dashboard>
- *Centers for Disease Control Community Transmission Rate* <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>
- *BSCSD Positive Case Tracker* [insert link once live]
- *BSCSD Coping with COVID Resources* <https://www.bsccd.org/Page/13113>