

Bowie USD 14 Return to Learning 20-21

The Covid-19 pandemic continues to be a fluid situation. Please note that our plans will be continually evaluated so that we can adapt to current trends, legislation, and guidance.

Overview: Learning Options when In-Person Classes Resume

On Monday June 29th, 2020, Governor Ducey signed an Executive Order delaying the opening of in-person classes to at least August 17th. The Bowie Unified School District was approved to begin a Distance Learning Plan, on site, beginning August 10, 2020. The calendar to be followed is the one that was adopted by the Bowie Unified School District Board in the spring 2020. This calendar may also be accessed on the web page and www.bowieschools.org

The following information applies to both Bowie Elementary School and Bowie High School.

What to Expect at the start of the school year for Bowie Schools:

August 10 - 14:

- **Distance learning on site, or students may do distance learning at home, but must be enrolled as a Bowie student to do so if wishing to utilize the Bowie Schools curriculum/Bowie staff/teachers. Must be enrolled by August 6, 2020 to start August 10, 2020. Distance learning includes: Moby Max, Edgenuity, and other teacher created materials.**
- **No preschool at this time.**
- Grade level teachers will work in tandem with students to build the culture of their grade-level and introduce the resources that will be utilized during remote learning which will be provided in the classroom.
- Counselor, paraprofessionals, and teachers will communicate and work together to support distance learning on campus, on site, in the classroom, with students.
- Attendance will be recorded in accordance with state requirements.

- The district administrator will keep families informed of any changes to in-person school start dates as information from the governor as well as procedures for returning to in-person learning when we are permitted to do so.

August 17: Teachers will begin instruction in core state standards.

- If schools are directed to open, Bowie Unified School District will begin in-person classes, with direct teaching, following the safety protocols below.
- **This date is highly subject to change.**
 - Schools will be communicating more detailed school reentry plans on the webpage:
 - www.bowieschools.org

Once in-person, direct teaching in school is permitted, the following safety measures will be implemented. Again, The Covid-19 pandemic continues to be a fluid situation. Please note that our plans will be continually evaluated so that we can adapt to current trends, legislation, and guidance.

Bowie Unified School District Return to

Learning 20-21 Safety

Measures Overview

The following safety measures and precautions will allow students and staff to reduce risk for the In-Person Learning Option. These safety measures will also be taken into consideration by the health department during any potential investigation into a positive Covid-19 case in our schools and will affect the decisions made regarding possible quarantines. **Any precautions taken to mitigate the spread of the virus will lessen the likelihood of the necessity of mass quarantines of classrooms, grade levels, bus routes, etc. in the event of a positive case of Covid-19 in our facilities.**

As we continue to refine these precautions based on current information, the district will work with our families, staff members, Arizona Department of Health Services, and the Cochise County Health Department. Families will be notified of any significant changes to daily procedures and/or protocols related to these safety measures.

STEP 2 PROTOCOLS: STUDENTS ON CAMPUS

Visitors to School

Schools will strictly limit nonessential visitors and volunteers at school. Schools will not use parent volunteers in the classroom during the COVID-19 health crisis.

Daily Health Screenings

At home

The District and school sites will inform students and parents that students must not come to school if they exhibit any of the following symptoms:

- fever of 100.4 degrees or higher, or chills;
- shortness of breath or difficulty breathing;
- muscle aches;

- sore throat;
- Headache;
- Fatigue;
- congestion or runny nose;
- Cough;
- Vomiting;
- Diarrhea;
- Rash;
- stomach ache; or
- new loss of taste or smell.

Parents will be informed, on the school website, that they should screen students for the above symptoms each morning, should self-report symptoms, and must keep students at home if any symptoms are present. Students will have the opportunity to make up work missed due to symptoms of COVID-19.

On the bus

All buses will have clearly visible signage communicating to parents that students should not enter the school bus with any of the above symptoms.

A bus driver, will visually check each student prior to the student boarding the bus. If a student exhibits visible symptoms,^[1] the following steps will be taken:

- If the parent is at the bus stop, the student will return to their parent.
- If the parent is not at the bus stop, the student will be provided with a mask if they do not have one already, and—if possible—will be situated so as to be socially distanced from other persons.
- The student will be referred to the office upon arrival at the school site.

If a student has a chronic condition such as allergies or asthma, parents should inform staff of that condition. If staff has been so informed, students with symptoms of runny nose or cough should be permitted to ride the bus.

At school

Upon arrival at school, each student will proceed directly to the student's first period classroom or to the cafeteria for breakfast.

A staff member will visually check each student for symptoms upon entering the school. Any student with visible symptoms of runny nose, cough, shortness of breath, or vomiting, will be taken to the main office. Parents may be contacted for pick-up with the following exceptions:

- If the student has a runny nose and the office personnel observe that there are no other symptoms, the office personnel will contact the parent to inquire as to whether the student has had any other symptoms or there have been any COVID-19 exposures in the home. If not, the student may return to class.
- If the student has health information on file that confirms a diagnosis of asthma or other respiratory condition and the nurse/health aide observes that there are no other symptoms, the nurse/health aide will contact the parent to inquire as to whether the student has had any other symptoms or there have been any COVID-19 exposures in the home. If not, the student may return to class.

Enhanced Social Distancing

Basic social distancing practices

Staff members will educate and highly encourage students regularly to maintain an optimal distance between individuals at all times possible. Staff members will be cognizant of the social-emotional needs for students to be connected while encouraging physical space between them.

Where possible, students in the same classroom or grade-level cohort will remain with the same groupings and the same staff throughout the day.

Non-instructional activity spaces including outdoor spaces will be used for instruction whenever staffing allows.

Additional social distancing practices

Drop-off/Pick-up procedures. Understanding that many parents may not allow their children to ride the bus under current conditions, and that the district will be encouraging parents to drive their students to school to alleviate crowding on buses, we are expecting greater crowding at drop-off/pick-up locations. School site leadership will evaluate drop-off locations and procedures and revise them as needed to improve

safety and efficiency. School sites will communicate these new procedures to their parents, staff and students. Kindergarten drop-off will be modified for at least the first few weeks of school to accommodate our new learners.

All schools will require parents to drop off/pick up students without getting out of the car, unless express permission from a site administrator is provided for good cause. If a parent has permission to get out of the car during drop-off/pick-up, have the student arrive at/leave school before or after assigned times for the majority of students.

Bus transportation

- Buses will maintain maximum ventilation at all times, including open windows (weather permitting). Set ventilation to non-recirculating mode.

Classroom layout. Teachers will work with administration and maintenance staff to determine the best layout and method of indicating where individual desks/workspaces will be located.

Desks will be positioned to face the same direction as far apart as space and class size allow.

Teachers will be encouraged to use technology to facilitate group work and group learning where appropriate for the age, subject, and capabilities of the students.

Communal spaces. Guidelines for specific communal spaces are given below.

Hallways: School site leadership will work with teachers and maintenance staff to determine the most effective way to manage foot traffic during typically congested times. They will install appropriate signage to direct the flow of foot traffic in those areas to reduce crowding.

Playgrounds:

Only one teacher class will be allowed on playground equipment at a time. Schools will assign classes a specific time slot, with time slots to be scheduled such that there is sufficient time between classroom use that playground equipment can be disinfected before the next group uses it. Teachers and monitors will be encouraged to be creative

in employing techniques to maintain social distancing during unstructured time. Teachers, staff and students will wash their hands following activities.

Food Service:

If a classroom has a student with food allergies, a 504 team will be convened to discuss appropriate accommodations. These may include, for example, taking the student to another location, such as a school conference room or the multipurpose room, with one friend (so long as social distancing can be maintained in the alternate location).

Students will eat lunch in their homeroom classroom. The multipurpose room will be utilized for lunch only in specific circumstances (ex. inclement weather). Lunches will be delivered to the classrooms. Students will be prohibited from sharing lunch items with one another. Breakfast will be served as “grab-and-go.” All meals to be served in the classrooms

Bathrooms. Students will enter bathrooms in groups no larger than the number of sinks in the bathroom, and be directed to maintain social distancing. Schools will display posters reminding students of proper handwashing techniques.

Front office. Parents and other parties will be asked to make an appointment to come into the office whenever possible. Business that can be handled remotely should be. Car service will be utilized whenever possible.

Hand Washing

Students will wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol at the following times:

- upon arrival at school (use hand sanitizer if there is no sink in the classroom),
- after being outside for physical activity,
- before and after lunch,
- prior to leaving school for home, and
- after sneezing, coughing, or blowing nose.

Cloth Face Coverings / Face Shields

Due to the differences in maturity and ability to self-manage PPE safely in a classroom setting, it has been determined that:

Students in grades K through 12 will be encouraged to wear cloth face coverings when physical space does not allow for maintenance of 6 feet between individuals unless a health condition prevents them from doing so.

Students will not be encouraged to wear cloth face coverings during physical activities and when social distancing is maintainable, though they may voluntarily wear face coverings at any time.

*Any student who has difficulty breathing or who is incapable of physically removing the face covering on his/her own will not wear cloth face coverings, and alternate methods of protection will be discussed by parents and staff.

Students will be asked to bring their own cloth face coverings to and from school. PPE must adhere to dress code policies in terms of printed images and text. Schools will also have a supply of face coverings available to provide to students who cannot afford or do not have their own. School supplied PPE will be subject to availability from vendors.

Note: Cloth face coverings are designed to protect other individuals rather than the individual wearing the covering. Accordingly, the greater number of students wearing cloth face coverings, the greater the overall transmission mitigation that will be achieved. Plastic face guards, which provide protection for the wearer, will not be required or provided, but are permitted.

Student Belongings/Materials

For younger grades and where possible, student belongings will be kept in individual bins or cubbies labeled with each student's name.

To the extent possible, school supplies will not be shared among students. If a school supply or piece of equipment must be shared by students (for instance, a pencil sharpener or blocks/toys), a staff member will wipe down the item with disinfectant after each use.

Trips and Activities

Field trips will be canceled. Teachers will be encouraged to use virtual learning opportunities (such as virtual tours of museums) to enhance students' educational experiences.

School-wide assemblies will not be held with students assembled in the same physical location. As an alternative (if feasible), schools may hold school-wide assemblies virtually, with student groups remaining in their classrooms.

Large-scale school events such as “Back to School Night” or fall carnivals will be canceled. Small-scale activities like parent-teacher conferences may take place over the phone or other electronic means. Other extracurricular activities will be canceled unless the activity can be conducted in compliance with the protocols in this document.

STEP 2 PROTOCOLS: EMPLOYEES

Exposure Assessment and PPE

Prior to allowing employees to report to work, district administration, in conjunction with relevant site supervisors and department supervisors, must assess each work site to determine whether PPE is necessary for specific positions in order to limit the spread of COVID-19. If a position is determined to require PPE, provide the PPE to staff at no cost and train staff on its correct use.

Daily Screening

Employees will not be permitted to work onsite if they exhibit any of the following symptoms:

- fever of 100.4 and higher or chills,
- shortness of breath or difficulty breathing,
- muscle aches,
- sore throat,
- Headache,
- Fatigue,
- congestion or runny nose,

- Cough,
- Vomiting,
- diarrhea, or
- new loss of taste or smell.

Handwashing

Employees will wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol at the following times, at minimum:

- upon arrival at school;
- after being outside for student physical activity;
- before and after lunch;
- after sneezing, coughing, or blowing nose; and
- after physical contact with other staff or students.

Enhanced Social Distancing

Employees will maintain a distance of at least 6 feet between individuals at all times, unless this is not physically possible or, for a student's safety, less space is required. If a situation arises that requires a staff member to touch a student or another staff member (for instance, if a student requires toileting help, is having a physical emergency, or requires a two-person restraint), have the staff member resume social distancing as soon as safely possible, wash their hands, and disinfect any surfaces they touched.

Cloth Face Coverings / Face Shields / Plexiglas Barriers

Face shields and Plexiglas barriers are more conducive to teaching, especially phonics and especially in the primary grades, but according to health department officials, are not as effective as cloth face coverings at preventing the spread of viruses. For this reason, staff will be provided a face shield for whole class instruction where the teacher may be positioned at least 6 feet from the students.

Teachers in grades pre-k through 3rd will be encouraged to wear cloth face coverings when teaching in classrooms at times when physical distancing is not feasible.

Cloth face coverings will be required in 4th through 8th grade classrooms when physical distancing is not feasible.

Janitorial staff will wear cloth face coverings and/or other personal protective equipment (as available and appropriate) while cleaning and disinfecting the schools when students are present.

Bus drivers will wear cloth face coverings when transporting students.

Food Service employees will wear cloth face coverings when preparing and serving food.

All employees will wear cloth face coverings indoors when physical distancing is not feasible.

Note: Wearing cloth face coverings does not replace the need to maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet whenever possible.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

Schools will arrange for daily cleaning and disinfecting of all frequently touched surfaces in work areas, such as door handles, sink handles, drinking fountains, desks, and learning tools. The playground, sports equipment, and any other shared items (if they are being used) must be cleaned between uses by groups of students.

Staff will clean and disinfect high touch areas in their workspaces as needed throughout the day.

Schools will assign schedules to janitorial staff for increased cleaning of surfaces and bathrooms throughout the day.

Food Service will maintain protocols to clean and disinfect all frequently touched surfaces in accordance with established food safety requirements.

Buses will be cleaned and disinfected in between each route. Hand sanitizer will be available on each bus for employee and student use.

Additional information:

In the event of a confirmed positive case of Covid-19 in any BUSD facility, BUSD will follow all Cochise County Health and Social Services Department (CHSS) protocols. The CHSS has noted that they would contact us to confirm a positive case. The health

department representative would work with our liaison to conduct an investigation including contact tracing to determine the origin of the transmission and who might be at risk. We would follow their recommendations in terms of notification in order to comply with HIPAA and FERPA regulations. The CHSS team would make the determination regarding who would need to quarantine, the length of the quarantine, and what measures we would need to take to safely resume use of our facilities.

^[1] Visible symptoms include runny nose, cough, shortness of breath, or vomiting.